

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

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February 18th, 1933.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 18th St.,
New York.

My dear Miss Tarbell: -

I hope you will like "President-
Lincoln." When Mr. Barton died, I had never seen
his manuscript and he left no material, notes
or outline for the unfinished chapters. After
reading the manuscript, I had to collect my
data and then write the concluding chapters in
the evenings, while wooing the palmy mistress
of the Law in the day-time. Despite the difficult-
job, I shall always be grateful for the privilege
of doing that which my dear friend would have
done for me, if circumstances had been reversed.

But it is to you, Miss Tarbell, that
homage must go as the great pioneer in
the field of Lincolniana. Through your efforts
alone many statements of Lincoln's contemporaries,
rare photographs and priceless historical documents
have been preserved for posterity. The debt which
all Lincoln students owe you is very great indeed.

With deepest appreciation and all
good wishes, I am,

Sincerely,
W. H. Townsend

Barton's President Lincoln.