

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE

Sept. 4. 1917.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I'm writing this at your desk - in town
for a few hours - and feel so honored to
be allowed to write to you just here!

And dear Miss Tarbell I want to
say how sorry I am you must pass through
the grief which came to me many years
ago & which I know hurts so terribly no
matter how one tries to prepare. - Perhaps
it will help a tiny bit to know how
we who have been associated with you love
you, feel for you, ache & help. - You were
so sweet & understanding two and a half years
ago when you came to me in that cute apartment
near Gramercy - one doesn't forget... and in
these years since then I've learned to love & admire
you more & more - and to be just glad the good
God made you! - And so I know a little what

— II —
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your dear Mother must have been — and
to you.

Let me add that somehow I have been
helped in all sorts of ways since my
trouble: that I am stronger & happier than I
had ever hoped to be, again, & that you
& the Pen & Bush & other of my personal
friends there have all helped me to find
myself. — So you see I can't help
loving you & being grateful!

Please don't work too hard — even though
work does help — and whenever you are most
tired & sad remember how you've helped
others, how you count to many,
and how keenly & loyally we want
to serve you and want our love & help,
especially this one of your many friends
Elizabeth Newport Stephens.
P.S. — Please don't answer this!