

1143 72d Ave., Oakland, Calif.,  
December 20, 1923

Ida M. Tarbell,  
c/o Oakland Post-Enquirer,  
Oakland, Calif.

Re: "What I gained from reading  
Ida M. Tarbell's story".

Dear Madam:

Having read your story "In the Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln" in the Oakland Post-Enquirer, would say that the same corresponds with my own opinion of Abraham Lincoln and in connection therewith I would like to relate one of my experiences with him. I enlisted in the New Jersey Blues in 1861 and was stationed at Camp Meridian. President Lincoln came to our camp to address the "boys", on which day I was detailed on sentry duty and was unable to hear his address. Being very much disappointed, and wanting to show my respect to him, as he was leaving Camp, passing by my guard post, I stepped forward and presented arms before him. He immediately removed his hat in acknowledgment and bowed to me, and then passed on. His action proved to me his greatness and that he honored and respected the "boys in blue." I believe that he was one of the greatest men that American has known and was undoubtedly the greatest humanitarian who ever lived.

Respectfully submitted,

  
(William E. Cooper)

Member of the G. A. R. Lyon Post.