

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

February 4, 1938

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I have this morning your note of yesterday.

In connection with it, I have identified some correspondence with you in January, 1917, in which you raised the question as to whether in a preface to a life of Lincoln you could appropriately mention our possession of the Cleveland papers, and also the prospect that the Lincoln papers were to be deposited here; and, incidentally, whether it would be inappropriate for you to suggest to Mr. Robert Lincoln the desirability of depositing them here. On January 8, 1917, I wrote you that I had talked with Mr. Robert Lincoln in the matter, but had nothing in writing from him indicating a definite intention (of depositing them), and I added that I could see no objection to some expression from you to him.

If, however, you are now endeavoring to identify the influences which had induced his final decision, I should note that our records show approaches to him, on behalf of the Library, as far back as 1905, when Mr. Worthington Ford was Chief of our Division of Manuscripts. The correspondence then was succeeded by correspondence at intervals later, down to the date (1919) when he actually made the deposit. As early as 1910, he had pretty definitely expressed his intention of making it, explaining, moreover, that he must delay it until an examination had been made of the papers for the purpose of eliminating any items that he deemed unsuitable for deposit in a public collection.

I should therefore infer that, within his own mind, his intention became definite before 1917.

I find no record of any expressions or communications to him from Dr. Butler.

Faithfully yours,



Librarian

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