

JANUARY 14, 1925

MY DEAR MISS TARBELL :

I SEND ANOTHER LETTER FROM MR. WARREN WHO I BELIEVE IT TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING . I HAVE TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD ASK YOU TO SEND ON THE MANUSCRIPT WHICH I SENT YOU —TO HIM . IT MAY DO NO GOOD BUT I WOULD LIKE HIM TO SEE THOSE LETTERS BEFORE DOING ANYTHING FURTHER IF YOU ~~TH~~ THINK BEST .

HE SAYS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THERE , AND SO YOU DOUBTLESS KNOW BETTER THAN I WHAT IS BEST TO BE DONE . I AM SURE OF ONE THING AND THAT IS THAT NOW IS YOUR GREAT TIME TO ACT - AND AS A WOMAN PUT DOWN THE SCANDALS THESE MEN SO DELIGHT TO GLOAT OVER - MEN LIKE BARTON - WHO NOT ONLY HAS GROWN SO BOLD AS TO PUBLISH MOST HORRIBLE SCANDALS AGAINST THE MOTHER OF LINCOLN , BUT DEEP INSINUATIONS AGAINST LINCOLN HIMSELF . THE WAY HE HAS BEEN QUOTED , HAS GIVEN HIM THE COURAGE DO DO THIS , AND I DOUBT NOT THAT THIS NEW BOOK WILL BE A "HUM DINGER" . - OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT -HE CAN NOT PROVE THAT ONE "LUCK HANKS" WAS THE MOTHER OF NANCY OR ABRAHAM . JOSEPH HANKS OF THE WILL IS THE FATHER OF ~~NANCY~~ LINCOLN , AND NO OTHER , AND THE STORY OF THE SHIPLEY SISTERS AS PRINTED IN THE LITTLE BOOK IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE .

WHY DO YOU NOT WRITE A STORY OF THE LITTLE GIRL COMING ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS FROM VIRGINIA IN TO KENTUCKY AND ON INTO THE GREAT WEST ? OR ARE YOU WAITING TO SEE FIRST WHAT BARTON HAS TO SAY . ? PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND IF YOU WISH SEND THE PAPERS ON TO MR. WARREN ^{and} IT TAKES SO LONG TO MAKE OTHER COPIES AND I'M SURE HE'D LIKE TO SEE SOME OF THE HANKS PHOTOGRAPHS . I REALIZE THAT HE WANTS DATES AND FACTS , BUT BEFORE WE CAN CONTRADICT BARTON , WE MUST FIND OUT HIS DATES AND FACTS . HE CERTAINLY PUBLISHED NONE IN HIS LAST BOOK , AND SIMPLY GAVE THE VILEST STORIES IT HAS EVER BEEN MY SAD PRIVILEGE TO READ . HE WILL MAKE STATEMENTS WHICH THOSE OF HIS KIND WILL BELIEVE , BUT I DOUBT ME , THAT HE HAS ANY MORE FACTS THAN HE HAD THEN . HIS BOOK IS EAGERLY BEING WATCHED FOR BY HIS ENEMIES . AND THEIR NAME IS LEGION .

PLEASE DEAR MISS TARBELL DO NOT BELIEVE HIM . FOR HIS BOOK HAS PROVED THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF TRUE LIVING OR OF SWEET WHOLESOME LIVES . HE SIMPLY SUSPECTS EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY AND WORKS FROM THAT POINT OUT , AND THUS DECEIVES AN UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC .

YOURS SINCERELY EVER

CAROLINE HANKS HITCHCOCK .