518 East Center Street
Hastings, Michigan.
November 15, 1937.

Ida M. Tarbell
Bethel, Connecticut

My dear Madam:-

I have always wanted to express to you my genuine gratitude and appreciation of your biography of Abraham Lincoln. I never have had the opportunity until recently I read that you spent part of your time at your country estate in Bethel. I hope that this truly is my opportunity.

Then too, I wish to congratulate you on your eightieth anniversary last November 5th although I am tardy at the time of writing and undoubtedly many more days will have slipped into oblivion before this note comes to hand. However, I trust you will have many more milestones and memories of happy anniversaries.

My reading covers a large variety of subjects and authors. My delight is chiefly in biography and I do not believe Lincolns biography can be surpassed.

I must say, however, that last week my admiration and esteem for Lincoln was somewhat shaken. I refer to "The Story of the Human Race" by Dr. Henry Thomas, Chapter VI, Lincoln, Savior of the Black Race. To quote paragraph 3, page 491, "Had Douglass been elected to the Presidency, there would have been no war, slavery would

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have died a natural death, and Lincoln would have gone down in history as a less famous but more fortunate man." I have wondered what Dr. Thomas has as authority or proof to justify this acquisition and many more set forth in this chapter on Lincoln.

I trust that this letter will be forwarded to you in New York. If it is not too much trouble on your part, may I ask for an acknowledgement of this letter, in which I have endeavored, in my poor way, to express to you my genuine appreciation and gratitude of your most excellent work?

Very sincerely yours,

Lloyd P. Baker

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