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SECURITY-FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LOS ANGELES

VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Redlands, California
December 3, 1931

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East Nineteenth Street
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell:

First of all I want to try to recall myself to you. I am a graduate of Allegheny College with the class of 1890. When I entered college in 1886, I attended the customary reception given to new students, at the First Methodist Church. I came from the country and had never mingled socially very much, so that I was quite shy and diffident in a mixed crowd. I was standing off by myself at the side of the Church when you came over, introduced yourself, talked to me a little, and introduced me to some others in the gathering. I was so grateful that I have never forgotten it. I met you several times after that while you were working on the Chautauquan. The last time I remember to have met you was at the alumni banquet in 1910. You have perhaps forgotten that you ever met me, but I have kept in touch with you through your various contributions to literature, and in common with other Allegheny graduates, have been very happy over your outstanding success in the literary world.

I am not writing you at random, but have a very definite object in doing so. Mr. Robert Watchorn, who was formerly

prominent in politics in New York City, and at one time was immigration commissioner at the port of New York, about three years ago established a winter home in Redlands. He stated that between 1905 and 1909 he had occasionally met you at various functions. He is erecting in the city of Redlands a Lincoln Shrine, which is being beautifully done and is costing him about $60,000. This he is presenting to our city. It is his hope and expectation to fill this Shrine with Lincolniana, and has already accumulated, at considerable expense, a great many volumes and other mementos of the Lincoln period. He has enlisted the interest of every prominent citizen of Redlands in securing contributions to the Shrine. Some several years ago he bought two beautiful marble busts of Lincoln, one of which found its way to France and is now located in the Louvre. The other was in storage for a period of years until he conceived the idea of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine.

He has been sending to various authors some book plates, two of which I am inclosing for your signature. These then will be placed in selected volumes. He is not limiting these book plates to authors, but is sending them as well to prominent people in various walks of life. The book plates, when signed, would indicate that the signer had given these books to the Shrine, but in signing them you incur no obligation to make any contribution. It would be peculiarly appropriate if these book plates found their way into your two-volume work on Lincoln. I would consider it a personal favor if you would sign them and return them to me at your early convenience.

The reason I am writing to you instead of Mr. Watchorn is due to the fact that in discussing various authors I happened to mention that I had known you in the dim and

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misty past, and he suggested that I write you the letter which you are now receiving.

Thanking you in advance for this courtesy and wishing you the compliments of the coming season, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. M. J. Sweeney

MJS:L

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