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Madison, Wisconsin,
August 3, 1927

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth Street,
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I was very much pleased to receive your letter of July 26, and I appreciate your kindly reference to my brochure on "Abraham Lincoln - His Spirit Lives", and I feel highly complimented to know that you are going to preserve it among the Lincoln items that you propose to assemble for Allegheny College. I think this is a splendid disposition to make of surplus items that have come to your possession from time to time.

I have not had the time at my disposal to give to Lincoln research that I would like. My work as Director of the Wisconsin Vocational Schools absorbs my entire time and interest, and it is only occasionally that I can devote any time to the topic of Lincoln, much as I love the subject. I do give occasional addresses on Lincoln when occasion presents itself, and this is always a pleasure. Believing that you might be interested in the line of work I am pursuing, I am taking the liberty of sending you, under separate cover, a copy of The Wisconsin Magazine for February 1927, which issue is devoted to the part-time school movement in Wisconsin.

Last summer I was asked to give an address at the banquet of the Annual Convention of the National Wallpaper Association in New York City on the Part-time School Movement for Workers in Wisconsin. At that time the President of the Association showed me a beautiful oil painting that they had just caused to be produced from which they proposed to make a calendar for the trade, the subject being "Washington and Lafayette, Paper Hangers." I admired the painting very much and suggested that a printed sketch should accompany the calendar, and the President replied that they would print it on the back of the calendar if I would write it. I told him that I would gladly do so if he would furnish me the same data that he furnished the painter, Sam Brown. This he did, and I prepared a sketch that I thought suitable to accompany the calendar reproduction of the painting, and it gives me great pleasure to send you, with the other item mentioned, a copy of this calendar.

- 2 - Miss Ida M. Tarbell.

Last winter when the National Wallpaper Manufacturers Association held their convention in Milwaukee, they presented me, with the compliments of the Association, with the original oil painting which hangs in my office. I think a great deal of this, as you may surmise.

With kind personal regards and best wishes, believe me, I wish I were in a position to be of assistance in your proposed article on Mary Todd Lincoln. The fact is, we just moved from a rented apartment into a home which we purchased, last week, and all my material is packed away for the present. I am gradually unloading and assembling my Lincoln material in my new home. I have no source material on Mary Todd Lincoln, although I have felt for many years that she was unjustly dealt with by historians. I think she was a true, grand, noble woman who contributed in a large measure to the success of her husband in his political career, and I hope you will be able to verify my feeling in this matter. I do not recall the author, but I have a book packed away in my Lincoln collection entitled "A Reporter's Lincoln", in which there are some very intimate first-hand sketches of Mrs. Lincoln. They are not overly complimentary, but it is material you would like to examine if your attention has not yet been called to it. Any of the large standard libraries may have a copy. Henry B. Rankin's conception of Mrs. Lincoln, I think, comes the closest of doing her justice. Of course, you are familiar with his two books on Lincoln Recollections, and I believe them to be worth while.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from Mrs. Lincoln to James Gordon Bennett, dated October 4, 1862, which was sold by Madigan, which may be of interest to you.

I have rather an interesting collection of autographs which my friends have replenished from time to time, and I would appreciate your bearing me in mind if items come to your attention that you would be willing that I should have. I think I wrote you about this before, and I greatly appreciate your calling my attention to the Bixby letter and I am this day writing to William A. Robinson to whom you referred me in your letter. I fear that a priceless gem like this could never come my way, but it would indeed be a rare treasure to have. I would greatly appreciate an autographed copy of your book or article on Mary Todd Lincoln when it is published.

You evidenced a desire to have copies of letters commenting on my monograph "Abraham Lincoln - His Spirit Lives." I fear you asked for more than you may be willing to receive in this connection. I culled out of about two hundred letters a bunch that I thought might be of interest with reference to this monograph, and I am sending them to you under separate cover with the package I mentioned in the early part of this letter.

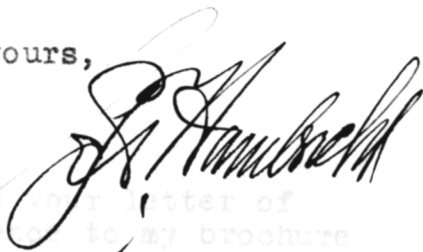
- 3 - Miss Ida M. Tarbell

I now want to thank you most sincerely for your good letter of July 26, and to express my appreciation for the many courtesies you have extended me.

With kind personal regards and best wishes, believe me,

Ida M. Tarbell,
130 East Nineteenth Street,
New York City

Sincerely yours,



GPH:KC
Enc.

Address:

Geo. P. Hambrecht,
State Capitol,
Madison, Wisconsin

see Miss Tarbell's letter Aug 18, 1927

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