SOUTH DENNIS, MASS.
NOV
8
1895
M. O. B.

My dear Miss Tarbell

While I am pleased to learn that you considered the Lincoln incident worthy of notice I am grieved that I cannot fix the locality of the utterance of the Epeech beyond contradiction

Allow me to explain lest you may fear the imposition of a spurious article upon you.

When a very small boy I heard in the streets of London the cry "Sepastopol's not taken." indeed it was dinned into my ears until it stayed there, and while the Lincoln speech is not exactly blazoned, I recollect how in listening to it recital the streets of London came back to me in full force

It was told me by Mr Nathan Underwood then one of the Aldermen of Dixon, at the time he might have said where he heard it, but as a

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long time has intervened since then. My memory fails to assist me in fixing the peace though the impression was. Dixon.

Fortunately Mr Nathan Underwood the Narrator still lives somewhere in the Dakotas. A perfectly reliable man with whom I will communicate saving all correspondence and report to you. It seems impossible that it should escape record but in those days the methods and appliances for lepotoidal work were not as complete as now.

Very Respectfully
C M Underwood

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Hotchkiss S.D. 12/15/90.

Dear Cousin Charley.

Yours of 7th rec'd duly read. The speech you refer to was delivered in Chicago. The occasion was on return of Douglas from Congress in July 1859. (I think) the powwows got up a great reception & met him (Douglas) at the train & marched up Lake St. with music & banners. to the old Tremont House where Douglas delivered his speech from that Lake St. balcony. I think it was understood that Lincoln was to speak also that eve. but it was so late it, was announced from the balcony after Douglas was through, that Mr. Lincoln would reply to Mr. Douglas from the same place on Monday evening this was on Saturday evening)

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I dont know that the Bell Everett & Breckenridge parties were in the field there. & I have forgotten just how he brought it in. but he reckoned his "friend Lincoln" as one of the opposing forces or allies in front of Sebastopol. & that he went here to fire into their ranks (as did the Russians) regardless of whether he hit friend or foe.

I went Early the next Monday & heard Lincoln. - I saw him Sunday at the Tremont. & was not very favorably impressed with his appearance. but all my unfavorable impressions were entirely swept away in a very short time after he commenced his speech. It was grand. the greatest treat of my life. to appreciate his answer to Douglas in regard to the allied armies in front of Sebastopol

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is more than one could do unless they heard it, & the shout that went up after it seemed to shake the old "Tremont" from top to foundation. His words were nearly like this. "My friend Douglass says that he will be obliged to treat me as the Russians did the allies in front of Sebastopol: Well, I believe after all, the allies took Sebastopol" This was spoken in drawling high ~~[illegible]~~ Key — I think this speech was published with his others. Cousin Hannah has the Epitaph & will look it up & send copy.

With much love to all

Your Cousin

N. Underwood

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