

ESTABLISHED 1838  
THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY  
PUBLISHERS INDIANAPOLIS

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

January 19, 1920.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Browse over it to your heart's content, only browse to a favorable conclusion. There isn't any great hurry. It's you we want, not just a book on Lincoln as a literary man. If you decline we shall probably drop the matter, for frankly, I shouldn't know where to turn. When you have gone through Phelps' Browning I don't believe the Lincoln job will seem appalling to you; and let me say here that you are free of course to make and follow your own plan--we only offer the Browning because it has proved the most satisfactory, the most popular with schools and colleges of any volume in the series.

As to your publisher, I can't believe that Mr. Brett would offer any objection. It isn't leaving him, but merely stepping out of his ranks long enough to contribute a volume to a pretty well established series. Houghton Mifflin consented quite cheerfully when Dr. Crothers told them he'd been invited to do Emerson, not only consented but offered him access to their Emersoniana. Phelps, Bliss Perry, Neilson and others had publishers, but found no difficulties in the way of their making contributions.

I am glad you are interested and--time and Mr. Brett being appeased--inclined to tackle it. With many thanks and kindest regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Howell Hanson

HMH/D

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
New York City.

C O P Y

January

(1920)

My dear Mr. Howland:

I have your note of January 6th and the copy of Mr. Phelps's Browning is on my table. I have not had time to go through it to see just what kind of a volume you have in mind. The subject, however, does interest me. I think I should like to tackle it, if I can find the time. There is the time, and I am having precious little of it these days; and there is my ~~regular~~ regular publisher. Frankly, I should not be willing to do it if Macmillan made objections. Wont you write me whether you are in a hurry or whether you could give me a chance to browse over the matter, also a chance to sound Mr. Brett tactfully.

Thank you for your good wishes for the New Year. I hope it is going to bring you all that you wish, that is, if in the minds of the gods that should be good for you -- which it probably wouldn't.

Faithfully

Mr. Henrie Hanson Howland,  
The Bobbs Merrill Company,  
Indianapolis, Ind.