MY DEAR MISS TARBELL:

I send another letter from Mr. Warren who I believe it trying to do the right thing. I have told him that I would ask you to send on the manuscript which I sent you—to him. It may do no good but I would like him to see those letters before doing anything further if you think best.

He says that you have been there and so you doubtless know better than I what is best to be done. I am sure of one thing—and that is that now is your great time to act—and as a woman put down the scandals these men so delight to gloat over—men like Barton—who not only has grown so bold as to publish most horrible scandals against the mother of Lincoln, but deep insinuations against Lincoln himself. The way he has been quoted has given him the courage do do this—and I doubt not that this new book will be a “Hum Dinger”—or words to that effect—he can not prove that one “Lucky Hanks” was the mother of Nancy or Abraham. Joseph Hanks of the will is the father of Nancy/Lincoln, and no other, and the story of the Shipley sisters, as printed in the little book is absolutely true.

Why do you not write a story of the little girl coming across the mountains from Virginia in to Kentucky and on into the great West? or are you waiting to see first what Barton has to say? Please let me know and if you wish send the papers on to Mr. Warren. It takes so long to make other copies and I’m sure he’d like to see some of the Hanks photographs. I realize that he wants dates and facts, but before we can contradict Barton we must find out his dates and facts. He certainly published none in his last book and simply gave the vilest stories it has ever been my sad privilege to read. He will make statements which those of his kind will believe, but I doubt me, that he has any more facts than he had then. His book is eagerly being watched for by his enemies, and their name is Legion.

Please dear Miss Tarbell do not believe him. For his book has proved that he does not know the meaning of true living or of sweet wholesome lives. He simply suspects everything and everybody and works from that point out, and thus deceives an unsuspecting public.

Yours sincerely ever,

CAROLINE HANKS HITCHCOCK.