THE MANSE
CHESTER, NEW JERSEY

March 15, 1933.

Miss Ida M.Tarbell,
Bethel ,Conn.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

The enclosed circular will tell you of my interest in Lincoln. I read your "Lincoln" as it appeared in The Century. I have it now in book form. Since coming back to the "job" I have read with lively satisfaction,your "IN THE FOOTSTEPS of the Lincoln's" With such satisfaction that some time ago I wrote to Miss K.Helm, that I wished it had been you rather that the other who came out with this new Life of Mary Lincoln.

I am now wading through those volumes of the Ill.Hist. Society,and so came on that of 1924,wherein Dr.Barton has his address on "The Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln." I enclose you carbons of some extracts made from- and comments some items, therein, to more quickly put the matter before you.

That address impresses me as being less clear than Dr.Barton thought it-OR,I may have brought to an unsually muddled mind, for I confess to be so muddled -even after typing the quotations,as to be unable to clearly put questions that might quickly evoke illuminating reply. I am sure you have had the times when you have read so much as to be DAZED rather than clear on just what the writer meant to say.

I think perhaps it best here only

to ask if Dr.Barton ever took up with you this items on which he expresses disagreement, if the utterances of the lecture were AFTER after correspondence with you, or ~~XXXXX~~ just "OFF THE BAT " when preparing that address, though yesrs had elapsed since your kindness to Mrd.Hitchcock?

Also if after that Address the matter was called to your attention by Dr.Barton or any other is such a manner as to produce any answer from you? If so, and it is in print, will be grateful to know where?

There are other items I would be grateful to be allowed to take up with you, but I do not wish to trouble you until I know whether the state of your health and command of your time, warrants you in giving me the attention involved.

I am wondering if you have at any time or where since the issue of Sen.Beveridge's Lincoln expressed your opinion of it- OR of those amazing testimonials to the Senator's Astounding ALLEGED IGNORANCE of Lincoln and His Times - that Bowers avows in his Life of Beveridge?

Sincerely yours,

Geo. T. Semmon.

P.S. Is Mrs. Hitchcock living? Has she answered Barton

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THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF CHESTER

(Presbyterian - Methodist Episcopal-- The Chester List.)

GEO. T. LEMMON, Minister.

More than twenty years ago I had given enough time to a study of Lincoln built about the title, "LINCOLN in The Light of His Age" - to have read every book, pamphlet, and article-- more than Two Thousand- then indexed by the Congressional Library at Washington. Then, with a publisher secured, I was unexpectedly set another task that so completely consumed my time that "the Lincoln" had to be side-tracked. Inevitably there has been much attention to, and accumulation of, Lincoln literature during these intervening years, but not until 1932 could I get back to the steady grind of reviewing all the earlier results, and of bringing my study up to date in the determination that my work shall be in the LIGHT of all KNOWN to be in print about him, and by a new plan, make the result worth THE WAIT.

Any such study means much correspondence, especially to correct, or actually authenticate statements and quotations in the literature of these years, and in seeking further information along the many new paths which the ever increasing literature about Lincoln opens. As an introductory word to such correspondence is always necessary, it seems "meet, right, and my bounden duty" to conserve your time and my own, by making this introductory word of this "common-to-many" character, and so to preface the plea for your attention to the particular matter made the subject of my accompanying letter.

It will be a great aid to me if I may enlist your attention not only to the particular item mentioned to you, but to have from you any suggestion as to any phase of Lincoln's life and labor, and of the literature relating thereto, which you think should have special attention, and which might otherwise be missed even by one seeking light everywhere, if not so guided by you.

In the progress of my quest this "introduction" will go to many who in reading Lincoln literature must have had their heads and hearts stirred by the good things and the bad things said of him, and especially by the undocumented, or slovenly-credited items that have been started on their printed travels. So stirred, you must have wished for some outlet for your feelings, some one with whom to "Talk it Over". I shall be pleased to match my time with yours on any Lincoln item--in the hope that our mutual labor may yield profit to many others.

Expectantly yours,

GEO. T. LEMMON.

The Manse,
Chester, N.J.

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