

THE BUSINESS OF BEING A WOMAN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649160488

The business of being a woman by Ida M. Tarbell

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THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

NEW YORK · BOSTON · CHICAGO
DALLAS · SAN FRANCISCO

MACMILLAN & CO., LIMITED

LONDON · BOMBAY · CALCUTTA
MELBOURNE

THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD.

TORONTO

THE
BUSINESS OF BEING
A WOMAN

BY

IDA M. TARBELL

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New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1912

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Set up and electrotyped. Published October, 1912. Reprinted
November, 1912.

Norwood Press
J. S. Cushing Co. — Berwick & Smith Co.
Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.

TO
E. I. T. AND C. C. T.

INTRODUCTION

THE object of this little volume is to call attention to a certain distrust, which the author feels in the modern woman, of the significance and dignity of the work laid upon her by Nature and by society. Its ideas are the result of a long, if somewhat desultory, observation of the professional, political, and domestic activities of women in this country and in France. These observations have led to certain definite opinions as to those phases of the woman question most in need of emphasis to-day.

A great problem of human life is to preserve faith in and zest for everyday activities. The universal easily becomes the vulgar and the burdensome. The

INTRODUCTION

highest civilization is that in which the largest number sense, and are so placed as to realize, the dignity and the beauty of the common experiences and obligations.

The courtesy of the publishers of the *American Magazine*, in permitting the use here of chapters which have appeared in that periodical, is gratefully acknowledged.