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Evansville, Indiana, December 1, 1923.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 E. 19th Street,
New York.

Dear Madam:

Your letter from Chicago received, and interested me very much. You may keep the three magazines I sent you as I will not need them. There is considerable to study in the facts there furnished. How far they may interest you, I do not know, but as suggested in my letter to you, I am continuing my work.

I expect to retire as president of this society at the annual meeting late in January. I tried to do so a year ago, but was re-elected in spite of my protest, but this year shall insist on a new president. It will not however effect my historical work, which has been done wholly independent of the society, and the articles I sent you were prepared before the organization of this society, and as appears in the circular, copy of which I enclosed to you with the magazines, another which is enclosed herewith, I am taking the laboring oar in the matter of historical work in the county organization of Vanderburgh County, in which this city is located, which, as stated in the circular, has the greatest of all historical fields in all southwestern Indiana, but the relation of these two historical societies will be very intimate and cordial without any conflict. I placed your name on the mailing list for the bulletin of the State Historical Commission, which will be issued from the press I think next week, and in my president's address delivered in January, you will get my view of the relation of the Lincoln inquiry to that of the inquiry in which we are all interested - that of the social, religious and political life of the people in all of the eight counties embraced in the historical society, and for practical purposes, there is very little difference in the work of the two societies in the matter of real historical research for the early period.

Dec 8 -
I write you particularly to state that I will today a week probably, in Indianapolis at a meeting of all of our state historical societies in which as president of this society

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
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I will probably be called on to say a few words. I appreciate that your letter to me written from Chicago was not intended for indiscriminate circulation. At the same time the matter is of such public interest, that I have been thinking about the question of reading it at this annual meeting in Indianapolis, in which event it will go into the printed bulletin of the state historical work, but of course would not do so without your permission, and my inquiry is whether you have any objection to my doing it. It may be I may not have the opportunity, and for some reason which does not now occur to me I may conclude not to do it, but shall be glad if you will on receipt of this by return mail inform me whether there is any objection to reading it and having it published. I would not, of course, attempt to publish my long letter to you in full, but I might in a dozen lines summarize the view point I give and which is also reflected in your letter to me.

I may leave the city for Indianapolis a day or two earlier, and should receive your answer by Wednesday morning, which would require it to be written Monday.

Sincerely yours,



JEI:MM