March 22, 1934.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

With Mrs. Houser's enthusiastic approval I arise to second the motion that when you are next in Illinois you visit us and see my duplicates of books Lincoln read.

So you won't be disappointed, and with a sneaking hope that it may add to your interest, I am enclosing a club "report" which contains a picture of our cabin. While a bit crude, our little place has the advantage of being only ten minutes from the center of town and, at the same time, far from the maddening throng. Please come.

The levity in this little book was intended to suggest both to ourselves and others that we were not taking ourselves too seriously nor trying to compete with organizations already established.

I have asked Briggs to find a copy of "Phoenixiana" for me. For several years I have been trying to find a copy of Quinn's "Jests," but without success. It may be beyond my reach if I ever do.

Am keeping a copy of "Prenticeana" because Lincoln is said to have particularly enjoyed Prentice, but have never found any evidence that he read this particular book.

Recently acquired a duplicate of the particular Nasby pamphlet that Lincoln enjoyed so much at Washington. By the way, two very pretty Lincoln pamphlets are in preperation, and I am advised that you will receive a copy of each.

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Regret I can add no information about the origin of the "You can fool part of the people etc." expression. If that expression was not originated by Lincoln, I have no idea where he got it.

Several years ago, Mr. P. B. Wright, Librarian, Kansas City Public Library, raised the question as to WHERE Lincoln used the expression, and I gave the matter some attention. I at length decided that he had either used it frequently or that when the prophet said in his haste, "All men are liars," he was fully as accurate as he was hasty.
However, Isaac N. Phillip's compilation, "Abraham Lincoln: By Some Men Who Knew Him," Bloomington, 1910, p. 102, seems to prove conclusively that Lincoln used this aphorism at Bloomington in 1856.

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Several years ago, McClurg's at Chicago had a theological work which contained Lincoln's autograph. They submitted the signature to an expert who pronounced it genuine. Both in their letter and the expert's report the book is called "Bailey's Theology," but the Library of Congress and a theological-book expert say they never heard of a book with even a similar title. I'm stumped.

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Would you be interested in hearing that last year we were given a beautiful Seth Thomas clock -- hand-made brass works, 105 years old -- that for seventy-five years was in a home near Hodgenville?

I hope all this inconsequential gossip hasn't tired you, and I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

M. H. Neare