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Virginia, Ill., Sep 26th. 1910.

Miss. Ida M. Tarbell;

Last spring, I prepared an account of the Armstrong trial, that occurred in this County in 1858, in which Abraham Lincoln appeared for the defense. I did this, because I had not found an account of it, that nearly approached the truth. It was published by the Ill. State Historical Society.

I sent a copy of it to the Editor of the American Magazine, thinking he might care to use it. He wrote me that he wished Miss. Ida M. Tarbell to examine it, after which he returned it "declined, with thanks".

I had not then read the account of this trial in the Life of Lincoln, by Ida M. Tarbell; but I obtained this work and read what she had to say about the trial. In Vol. I. Page 270 I find this statement:-

"That same night, Metzker was hit with an ox-yoke, by another drunken reveller, Morris, by name".

Did you ever see an oxyoke? No. I suggest that you look over some collection of relics in New York and find one, and try to lift one end of it. Why not have said that Norris hit Metzker over the head with a lumber wagon? You know he might have used the tongue as a handle.

As compared with your account, you probably thought mine was hardly worth while, although one of the Judges of the Illinois State Board of Pardons wrote me concerning it:-

"I look upon it, under all the circumstances, as one of the most valuable contributions to Illinois History and the life of Abraham Lincoln."

By the way, did you take a look at an illustration on Page 782 in the current number of the "American?" Two old men, floundering about in snow knee deep, trying to swing scythes! I suppose that is the idea of one of your New York artists of a hay-field. I wonder how much money this artist received for his beautiful work of art!

Respectfully,

J. N. Gridley