Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

Lake Placid Club
Essex co N Y
November 8, 1924

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am very glad that your fractured arm is on the way to recovery.

As for the other fracture, your not voting for Coolidge, you may recall what he said to a neighbor in Northampton, who said, "Cal, I did not vote for you yesterday for Governor" "Somebody did."

I am here for a month acting as chaplain, unlearning the spelling book, and reading proof. I have gotten as far into the second volume as Gettysburg. I am convinced, from reliable and first hand testimony

1. That the Gettysburg was wholly extempore.
2. That is was written the night before in the Wills house.
3. That it was written on the train.
4. That it was written in full in Washington.
5. That it was begun in Washington, worked over on the train, revised by Seward and completed in Gettysburg.

Further that
1. It was delivered without notes.
2. That he held it in his left hand but made little reference to the manuscript.
3. That he held it in both hands and read every word.
4. That he gesticulated with his right hand only.
5. That he did not gesticulate.
6. That he gesticulated with both hands.

and yet again:
1. That the address was received with silence.
2. That there was perfunctory applause.
3. That there was applause at several points and long continued applause at the close.

and still again:
1. That Lincoln failed and knew it.
2. That he did not fail and knew it.
3. That he thought he failed but was mistaken.

And very much more, and all on th testimony of people who werepresent and whose veracity is beyond question.

Do you know this "University Club in the Wilderness"?

It is almost equal to my summerhome in Foxboro, Mass.

Cordially yours,

William E. Barton