

THEATRE ARTS MONTHLY

FORTY EAST FORTY-NINTH STREET

NEW YORK

TELEPHONE PLAZA 5-4640

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March 11, 1941

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
R. F. D. 1
Bethel, Connecticut

Dear Miss Tarbell:


Thanks for your very nice letter in recognition of my tiny gift to the Lincoln Room.

I don't know whether I have any suggestions about tracing the inception and development of the Lincoln and Civil War series in the Century, other than the obvious ones—my own book, R. U. Johnson's Memoirs and Mr. Scott's Memoirs, and the files of the magazine itself. Some years ago I sent to the American Academy a trunk full of leaflets and pamphlets for their files. There might be material there, but of course the real source is my father's correspondence itself. That is packed away, awaiting the day that a biographer with the literary and historical interest needed to make a proper valuation of his life comes along. With storage problems what they are in New York, this material is obviously not available for casual perusal.

I do think that you are quite right and that the story of the long struggle to get that material published would be interesting. At any rate, there is a great deal about it in the printed records; John Hay's Letters, for instance, in their unabridged form, and the other sources that you know better than I do.

It is lovely to hear from you, and I was happy to find you, in spirit, in Allegheny at the time of my visit.

Yours sincerely,



Rosamond Gilder
Associate Editor