

UPPER DARBY, PENNSYLVANIA

Thursday, December 17, 1931.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street, New York City, N.Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell,

For several years I have been an enthusiastic student and collector of Lincolniana. Needless to say, I have read and thoroughly enjoyed your studies on Lincoln. In fact, just last evening, I enjoyed several hours of browsing among my treasures - books, documents, papers, etc. One thing is certain, whenever I see your two volume "Life of Abraham Lincoln" and its companion, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns" I find myself impelled to a desire which I have nursed for sometime past, - namely, the gratification and pride of securing your inscription in these two items. And now, please do not look upon me, Miss Tarbell, as an autograph hunter - a mercenary with the one object of bettering the market or auction room value of his books. Frankly, my income is such that my collection can never become a notable one and, just because of this, I cherish each and every item for the pleasure and comfort it has given me and not for the investment and rarity value attaching to it.

It happens that Mrs. Hall and I shall be in New York, on a visit to our folks, thruout next week and the holidays. I had considered taking the liberty of calling at your home for the purpose of leaving the aforementioned volumes. May I hope that you will be generous enough to overlook this seeming impertinence on my part ?

Thanking you in anticipation of your favorable response to this present request, I remain

Very truly yours,

William B. Hall

274 Sanford Road,
Upper Darby, Penna.