

540 South Third Street

MISSOULA,

MONTANA,

June 16/24

Miss Ida Tarbell:

c/o Harper & Brothers,

New York City.


My dear Miss Tarbell:

All the time I was reading your "Footsteps of the Lincolns" I promised myself the pleasure of writing to tell you how deeply I enjoyed the book -- how very much it meant to me -- more than any other Lincoln book I have ever read; and I think I have read them all. But I have had the privilege of telling a few others also; and as it may be that you are not enabled to see all the press notices of your work which appear, I am taking the liberty of sending you a cutting from THE CATHOLIC WORLD MAGAZINE for June, which will tell you a little of my impressions of the book. Please accept this with my homage...and permit me too, if I may, to enclose a few other pages from the same issue of THE CATHOLIC WORLD, -- a little sketch I wrote on Lincoln. The only claim, of course, which such a sketch can have on your interest is that you, by your writings, have for a long time inspired me to study and myself write about Lincoln -- though I must confess to a good deal of timidity in showing you, so great an authority on the subject, anything so slender as this of mine. I have written also a longer sketch on "Lincoln in Poetry", which I hope I may some day submit to you.

Another thought came to me while reading the "Footsteps": in re the Hanks family, did you know that there are some connections or descendants of this family now living in the town of Stillwater, Minnesota? I can tell you no more -- but perhaps you can locate them through the Post Office, if the matter interests you. Or I might refer you to Mr. J. Kelliner, ~~former~~ mayor of Stillwater, whose wife is a family connection of mine. All this simply with the thought that possibly you may turn up something new in your researches.

With real gratitude for the pleasure and inspiration which your writings have given me, I remain

Sincerely yours,


Charles Phillips