

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

C. M. THOMPSON  
505 SOUTH SIXTH STREET

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, November 4, 1912.

Miss. Ida M. Tarbell,  
New York,  
N.Y.

My Dear Miss. Tarbell:

Your letter of the 1st received. Due perhaps to my inability to express myself clearly you misunderstood my inquiry. I had not the remotest idea of comparing my work in the Lincoln field with what you have done. I merely wished to clear up what seem to me to be inconsistencies, due no doubt to a later investigation. I am told by letter that the little book by you and Mr. Davis has the Lincolns crossing the Wabash River near Mt. Carmel, Illinois, and then taking a northwesterly direction to Decatur. If my informant be correct this does not agree with your statement of a later time that Mr. Lincoln was in Vincennes and Palestine. From a conversation with a lady in Vincennes; I gained the impression that at a time prior to the writing of the "Life of Lincoln," you believed that the crossing was made near Mt. Carmel, but a more thorough search when you were writing your life you came to the conclusion that the crossing was near Vincennes. It is quite likely, however, that she had the wrong impression.

The question is warm in our parts, and when it gets before a legislative committee this winter it is quite likely that you will be quoted extensively by all parties, and if there seems to be a difference in your written works we ought to have your very latest opinion, which we shall all recognize as being based upon your latest and most thorough search.

If any printed report emerges from the legislature, I shall see that you get a copy without fail.

If I have been incorrectly informed as to the map spoken of, or if I have misinterpreted what you have said in previous letters, I hope that you will have no hesitancy in correcting me, for in this work we are seeking the truth by making heavy demands upon our friends.

Sincerely,

*Chas M Thompson*