

Putnam Conn.

September 5, 1916.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Bethel, Conn.

My dear Miss Tarbell;

I sent by registered
mail the postage of Lincoln letters—
\$25 in all to your address—

Bethel, Conn., ^{received by the 4th,} and I wish to call
your attention to two recent pieces,
as per my visit with you in N. H.

These letters are important in
showing how early Mr. Lincoln began
his plan of reconstruction. The
first is dated Nov. 18, 1862 and
addressed to "Gen. Steele, Gen. Phelps,
and all bearing military or naval
authority," etc. etc. The second is ad-
dressed to Gen. Banks dated Sept 19

1863 telling him of Gen Hamilton -
In looking up the record of
Hamilton, I find he was born in Alabama
1815, early removed to Texas - Elected to
Congress in 1857, opposed secession -
appointed Military Governor by Mr. Lincoln.

I made my life a busy
one in delving in Lincoln's lectures
and I have learned, only recently, that
Mr. Lincoln, after the delivery of his
speech in Cooper Union, went to the
Tribune office and read the proof-sheets
of his speech with Anna T. Commons
that it might be accurately reported. After
it was set in type his autograph
manuscript was tossed into the
waste-paper bin in the composing
room and thus being lost! It was
written on blue press paper, entering
in Mr. Lincoln's hand.

I have been reading the "Life and
Times" of Vice President Hamilton; and
he says Mr. Lincoln showed his pre-
liminary proclamation to him the first -
a whole month earlier than to his cabinet -
in June 1862.

Wishing me an enjoyment
while at your residence, and that
you will find sufficient time to make
a thorough examination of the letters,

I am

Cordially yours,
Gilbert R. Tracy.