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Boston Traveler

EVENING

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS

June 26, 1939

Dear Miss Tarbell:

For your kind letter many thanks. The delay in replying is due to family reunion, vacation dispersions making it necessary for myself and one or two others who take a month off late in the summer to "double up", and an accumulation of chores. Yours is one of the first of a lot of letters to have a reply.

My "Tad" went out of print a few months ago, after having sold a little for ten years and a lot during the years following publication. I am in arrears for three copies wanted by Lincoln friends. Had I a copy I surely should have sent it to you at once. As it is I hope to pick up stray copies in the shops, but meantime if you obtain one I shall be honored to inscribe it.

Your note about Henry Whitney Cleveland interests me much and it will be a great satisfaction to have the "details" to which you refer at your convenience. Nothing irritates me more than to have writers take chances and pull the long bow about Lincoln. I made Mr. Hertz very angry, I fear, ---anyhow he considered it "unnecessary to continue our correspondence"--- by obtaining from Dr. Butler the fact that he was not aware of all the "Hidden Lincoln" contained at the time he wrote its Foreword and he notified the author as to his views on that matter. It always has seemed to me, if I may be allowed, that you, Miss Tarbell, have always been anxious to reach ultimate facts and willing to admit any possible errors, and for that reason your work is of high value and I trust shall always be so regarded.

Mention of Dr. Butler recalls another matter on which you may have some evidence. He is one of these who makes John Hay the actual author of the Bixby letter. This I never have believed and I think there is abundant reason to refuse to accept that theory. Have you ever explored the question, assuming that it is a "question"?

I think your view about turning over your Lincoln letters and items to your old college is excellent. Consider the Brown Collection---that in the John Hay Library in Providence---a wonderful collection, but used only by investigators and scholars as I understand it and not of value for the collegians. A working collection may contain many carefully protected items and yet be accessible and an inspiration to the students, and I fancy that Lincoln would prefer this, which I understand is your idea, to that of a wonder room used but little. Maybe something like this could be said of the Chicago-Barton collection.

With warm thanks for your fine reply to my letter of May 18, and hoping at your convenience to hear again about your work,

Sincerely yours,

Lauriston Bullard

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