

2/14/29

506 MEEKER STREET
SOUTH ORANGE
NEW JERSEY

My dear Miss Tarbell ,

I am troubling you again but I took out your Life of Lincoln from the library the other day to see whether a name Mr. Markens had spelled was correct and glancing over the volumes I was puzzled when I read that the boy who died at the White House was named "^{Ed}~~Ed~~." Mr. Markens calls him " Willie " all through his story and I always knew the three boys were Robert , Willie and Thomas , the last one being " Tad ," as I always thought . I must be somehow in error .

I had just been looking over a copy of a letter written by Robert Lincoln to Mr. Markens in which he spoke of the stories that this person or that had some article which belonged to his father . One was a cane that Lincoln had carried . Robert said his father never carried one and that though many were presented to him he did not use even one of them and that they were given away

by the family . In your account of the first inauguration and his appearance he carried a cane . It is not of any importance is it ? but I thought I would mention Robert's letter .

Mr. Markens when telling of the assassination related that " Mrs. Muzzy " (he puts it in quotes) was on the stage . Was this Laura Keane ?

May I say something flippant as an introduction to what I want to tell you about your Life of Lincoln . My favorite advertisement , an old and familiar one , is that of the disreputable tramp who is writing of Pear's Soap and he says " Since using your soap I have used no other . " That is the way I feel about your work . It was the first and only one I ever read through and reread . An unstudent-like admission from one who is a Lincoln worshipper . But I do not want anyone to disturb my ideals which you gave me . I have read reviews and parts of other biographies but I miss the thrills of emotion and excitement that came to me as you brought

the body, mind, heart, and deeds of Lincoln along his way from his strong ancestors, logically through to his end. Then I knew him so that no one can displace him. How he was made, and into what he was made, I knew through you. In my family he was our hero because my people were abolitionists before and during the Civil War. My grandfather Chippendale had charge of one of the Underground railways. They ^(my people) were from Lancashire and came over not long before those exciting days. They came from the cotton spinning districts and exalted in the attitude of these suffering workers who when they realized that the war was to free the slaves demanded support for the North and were willing to suffer themselves for the cause.

The Chippendales came from a line of craftsmen and designers and my grandfather came over to take a position as designer in a calico printworks. My father to take ^{of} the management of one. All his family had been with the Peel family since the first Robert set up his works at Bury. So their business was also stopped by the war.

(over)

I am running on too long and must ask your pardon for my garrulous talk but I am full of Lincoln emotion after listening in on Tuesday to all I could in the hope of getting a new side light . There was nothing you had not told me . The everready hour was perfect . He knew Lincoln was beautifully given to us and I am sure just as you would have it . Simple, homely and with restraint . I love every word of it .

If you have had patience to read all of this I thank you for your indulgence .

Cordially yours

Kate L Roberts

(The Lincoln material is now with Collier's Magazine .
for consideration as a review -)

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