

Wanted an answer!

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

San Francisco, Calif.
320 Market Street,
Mch 6/31

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
c/o Mac Millan Company,
New York City.

Dear madam:-

The little volume, "A REPORTER FOR LINCOLN", from your heart and pen, has just been read by the writer, and I am glad that you gathered the material for this little book and had it printed. Never before had I realized the load of care and responsibility that this "man of the people" carried during his stay in the White House.

Reading this touching story you have so vividly brought to the attention of the reading public, has caused me to resolve in my heart and mind to never complain again at the little driveling troubles that come our way from time to time; this story has greatly impressed me, I assure you.

To digress a bit; a short time ago I ran across in an old magazine, an article bearing on Mr. Lincoln. This article quoted a letter purported to have been written to Mr. Lincoln by his secretary of state, William H. Seward, in which Seward conveyed to Mr. Lincoln that he was a failure as a president of his country, and that it would be best for the country and the speeding up of the Civil War, if the administrative duties of the president were turned over to Mr. Seward.

Wishing to use this incident in a talk to a little bunch of friends, I concluded to find out if this letter was an historical fact; I wrote to the Pathfinder in Washington, thinking they would be able to advise me if this letter was a myth or a fact, but they only commented on Mr. Seward's well known ability as a public character, and did refer to the letter at all.

Perhaps you may know whether the above incident did actually take place or not? If you will pardon our troubling you, your advice on this little matter will be appreciated; will send the magazine to you if we can locate it, if this will assist you in recalling the incident of tracing it should you wish.

Trusting you will kindly pardon me for taking your valuable time in this manner, I am, in the meantime,

Very respectfully yours,

