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December 31, 1924.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th St.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

In your very admirable "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns" you say at page 382 that Horace White first heard Lincoln in 1854; on the next page you say, "White had heard Webster's reply to Hayne."

I gathered the impression from this that the intent of the text was to convey the idea that White had heard Webster deliver the speech. Obviously, if Mr. White was 20 in 1854, he would have been born in 1834, which the fact is; and the reply to Hayne was delivered on January 26, 1830, some four years before his birth.

My curiosity is aroused about the matter, and I wonder if by any chance it was the 7th of March speech of 1850 that White heard.

It occurred to me that you might wish to iron out this discrepancy in any future edition of your book, and I have therefore taken the liberty of calling your attention to it.

Very respectfully yours,

M. B. Olbrich

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Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.