

DR. REUBEN PETERSON
POWDER POINT
DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

February 15, 1938

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East Nineteenth Street
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have just had the pleasure of reading your criticism of the 'Hidden Lincoln' from the Herndon Letters edited by Emanuel Hertz. I thought your review was fine and will do much to put in the background the suggestions regarding Lincoln's physical condition which appeared in other reviews.

Are they trying to insinuate that Lincoln either inherited or acquired syphilis and that this explains his fits of melancholy and parts of his life when he did not seem to be himself? Of course I have not gone into the matter deeply but have never seen recorded any symptoms which would sustain such a diagnosis.

I hope you are well and that you are carrying your eighty years with a philosophy which we must all have if we are to be happy. I hear from John occasionally but he doesn't work the typewriter and it is hard for him to use a pen. My sister hasn't been very well. Nothing very serious so far as I can find out but troublesome things.

Cordially yours,

Reuben Peterson