

NEW COLLEGE
TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK

December 2, 1938.

Mrs. Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19 St.
New York City

Dear Ida Tarbell,

You have probably seen something in the public press about the closing of New College. I write to lay before you some of the facts behind this sudden termination of one of the most interesting experiments in the field of collegiate education.

As you may know my daughter Peggy has been a student at New College for the past three years, so there is very personal concern in this surprising action by the authorities of Teachers College and Columbia University. It is not as a parent that I write but as one who is deeply concerned in strengthening democracy in the face of the manifold worldwide attack upon it by the forces of reaction in many forms.

Today democracy has its back to the wall throughout the world. This is more apparent in foreign lands, but it is growing more and more evident that the forces of reaction in this country are following the same line of attack on democratic institutions in America as similar groups have used successfully abroad.

You will find data on the closing of New College. After reading it, I think you will find as I do, that it is a glaring example of autocracy in education which should not go unchallenged. And I hope you will feel moved to use your influence in whatever way seems most effective to you; first, to give the widest publicity to what is happening; and, second, to exert pressure upon the authorities of Columbia University and Teachers College that they may reverse their decision. You might write to Cleveland H. Dodge, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, at 40 Wall Street.

Cordially yours,

Donald Stephens
Donald Stephens

DS:CL

P.S. I will appreciate it if you will send copies of letters or publicity to Mr. William L. Becker, chairman of student council so that he may add what you have done to the records he is keeping of what many are doing to save New College.

*This letter was being typed when I talked with you
last & send it along anyway together with some
additional data.*