East Northfield Mass
Aug 5 - 1926

Dear Miss Tarbell:

You will see from my heading that I am a wandering waif, now here now there. I think I wrote you last from Burlington Vt. With no fixed home, nor family, nor health I have had to keep on the go many years; but for all of 20 years this place was my home, when I had some connection with the Schools estabd here by D. L. Moody. I want to locate a story told of Lincoln & get the reading exactly right - but your history of him & all other books are at present out of my reach. As I recall the incident, Lincoln was approached

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

by some political friend who advised or suggested that if he wished to succeed in some plan or purpose named he must get right with a certain party. And Lincoln's answer was: Get right with God.

If you know what I have in mind, & can set me straight I shall be grateful; as I want to use that incident in some writing I have in hand, if ~~not~~ my memory is not at fault.

I imagine you are staying on your Connecticut farm, but hope this may reach you.

A great admirer of Lincoln, & contemporary, tho younger, was the Evangelist D. L. Moody, with whom it was my privilege to be considerably associated during the last 18 years of his life - which ended Dec. 1899. Theodore Cuyler, a leading clergyman of Brooklyn during a long life, a strong supporter of Lincoln, & well acquainted with Moody, kept on his 80th birthday called on by a group of New York & Brooklyn reporters to whom he said that the three greatest names in the public history of this country were those of Washington, Lincoln & Moody. A dozen or more biographies have appeared of Moody, of which the latest & most readable of all is just out, by his son in law, Arthur Percy Fitt, a gold medal graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. During the last seven years of Moody's life Mr Fitt was more intimately associated with him in all his work away from Northfd, than either of the Sons.

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

& has written now his personal
reminiscences & estimate, as
a contribution to the Moody cen
tennial which occurs next year.
I shall take pleasure in send-
ing you a copy of this new
biography when I know your
present address. It cannot
fail to interest upon as a
lifelike portrait of a man who
in the last 30 years of the last
century was the central figure
in the religious life of two
nations, Great Britain & this
land: a man of delightful
personal traits, who was
the means of turning more bad
people ~~good~~ into good & good
into better than any one after
John Wesley who can be named.
That is distinction enough for
any one; but he was far removed
from the conventional evangel-
ist. Like Socrates & like Lin
coln he believed that getting
the soul right with God, was the
first concern proper to all souls.
& the solvent of all the chief evils
& difficulties of any nation.

Yours Cordially
Henry Wm Rankin

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.