

CARL SANDBURG
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

May 19, 1935

Dear Ida Tarbell

Your note about the Gettysburg piece is worth having amid the work of going on and trying to complete Abraham Lincoln: The War Years. Thus far I have something like 700,000 words, leading up to August of '64 and shall probably require about 200,000^{more words} and three years to the finish. In order to feel the scale and proportion better for the final quarter I have spent the past year in revisions and rewritings. When I began on it in the fall of 1928 my estimate was that I would have it done by 1934 or 1935--and with your familiarity with the materials involved you know why it goes slow! And the past eight months I have had a detour into a long poem (very free verse!) titled THE PEOPLE, YES which I am sure holds some of your heartbeats about democracy and these times. I handle your Lincoln books regularly while working. And your Standard Oil (1st ed. 2 vols. \$20. 1928) is on a frontroom bookshelf downstairs. Perhaps every two years I reread that classic commentary: Commercial Machievellianism. So you are never forgotten here and there are brightnesses you might not know of about this note of yours fluttering out of the day's mail yesterday.

Faithfully yours

Carl Sandburg