

Jasonic Home,
Wichita, Kansas, 55/10/22.

my dear Miss Tarbell:

It is long since I have heard from you, or of you. the last was a letter from your secretary, in response to a Lincoln article in a local paper, in which I was told that you were suffering from an attack of influenza. I trust that you have long since recovered, and are in your old form. I don't see the papers any more, for I am conserving the remnant of vision that remains to me, and my very good neighbor, S., who reads to me hourly daily, does not scan the personal items in the morning Eagle.

I have lately been deeply interested in the career of Stephen A. Douglas. My interest was excited by a book written by Dr. Robert M. Brown, who lived in Wichita while writing the book. He was an intimate personal friend of both Lincoln and Douglas, and his work contains much important matter which I have found in no other work. The book was published by the Methodist Book Concern in 1901. It might be better written from a rhetorical point of view. The sentences are often long and involved, and he repeats himself a good deal, but it has a lot of original matter.

Many years ago I was in Kansas City, ^{Store} and desiring some lincolnia, went to a second hand book in search of it. Among the books shown me was one in which the author said in the preface that it contained the true story of the offer to Mr. Douglas of the leadership of the new Republican party. As I was not then interested in Mr. Douglas, I passed it up, much to my present regret. I do not remember the title of the book, but think that it must have been a Lincoln book, as that was the class of books that I was examining. Is it possible that you know what it is, and the name of it?

It is strange how few books are written about Douglas. I have access to libraries containing over a hundred and twenty-five thousand volumes, and have found only one, Sheahan's Life, published by Harper's in 1860. I enquired of some of my lawyer friends, without result. Then one said that I might find something in the State library. I did: Flint, 1863, and Parr, 1909. And as two of these volumes contain many of Douglas' speeches, and I have the Debates, of course, and Brown's "Abraham Lincoln and the Men of his Times", I am fairly well equipped for doing what I have set out to do. But I do need the information about the proposed leadership of the Republican party.

I hope that this finds you in excellent health.
Very sincerely,

Walter Graves.