HOSMER HALL
WYDOWN BOULEVARD
SAINT LOUIS, MO.

MRS. ELMA H. BENTON,
PRINCIPAL

September 8, 1931

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
In care of the Macmillan Company
Prairie Avenue and 25th Street
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I have an article which you wrote regarding Dr. Brill's theory of Abraham Lincoln and containing this statement:

> "I have never been able to trace him with evidence worth accepting a story I could not repeat -- to a decent-minded listener."

I think you will be interested in the fact that Lord Lyon, who was the British ambassador to Washington during the Civil War, referred to an interview which he had had with Abraham Lincoln in which the latter related anecdotes "more or less indecorous." The Life and Letters of Lord Lyon are out of print. They were secured for me by an Englishman who sent to England for second-hand copies. (The work is in two volumes.) I was impressed

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with the fact that Lord Lyon evidently had no idea that he was associating with a man whose name would be immortalized.

Very truly yours,

Elma H Benton

EHB:EBS

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