Congressional Library -
Saturday.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

While I was up at the War Department this morning, I thought I would just spend a few moments on Victor Smith. I enclose the references. They proved interesting to me, as from them I discovered Smith to have been an old friend of Chase's from Ohio. Also that his appointment by Chase to the California post,

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

and Lincoln's displacing him, resulted in Chase's resigna-tion. This makes the story much better.
It is a curious fact that after Lincoln's death, Victor comes forth again, and is made the custodian of valuable United States Gold & papers.
You will find all this news in the references, but I thought you would be curious to know that he really figured so

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

prominently in history.
It must have been that
the government finally
concluded that he was
trustworthy, but since we
find no trace of the
whereof that gold, I
am a little doubtful.
Pardon my paper.
Hope you are well.
Sincerely

Amos W Ball.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library