

Sept 5-27-41

Plumtown Pa
Mar 5-1941.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
Bethel, Conn.

Dear Madam—

My former correspondence with you dispels all fear on ^{part} ^{my} of being presumptuous. Being engrossed in the study of the immortal Abraham Lincoln, I entertain the highest regard for you and your efforts to portray his career with an eye single to every event which moulded and motivated his life.

Since you first entered the field of journalism in the gay twenties, many changes have taken place in all the varied phases of life. Whether we have profited by it both intellectually and spiritually is difficult to answer. In spite of material and scientific advancement, our so-called civilization is

2

being tested by fire and the sword.
The fine spirit of brotherhood and
mutual forbearance is at low ebb.
These conditions are the result
of our follies and caprices, our
sins and transgressions in a world of
speed and confusion. "Man's inhumanity
to man makes countless thousands
mourn". Affairs abroad stun and
stifle our imagination, but above and
beyond all human strife, fear and envy
is the still, small voice of love
and compassion—the voice of Him,
whose trials and sufferings we all
seek to remember in prayer and
fasting at this sacred season.
I know that the harsh attrition of
Time has mellowed your senses and
calmed your desires. Standing
on the summit of the year, you
are entitled to accept the thanks
of a grateful people, as well as
the plaudits of your friends in
whose trust you have so long con-
fided.
As I write these lines, a passage

from Tennyson presents itself.
 The poet's muse had grown weary,
 and, divining on the fact, his
 soul gave utterance to these words,
 "It is the distance that charms
 me in the landscape, the picture
 and the past, and not the immediate
 today in which I move."

Of such as poets sing and historians
 write is the thin vapor that
 separates this life from eternity.

As your unknown friend, I send
 you a clipping from one of our
 local papers. You will find by
 the picture of a modest man,
 a description of his small but
 growing Lincoln collection. I hope
 you find it worth while to read and
 keep.

Should you feel disposed to send me an
 account of the transfer of your Lincoln
 collection to Allegheny College, I shall
 feel very grateful to you.

With all good wishes, I remain
 yours Sincerely—

Harry Q. Knerr,
 135 1/2 8th St