Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

279 WEST SEVENTY FIRST STREET.

April 24, 1910.

Dear Miss Tarbell,

I am very glad to learn that you are willing to do the selections from Lincoln for Ginn's Standard English Classics, which I have had general charge for some years.

I have told Ginn to send you two volumes which may show you something as to the introduction & the notes. My general view is that the introduction should be as short as you can make it - without compressing it into an encyclopedia article; and that it should be primarily biographical rather than historical & critical. But I shan't try to hamper you on this point.

With regard to the notes, it seems

279 WEST SEVENTY FIRST STREET.

to me that Lincoln did not use many words needing explanations, that he did not indulge in platitudes and exaggerations needing comment that, to paraphrase Butler,

his dicum politicastic
Was beat with neither fist-nor stick
- big a little; and that therefore you may in the main confine yourself to brief historical annotations. If the spirit moves you to an occasional bit of eulogistic criticism, don't repress your inclinations, for I think that young people like enthusiasm. You need not trouble yourself with the index.

With best wishes for yourself and the book, I am

Very sincerely yours,

I. M. Tarbell