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The Ida M. Tarbell Collection of Lincolniana

Correspondence, research materials, writings, etc. about Abraham Lincoln

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1923-10-23

# Letter: William H. Briggs to Ida M. Tarbell, October 23, 1923

Briggs, William H.

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HARPER & BROTHERS  
PUBLISHERS  
NEW YORK AND LONDON

49 EAST 33<sup>RD</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y.  
October 23, 1923

Miss Ida M. Tarbell:  
120 East 19th St.,  
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

For some weeks now we have been hoping against hope in our belief that we could complete the manufacturing of the book and publish it this Fall, without being too late in the season to blast its chances of success.

Our manufacturing department reports this morning that the best they can do will be the delivery of books on November 5th. This means that two weeks must elapse in order to permit the most hurried and incomplete distribution in the retail trade. Many cities would not get their books until a week or two after that. Eventually this means that the books would be in the hands of the dealers about December 1st and that there would be no opportunity whatever for us to fill re-orders before Christmas. In other words the sale of the book would be restricted to the copies sold in advance.

Another very serious feature of the situation is that the book could not be reviewed until after Christmas, perhaps not until early in the New Year. This means, practically speaking, that it would not be properly reviewed at all.

For these reasons we wish to postpone publication until early next spring, say about February 1st. I think that when you have looked over the situation that this will be your decision also. Won't you write me a line as soon as you can.

Cordially yours,

*William H. Briggs*

William H. Briggs....FD.