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1923-03-31

Letter: Charles B. Going to Ida M. Tarbell, March 31, 1923

Going, Charles B.

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Cabinet

216 17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.
March 31, 1923

Dear Miss Tarbell;

I am using your permission to mention again, about the end of March, my keen interest in any information throwing light upon the relations between Abraham Lincoln and David Wilmot-- especially the true story of the conference or conferences they held at Springfield when Lincoln was making up his Cabinet. You thought you might have some notes. If it is not too much trouble, or too consuming of time, I should be immensely grateful for any hint they might supply.

Since writing you before, Mrs. Going and I have turned up a good deal of newspaper speculation (contemporary, and chiefly in the Herald) shifting from State through War and Treasury to a long and confident rest on Interior, and then rubbing it all out and starting over with the hypothesis that Wilmot declined, at the first interview, declaring himself better suited to the Senate-- which he then hoped to enter immediately-- than to the administrative work of a Cabinet position. There is the strongest kind of circumstantial evidence in support of this explanation. It agrees perfectly with the family tradition, as Mrs. Going heard it "at her mother's knee", where all well behaved traditions are always told; but of course I should like to reinforce it by all the authority that can be brought to bear.

We are getting near the end of the work that can be done here, and beginning to think of planning the move up to the camp, where the finishing processes can be carried on even better than in the Library of Congress. Mrs. Going joins me in cordial greetings, and in the hope that you have come back from your trip refreshed instead of fatigued.

Sincerely yours

Chas. R. Going