

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny County Historical Society

ly parted hair and its regularity of wave, may too manlyless withal. Why did not Baker give us a rugged, nat-
ural Lincoln, the features with character, determination; the will to learn, strength of physique, a manly Lin-
coln? Had he consulted you before he began his work, had he read your "Life," that would have saved a lot of
miscellaneous bother and pother examining photographs and life-masks and so forth. The position of the legs,
especially that of the left, is unnatural to be a blow in the eye. Analyse the ~~man~~ statue from the waist down.
Can you imagine, in fondest dreams, any boy sitting in that posture after using an axe and reading a book? It
impresses me as conspicuously incorrect indeed, really un-Lincolnable.
Sincerely,

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
President, The Pen and Brush,
16, East 10th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Sunday
November 3, '35



Dear Miss Tarbell:

Through the kindness of Mrs. Wilhelmina L. Barrett, sister
of Mrs. C. L. Cooper, whom I know, I learn your current address.

Recently, in rumaging through some old bound magazines at
Dawson's Rare-Book Store, here, I discovered several copies of
"McClure's" back in 1899. I took the lot. They have some of
your articles about Lincoln when he was trying to find a real
man for the Army. They are truly invaluable. In eying them,
I am reminded of a preceding series you did of "The Life of Lin-
coln." Will you please inform me when this series was written,
that is, the month and the year? I have been trying to find a
set ever since I first read the "Life" as it appeared from month
to month. Unfortunately, Lady Good Luck was somewhat diffident
in helping in my search. That series by you was one of the most
accurate, most wonderful "Lives" of Lincoln that have ever been
written. Hundreds have followed that, but, in my judgement, none
has excelled the marvellous insight you give of Lincoln. It is
quite true that various Lincoln societies have reprinted your se-
ries in book-form. I bought one of these sets. I did not like
it. It lacked the spirit, the soul of Lincoln that you instilled
in the magazine run. I returned the set to the book-dealer from
whom I bought it. What I want now, as a present for my granddaugh-
ter, who is her first year in high school, and who is greatly inter-
ested in knowing all she can of Lincoln in a genuinely dependable
way, is a complete set of the magazine articles just as they came
out with all the old original illustrations. If, then, at your
leisure, I may have the time that McClure published them, I shall
indeed be greatly indebted.

Complementary with the preceding, I am taking the liberty of
enclosing a cutting from "The . . . Monitor," October 24, carrying
a half-tone of Bryant Baker's new statue of the youthful Lincoln.
I have a collection of various pictures of Lincoln. In my memo-
ry of them, I think Baker's features of "Young Lincoln" are the most
misimaginative, misconceptual effort I have ever seen. He has
made a "pretty" Lincoln, and Lincoln was n't "pretty" by a jugful!