

EAST NORTHFIELD,
MASS.

Feb 13-96

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Dear Madam;

I mail you today a package of Newspaper clippings about Lincoln, which are all I can at present lay my hands on. I have many more, but scattered. If I can find them I will send them too. Most of them may not help you, but some may be useful. Please return them after your biography is finished. In looking them over I am more than ever convinced that plenty of valid testimony

can be found showing from his own words & conduct, from the time of his first Presidential election to the end, that he was any thing but a sceptic.

He was indeed a free thinker in the sense that he was original & independent in his judgement. But he was a believer, and a devout, prayerful believer, in ^{the} revealed religion of the Bible.

(1) He loved the Bible, and read it much, and accepted its divine authority as a revelation of the divine character & will.

(2) He expressly confessed his faith in the doctrine of Christ's deity; so that ~~he~~ he was an evangelical,

and not rationalistic Christian.

(3) He habitually attended public worship, & ~~in~~ by preference in Evangelical Churches; which itself evidences his doctrinal leaning.

(4) He frequently avowed his conviction that the Christian people of the land, their prayers, were the strength of the land.

The life of Bishop Matthews
Simpson. By Geo W. Crooks
D.D. N.Y. 4 copies: 1890.

This volume contains one chapter, XVII, 367-404, on the Civil War, & the Bishop's relations to Lincoln, of some value in this con-

hection. The testimony is limited but positive & credible so far as it goes. I suppose this is only one of numerous similar books containing memoirs of people who were thrown into contact with the President.

The N. Y. Independent was one of the strongest supporters of Lincoln's administration among religious papers. I imagine that Henry C. Bowen or Dr. Wm. H. Ward might be able to refer you to important sources of information. The old files of the Independent & of the Tribune, both of which publish an annual index would yield much material.

Yrs truly, Henry W. Rankin