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# Narrative: Critiquing Tarbell's work signed Whiting

Whiting

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This isn't so hot, but neither is it bad. The only thing wrong with it really is that she hasn't made quite clear the drama of this decision. We have been accustomed to think of the night before the Emancipation Proclamation as the big night for Lincoln and this article says it was not. However, if we cut out the unnecessary first two paragraphs and let it begin with "He sat in his dingy Springfield office" we have a better story. I think it will go and the fact that Tarbell does it gives it weight. The thing this lacks is emotion, but I doubt that Miss Tarbell can change it to inject this. She has tried. What needs to be brought out is the fact that it was not the decision for war that mattered, but the decision as to whether Lincoln would go into politics at all that changed the course of history. What we do not feel is that American history was made in that dingy Springfield office. As I say, she has tried, but whether she could do better I do not know.

Whiting.