14444 Superior Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio
March 25, 1942

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I hope you will pardon the intrusion upon your thoughts by a fellow member of the advisory board of the Lincoln National Life Foundation. The Lincoln collection which is the basis of my study of the man was begun with your " Life of Lincoln " as the cornerstone. Many years ago my father inspired an admiration of Lincoln in me. He was a teacher, and sales manager for the University Society a publishing company. He recommended that I read the life of Lincoln which you had written.

I followed in my father's footsteps, and became a teacher; a teacher of American History and Civics. This was the beginning of book purchases for study and enjoyment. Finally I began specialization, and in a blissful ignorance, I settled upon the collection of Lincolniana, and the study of the man as unusual. I was wholly unaware of the vast field I was to cover, and of the number of Lincoln students. Today I know that the study of Lincoln is endless research, and the more one discovers; the more there remains to be found.

It was a far cry from your research to the valuable, but often erroneous work of Herndon. You did the first spade work in the field, and the students of Lincoln owe much to your tireless work. I have a four volume edition of the life by you, a two volume edition published by the Lincoln Memorial Society of New York, In Lincoln's Chair, He Knew Lincoln, The Selections from Lincoln, The Early Life of Abraham Lincoln, and in the Footsteps of the Lincolns. I have this also in the Plain Dealer Magazine format. I lack Father Abraham, a first edition of which I have never seen advertised.

The Lincoln collection which began with the purchase of the work by you has grown to over six hundred bound volumes, and over one hundred collateral volumes such as Bancroft's life of Seward, the American Statesman Series vol-

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umes on Seward, Chase, and Stevens, and Thurlow Weed's Memoirs. The pamphlets number over three hundred, and I shall turn the library over to my son Who I hope will appreciate it, and in turn make it available to scholars.

Being a historian, I have written little upon Lincoln. It is my feeling that books upon Lincoln should shed new lights upon Lincoln, and not merely be written for sale. I thoroughly believe that Sandburg did the correct thing in allowing twenty years of research upon Lincoln. I feel that he even went astray upon the treatment of the assassination, and I should like to know your reaction to this excellent work. I feel he has added much to our knowledge, but I do not feel that he has exhausted the field. I do not agree with those people that say he has left little to be done. He like you has built a platform upon which to base even greater works. The definitive life of Lincoln will probably never be written for the man himself writ it in large bold letters upon the scrolls of time.

Today we hear much of the feeling that we need another Lincoln. We cannot have another Lincoln , but we can build a nation of ruggèd men, sturdy pioneers upon world frontiers, facing the prairie hardships as Lincoln faced them, willing to efface self, and place the national welfare first. The ruggedness of a Lincoln comes from facing life, not from immersion in pleasure. We need not cry for a Lincoln, but rather we can build ourselves so strong that we can truly say, we are the nation that produced Lincoln, we mean to keep the Lincoln Legend of Respect for America, and love of a free America as our eternal tradition. It might be that you could write a brief work upon " The Man Who Loved America Better than Self ".

I hope my letter is not of too great length for you, and I hope to hear from the Dean of Lincolniana authors, the person who made a real Lincoln live for us. My best wishes for many more happy years of life, and a final epic work on Lincoln.

Sincerely,

J. H. Cramer

Secy., Lincoln Association of Ohio

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