November 5, 1937

Dear Dr. Coleman:

Perhaps you may have learned when you were at Allegheny that I have been planning for some time to turn over my Lincoln collection to the College hoping that it would form the nucleus of a working Civil War collection.

I have just been on to Meadville talking the project over with Dr. Tolley and Miss Rowley. There are certain features of the collection I should like to see filled out, among them the books we know that Lincoln read. In my judgment the most important after the Bible was "The Revised Laws of Indiana" containing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Indiana, as well as other documents. There is no question but that the very copy he used is now in the New York Law Institute. Years ago when I was working on the life of Lincoln I saw it there and examined ~~most of it~~ the proofs of for its genuineness.

Now I want very much to get for our collection at Meadville a copy of this book. It was published by the authority of the General Assembly and bears the legend "Corydon - printed by Carpenter and Douglas, 1824." Miss Rowley suggested that possibly you might know whether there was any chance of our getting hold of a copy. Miss Rowley and I would greatly appreciate it if you would let me know. Of course I realize that it might be a long search. Nevertheless, hidden away in garrets in Indiana there are probably a number of this 1824 edition.

I hope I am not troubling you, dear Dr. Coleman.

Very sincerely yours

of Indiana

Dr. Christopher B. Coleman
State Librarian
Indianapolis, Indiana

Sold by Indianapolis, Ind

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