

WILLIAM FORTUNE  
INDIANAPOLIS

November  
Third  
1 9 2 2.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Your fine letter of ten days ago has been with me and before me constantly, in quite the way some woman author once said a man, in a man's absurd way, carries some letters. In the meantime I have understood from the Rices that you are still wandering in quest of more Lincoln data, and it has seemed to me up to this time probably useless to attempt to reach you with a letter to assure you of my profound appreciation of all that you have so gratifyingly said about our trip together. It was my very particular desire, of course, that it should be worth your while and of interest to you. If we have added anything to your accumulation of Lincoln knowledge and impressions we have succeeded in making a personally enjoyable experience worth something to the world. Your devotion to your great task, your earnest and painstaking efforts, your searching study of your subject, your eloquent expression of your thought, were not only interesting, but very inspiring to me and I am sure to the rest of our party. I came home feeling that I had had a week of rich and memorable experience; it could not have been so without your great contribution to it, and, therefore, you will always occupy in my mind a very distinct and pleasing

place in association with the interesting and delightful impressions of this trip through Kentucky and Indiana.

The Rices were charming and your selection of them to accompany us was very fortunate. I got into the way of thinking they were very necessary traveling companions and my contemplated trip around the world would be deficient without them, but now the disappointing information comes from Mrs. Rice that they cannot go. I am almost ready to give up the round the world trip for another automobile tour with our most satisfactory little party; I hope, however, we may have another automobile tour anyhow, if it can be made sufficiently interesting to you and the others.

I had hoped that after leaving the Lincoln trail we could interest you in some of Indiana, particularly in our home territory, including the primitive region where Abe Martin and Lincoln kind of folks still live, in the highlands of Brown county. I shall very much enjoy taking you to these places whenever it will be agreeable to you to go with us; please consider this as an invitation conformable to your convenience. Evelyn and I would like very much to have here a reunion of our party whenever it may be agreeable to the rest of you.

The Lincolniana which you indicate may come to me will be most welcome. The Haycraft history of Elizabethtown arrived yesterday. Your thoughtfulness in sending it is deeply appreciated.

I shall be sending you, when I know you are again settled, some things that may be of interest to you, including the manuscript, (when I can have it copied) of Mr. Allison's description of early life at Louisville, some books and some of the photographs taken on our trip.

I hope that your further quest has had rich results, and that you will arrive home no worse for your adventures.

you are holding a very considerable place in the lives of Evelyn and myself and we shall be interested always in you and whatever you are doing, and it will please us very much to hear from you whenever you have inclination and opportunity to write.

Cordially yours,

*William Fortune*

P. S. I haven't the heart to inflict on one so kindly and patient as you, the vexation of puzzling through my miserable writing, and it is, I assure you, out of consideration for you that this letter is going to you in type-written form, instead of scrawled in my own hand which is so bad that only those who have been trained to acquaintance with it, can understand it. Perhaps, some day I may try you with a brief specimen.