

"Inglewood"

Barrie Ont.

Sept. 24th 1885.

Dear Sir

Will you forgive my pre-
sumption in writing
to you, which I am be-
lieving to do, feeling sure
from what I have heard
of you, that you will be
kindly disposed to help
any one who is in difficulty.
So perhaps I might hope
for an answer, even to
what may appear to you
a foolish question, from

a girl.

I know just enough of
Geology to make me
wish to study it more;
& consequently, I have
been reading some of your
most interesting books.

However, as your time
is precious, I must come
at once to the point, & try
to avoid the tendency of
my sex to "beat about
the bush."

I have been interested of
late in Annals & etc. etc.
are generally supposed
to have been endowed

with the power of rising
to the surface of the water,
& sailing thereon, as the
Nautili of the present
day are supposed to do,
by reason of their ability
to lighten their shells of
water when they wish to
rise.

Now I am told, that in one
of your books, you mention
incidentally, that Nautili
cannot rise & sail on the
surface, & have never been
seen in the act. but that
you gave no reason, as to
why you thought so. Having

Therefore, such a firm ground
to fall back on, as yourself -
I remarked fearlessly to a
clerical friend (who had
used the sailing nautilus
to illustrate something
in a sermon;) that I believed
it was an impossibility
my grounds for this belief
were at once questioned.
& I took refuge in saying that
I would look it up more carefully.
My friend is very firmly con-
vinced that he is right, & seems
amused that I could inter-
tain any other idea.
Trusting you will pardon
my extreme boldness in
thus addressing you, my
excuse being that I thought
it better to apply at once

to The Fountain Head,
for only there, could
I be perfectly satisfied,
one way or the other, &
if you do not generously
help me out of this difficulty
I am forever disgraced!

I have not mentioned to
anyone, that I am writing
to you, in case you are too
busy, or do not see fit to
answer my letter.

So pray do not mind
writing, if inconvenient.

I remain

Yours very sincerely
Marion Arday.

Arday

Sept/85