

120 EAST NINETEENTH STREET

July 27, 1928

Mr. Oliver R. Barrett  
310 So. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Barrett:

A letter recently received from a Mrs. Ruth C. Cockran, of 1017 1/2 S. Union Ave., Los Angeles, contained the following paragraphs:

"My father-in-law, Mr. Francis S. Cockran of Lutherville, Maryland, was chairman of the Maryland delegation which nominated Mr. Lincoln for president. After Mr. Lincoln became president Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Cockran became very intimate friends.

"During the war Mr. Cockran visited Mr. Lincoln in the White House and on one occasion mentioned to Mr. Lincoln that Mrs. Lincoln was being criticised by the women of the U.S. for being in New York and leading a gay life while so many of the people of the U.S. were in mourning. Mr. Cockran suggested to Mr. Lincoln that it would be well to have Mrs. Lincoln visit the soldiers in the hospitals, distributing flowers and fruit to the soldiers with her own hands. Mr. Cockran told Mr. Lincoln that if he would bring her home, he would send over every morning a basket of grapes from his own grape arbor as long as the vines were bearing fruit.

"I have an autograph letter from Mr. Lincoln to Mr. Cockran in which he said Mrs. Lincoln had returned home and would be glad to talk over the matter with Mr. Cockran."

Of course my particular interest in the letter of which Mrs. Cockran speaks is its bearing on Mary Lincoln. I do not remember ever to have seen it in print, and I have not had time to look in the collections. However, it is the autograph that you are interested in. If you should get it, I am going to ask you some time to let me have a certified copy of it.

With best wishes, believe me

Very sincerely yours

*Ida M. Tarbell*

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