

# The First Congregational Church

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HOUSE  
LAKE STREET AND KENILWORTH AVENUE  
TELEPHONE OAK PARK 27

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Dear Miss Tarbell:

This morning I mailed an order to Harpers for your new book and returning from the city this afternoon I find your presentation copy here. I thank you sincerely. I shall read it, you may be sure, with very great earnestness, and shall have a copy to take to my summer home at Foxboro, Mass. where I hope to finish my Life of Lincoln next summer.

I note on page 109 you say Jesse Head belonged to the branch of Baptists to which the Lincolns belonged. Jesse Head was a Methodist, and a good hater of Baptists. As for his attitude toward slavery, Dr. Graham's statement that ~~he~~ <sup>Jesse Head</sup> could afford slaves but did not own them should be modified to read that he could not afford them but did own them. I have yet to find any statement of Dr. Graham's correct except those that were so evidently and widely known that he could not make mistakes. Wherever he related anything <sup>his</sup> on the basis of his own recollection, he was as accurate as a man of 89 would be likely to be when interviewed by people who had something they wanted him to remember. I place no reliance whatever on anything he said, not that he meant to lie, however. Old men remember many things that never occurred.

You were in Cleveland on Lincoln's birthday. I wish your tour had brought you to Chicago.

A monument to Thomas and Sally Lincoln will be dedicated May 16. Yesterday I accepted an invitation to speak there on that day, the other speaker being Ex-Gov. Lowden. I wish you could be there. I shall hope to tell the truth and it is wholly good, about Thomas Lincoln. He was more of a man than most authors have represented.

With thanks and best wishes, I am,

Faithfully yours,

William E. Barton