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JOHN MILTON SOCIETY
FOR THE BLIND

156 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N. Y.

March 4, 1938

Dr. Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Tarbell:

I am sending you herewith a copy of the letter, which we shall be glad to have you cut in any way that you may wish. If in the first paragraph or in the first sentence, and in the last paragraph especially, you were to put your own personality, it would be exceedingly helpful.

With genuine appreciation of your help in this trying year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Edgar H. Rue

EHR:EC

MAGAZINES

JOHN MILTON—For Adults
Lewis B. Chamberlain, Editor

DISCOVERY—For Boys and Girls
Margaret T. Applegarth, Editor

My dear Mr.

I am taking the liberty of calling your attention to a work for the blind of the Protestant Churches which I am confident you will agree with me deserves both sympathy and support. It is the effort to provide the sightless, young and old, with religious literature.

Helen Keller says of the situation:-

"I have always known that there is a scarcity of religious literature available for the sightless; but when I looked through the catalogue of Braille publications to refresh my memory, I was shocked to find only one or two books that I should consider worth while. It seems strange to me that so little thought, apparently, has been given to the spiritual needs of the blind. From my own experience I know how unspeakably precious religion is to those who walk in dark ways, and I am sure the sightless will welcome books which will help them to interpret the Bible in a large, generous spirit."

To meet this very poignant need an inter-denominational society was organized a few years ago - the John Milton Society for the Blind, Helen Keller President. The organization publishes in Braille a magazine for adults and one for boys and girls. Perhaps half of each journal is devoted to Sunday School lesson helps, something which heretofore the blind have not had. The rest of the space is given to religious reading carefully chosen largely from the best contemporary sources.

The magazines have been warmly welcomed. The shut-in blind have been particularly grateful for an opportunity to study the Sunday School lessons for themselves. The considerable group of blind Sunday School teachers, preachers and missionaries have greatly appreciated the broadened outlook given in this work. The number of readers has grown steadily and along with it has come the prayer for more books - dictionaries, concordances, biographies, commentaries.

That is, the John Milton Society is carrying on a work which calls loudly for a larger and more varied service, but to continue the present service and to enlarge it as certainly should be done, takes more money than the Society has at its command. There is no way but to ask aid

from those who grasp sympathetically the meaning of this work to the sightless, and this is what I am doing here. Can you not see your way to help those whose fingers must be their eyes in their desire for a fuller religious life?

Any contribution, large or small, will be gratefully received and you can depend upon it wisely used. Checks should be sent to the John Milton Society, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Very sincerely yours

P.S. A copy of "The Sightless Citizen and the Light of the World" is enclosed. This booklet emphasizes the neglect of their blind by the Protestants.

The Society will be pleased to send the "John Milton Magazine" (or "Discovery" for children) to any blind persons you may know if you will send names and addresses.