From the
Tarbell Lincoln Collection
Reis Library - Allegheny College

Tarbell - November 9, 1928

Mr. William H. Briggs
Harper & Brothers
49 East 38 Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Briggs:

by Helm -

I have had MARY, WIFE OF LINCOLN, on my desk for a week now, trying to get time to examine it; but I have been in the throes of getting ready for six weeks of conferences out in Illinois and have not had time to do the things that I wanted to do.

This morning, however, as I drank my coffee I went swiftly through the book. It's a real piece of work, and most attractive. Everybody interested in Lincoln ought to be glad of it. Its very tone, so Toddish, between you and me, explains many things in a way that possibly Miss Helm cannot be expected to understand.

The book will undoubtedly modify the hateful, partisan partisan pictures of Mary Lincoln that have been so long accepted. Of course the real contribution is the Helm manuscript. It is not all that I hoped it would be, but it is something to be thankful for.

I am going to read the book with care as soon as I get back from this jaunt, and maybe some day we can talk it over.

I am glad you feel that my hint was worth following, and I do think that you have adequately lived up to your opportunity.

I am afraid this letter has nothing in it for quotation as you suggest. It is too hurried, but if there is a sentence or two that seem possible to you for your purpose and you will send them to me at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., I will revise and possibly enlarge and return to you.

Hastily but faithfully yours

Dict. but
not read

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