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BANK OF D. POWERS & SONS.
LANSINGBURGH, N.Y.

ALBERT E. POWERS.
NATHANIEL B. POWERS. | SOLE PARTNERS
[redacted]
HENRY L. LAMB. Investment Department

For editorial dept.

September 14th, 1896. 189

S. S. McClure, Limited,

Dear Sir:-

I enclose one dollar to renew my subscription for McClure's Magazine for one year.

Will you kindly permit me to say, by way of suggestion, that Miss Tarbell has left the matter of Lincoln's alleged default at his appointed wedding in a perplexing situation. Miss Tarbell denies Herndon, on the point of Lincoln's default, and cites witnesses, but at the same time she quotes Lincoln's letter to Speed, page 446, April Magazine, saying; First of January 1841 was "fatal" and further that he had been the cause of unhappiness in one not mentioned, he adding the words "that still kills me", etc. Now, is it not possible to give more and exact information as to the reasons why he styled New Years '41 "fatal" and why he felt so distressed that he had caused another's unhappiness.

Besides, Miss Tarbell has not given with adequate fullness an account of Lincoln's religious experience and belief. It seems to me that this is a matter of the greatest interest and of transcendent value in a true and full life of the man. He formed his own religious opinions and he adhered to them, paying no regard to what was conventional or popular.

He was a man of such intellectual acuteness and power and of such fine moral balance and of such sensitive conscience that his

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S. S. McClure, No. 2.

religious opinions are of the highest value in estimating the greatness of the man and of his character.

Can it be possible that an earnest inquirer cannot get and give admirers of Lincoln more knowledge than Miss Tarbell has yet furnished in her "Life of Lincoln", on this point?

I say so much because one letter of Lincoln's to his brother and another letter to Miss Orme and his messages as President seem to prove that he was a profoundly religious man though he never permitted ecclesiastical ties to bind him.

Truly yours,

Henry L. Lamb

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