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October 24, 1934

Miss Ida M. Tarbell  
120 East 19th Street  
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell:

For some years I have made a study of the life of Lincoln. From my reading and study I am convinced that the debates with Douglas were primarily responsible for Lincoln becoming a national figure. I am also convinced that not enough has been said about this period in his life. I am therefore, for my own satisfaction, making a special study of the debates and all incidents connected with them. Recently I came across a scholarly article on the "Debates" written by you and published in McClure's for October, 1896. This article so pleased me that I am prompted to write and inquire if other articles on the debates have been written by you and where I might find such; also if you could refer me to other works on these debates.

I possess several of the works on Lincoln written by you, and your biography of Lincoln takes its place beside the other great works concerning the Emancipator.

I trust you will pardon my writing you. I do so because I am so intensely interested in the life of Lincoln. Twice have visited the Lincoln country and I have some 400 books on the various phases of Lincoln's life. I am also acquainted with Messrs. Angle, Warren, and Hertz and carry on a very interesting correspondence with them.

A reply will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you, I am

Respectfully,

Carl E. Wahlstrom