The First Congregational Church
TELEPHONE OAK PARK 27

REV. WILLIAM E. BARTON, D. D., LL. D., PASTOR
TELEPHONE OAK PARK 777

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Marxh 15, 1919

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Everybody except mysekf has written a book about Abraham Lincoln, and I have written a book on everything else. So I am doing it.

A f ew weeks ago I listnnded to another minister in an address on Lincoln,and he used the familiar Bateman incident as recorded by Holland. I toldhim privately that that was a highly improbable incident,and our discussion led me into a study of whatever material is available(and there is much) in the Chicago Public Library and the Chicago Historical Library on the religion of Lincoln.Although the stream of truth has been much darkened by ink, I am writing a little book.

Tell me this, and I will print it or not as you say, What is the impression left on your mind, or if you prefer your conviction to your impression,after all your research,as to the actual religious belief and practice of Lincoln?

If you are passing your publisher's will you hand him the inclosed slip, and write your name in the little book, "He Knew Lincoln"? I have your Life of Lincoln(two volume edition) with autograph.

Yours very truly,

William E. Barton

Write him your wife in France – evident friend & autographed the Kinnes [illegible]

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.