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Pittsfield, Mass
October 6, 1923

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Excuse the delay in answering your letter of June 27, but I taught this summer in two Universities and then had to prepare for a two years trip to England and am now on my way. I shall be in New York by October 15 and if you wish to answer this note you can reach me in care of the Nation.

I have never published anything on the Lincoln-Lemen letter, but Mr Buck in an appendix to his Illinois in 1818 has. Together we worked over the letter and reached the conclusion he there gives. Since then I have laid the problem before three successive

Seminary and they have formed other reasons than Buck has set forth.

The whole set of letters were evidently written by one hand & that was the hand of the present Mr. Joseph Lemen. This conclusion is the result of careful study of the style. Besides this there are other evidences of a more conclusive character. Unfortunately I have neither a copy of the pamphlets nor any of my notes here. If I remember correctly, One of Reed's letters was dated a few days after his death. Douglas' letter dated at Springfield could not have been written there. These were the two most prominent errors.

I believe that you will not be at fault, if you trust my judgment reached after considering the problem four or five times at widely

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separated intervals that the whole collection of letters and the Jefferson-Lemen pact are the emanations of the mind of a sick man, who has lain in bed for years brooding over the neglect by historians of his family.

Here is another fact. The first James Lemen, he of the original pact, signed a petition to Congress in 1805(?) in which the petitioners among other matters asked Congress to permit slavery in the territory of Illinois.

Sincerely yours

Clarence W. Alvord.

P.S. I believe we are to be co-authors in the history of civilization enterprise.

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