

735 N. Los Robles,
Pasadena, California,
August 25, 1917.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

You may remember that several years ago I sent for your reading a paper on Thos. Lincoln. Soon after there were happenings that prevented my revising it for publication as you advised. Within the last two years I have had surgical troubles, and have spent some time in three or four hospitals, the last that of the Mayos', Rochester, Minn. in June and July. This has been the most satisfactory and encouraging, putting me on the road to complete health, it is hoped. I am still vigorous with the surgical exception, but 70 years of age. It was my intention to enlarge the scope of my work, to make a far-reaching study of the Lincoln heredity. At the time the war broke out, I had been planning a trip to Indiana, Kentucky,

Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts to make a study of Lincoln records and associations all along the line. The title I had in view was "On the Lincoln Trail." I intended, if possible, to learn of the ship sailings by which Samuel Lincoln and his brothers came over, and make a trip to West England to ascertain if possible some facts pertaining to his ancestry there. I know not whether this has been done by any one. Do you? Of course war conditions would have prevented in any case.

I have thought that if I could do the work well as outlined it might result in an interesting book of moderate size and price, and stand as a real addition to the already extensive Lincoln^{ia}.

During the last week I have been reading once more, (while propped up in bed) the first volume of your work. Permit me to say, that I can't begin to express the comfort and joy I have had in this that I consider the best of "Lives" to this date written. It is always ^{or} ranged before my eye in the revolving book-case near my desk, and referred to times

innumerable.

I'd like to ask you a hundred questions, but two or three must suffice. Could I get the use, do you think, of some of the illustrations pertaining to Thomas for a book or magazine article, should either be realized? Who has control of the plates? Is the Youth's Companion using the book as it once advertised it would do as a premium for subscriptions?

Can you tell me what and when was the first presentment by Herndon, of his work on Lincoln. I have supposed that he issued some part of it very soon following Mr. Lincoln's death, but I can find nothing here or in Los Angeles, except the 1888 Herndon and Weik, --(Edition 1913 by Appleton's.) I wish to discover Herndon's earliest book, pamphlet, or magazine *article*

For making up tales about matters of which he knew little, he is I think the "limit."

It seems to me that having been Mr. Lincoln's business partner, he was anxious to make it

appear to the public that he knew all about him, whereas, in truth he was never his intimate beyond legal details and a few moves in politics.

Herndon was born mediocre, and of course never discovered the fact. His ideas of the office of a historian-biographer as shown in the "First Introduction" show his crudity beyond need of comment.

While laid on the shelf physically I have not been idle, writing weekly for newspapers and bringing out, 1915-16, my "Aesop's Retold", through the International Syndicate, children's weekly page, in many papers; reaching, I imagine, half a million readers, through such as the Portland Oregonian, Minneapolis Journal and Penny Post of Conn. But these are awful times for publishing. Mr. H.H. Howland, reader for Bobbs-Merrill, recommended my Fables enthusiastically, but the commercial end of the House was feary. Since last March I have not been able */physically* even to make the final revision of MSS. that I expect to now, promptly.

I fear that I have made this letter too long, but please remember I don't come often.

You know Pasadena, I think. We're having delightful weather with occasional ocean mists and daily breezes.

With most sincere respect and all good wishes,

Janet Hawkins