

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

May 16, 1906.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
40 W. 9th St.,
New York.

My Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have received the letter from Mr. C. B. Cole of Chester, Illinois, which you forwarded to me. Yes, Mr. John W. Bunn of this city knows many things about Lincoln, but nothing I think that we did not get from other sources ten years ago. He was a young man at the time of Lincoln's election as president and had not attained a place of prominence in politics. He was, however, quite familiar with much that happened on the "inside" here in Springfield at that time. I do not recall now that I secured anything directly from Mr. Bunn while gathering material for the biography; but I talked at length with his nearest friend, Mr. E. F. Leonard, who was his inseparable companion in the sixties and who accompanied the Lincoln party as far as LaFayette, Indiana, on the way to Washington in 1861. Mr. Bunn is well known to be averse to publicity and for that reason interviewers have been able to get very little from him. Hamlin Garland, while here collecting material for his "Life of Grant", got some valuable information from him, but as I recall it, only after considerable difficulty.

By the way, are you to be in New York most of the time during the ensuing month? It is possible that I shall make a trip East in about two weeks, although a change of plans may keep me at home. In case I go to New York, I shall endeavor to see you.

With highest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Dic--JMD.

J. McCan Davis