Cadiz O. Feb. 6/1897

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
Washington D. C.

Yours of 3d. inst is at hand. I will you allow me to correct a statement in my letter to Mr. M^c. Lure. The speech to which I wish to call attention was delivered Jan 13th 1857. Its tittle as stated was — "The equality of all the Basis of the Constitution." Mr. Bingham has very kindly loaned me a volume printed by Buell and Blanchard, Printers containing a number of his Speeches and this one

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also. I have read this speech with some care and can readily understand how it may have had an influence in shaping Mr. Lincoln's views as formulated in his famous question to Judge Douglass at Freeport Ill. in 1858. The speech was delivered in answer to the Presidents message who took the ground that the several States of the Union have a "Constitutional" and "imprescriptible" right to traffic in Slaves not only within their limits but throughout the National Territories.

Mr. Binyham's propositions were that Slavery May be excluded by the National

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Government from its territories, That Such restriction is Constitutional and May be insisted upon as a Condition of admission as States. To Sum up.- Section 9 art. I of the Constitution covers the Whole Ground. The importation of Slaves was to cease in the year 1808. and the evident intention of the Framers of the Constitution was to limit Slavery to the Original States. Its Spread was not contemplated. Suffice it to say that Mr. Bingham presented a View of the Constitution altogether different from that held by Mr. Calhoun Namely that the General Government

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is nothing more than the trustee of the Sovereign States. All his Speeches delevered in Congress during the yrs 1856, & 1857 take this Constitutional Ground. There is every reason to believe that they had much to do in moulding opinion especialy in the case of thoughtful men like Mr. Lincoln who knew that a House divided against itself can not stand. I question Whether any one living at the present time has a truer conception of the fundimental principles of our Government than Mr. Buyham. I may add

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that I am his friend and Pastor and that he has been pleased from time to time to relate to me many of the leading incidents of his career as Congressman Judge Advocate General and Diplomat.

With his consent I would be glad to furnish any information from any period of his long and honored career that would enlighten the present generation.

Very Truly Yours.

W. M. Butler

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