

Joseph G. Butler, Jr.
Youngstown, Ohio, U.S.A.

September 24, 1924.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

I have just finished reading Mr. Rankin's book with your fine introduction. May I tell you what impressed me the most --- no mention is made of Robert Todd Lincoln.

I have known him since 1881. He has told me enough to fill a volume, much of which has never been published. For instance, when Lincoln went to New York on the Cooper Union pilgrimage, his son came to see him. What passed between them, I will not narrate, as it might not be the proper thing to do.

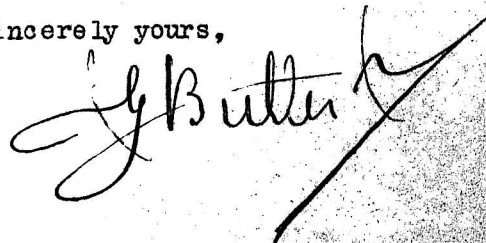
I have seen Mr. Robert Lincoln many times and have kept up a very interesting correspondence with him. He has accomplished enough to warrant his Autobiography being written. Rather singular, I have so far been unable to secure his photograph. Surely one or more Washington photographers must have a negative. Perhaps in your wide acquaintance you can aid me. You will do me a favor if you can secure a photograph, no matter what period.

The enclosed catalogue will explain why I want the photograph. Our next exhibit of Autographed Portraits will contain all the Presidents of the United States with their original autographs. Incidentally, have you ever seen my book, "Presidents I Have Seen and Known - Lincoln to Taft"? There is a copy in the New York Public Library or at least I sent a copy when the volume was issued fourteen years ago. The book was published privately and given to libraries and friends. It is copyrighted and no doubt in the Library of Congress.

I met Lincoln, heard his address and wrote it out from memory. Some things he said were not repeated in the Cleveland Herald. I would really be pleased if you will when convenient look it up. If I had a spare copy I would send it to you, but at present it is impossible. Senator Beveridge wanted a copy and I had great difficulty in procuring one. I found an aged friend nearing his end without heirs willing to part with his volume, he gave it to me but knowing his financial condition, you may conjecture what happened.

I shall be very pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,



Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
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New York, N. Y.