October 7, 1942

My dear Miss Tarbell,

This bright and beautiful autumn day has been made even lovelier for me by your gracious note which you were so thoughtful to write. In this busy first month of my new work, nothing has come to me that has made me more anxious to do my task well, and carry on the long and faithful service Miss Rowley gave so generously to Allegheny and Reis Library.

You may be sure that the Lincoln Room and the Tarbell Collection, and its proper administration, are uppermost in my mind. To carry out your every wish is the least that I can do to express adequately an appreciation of the heritage you have passed on into our care. With all the multiplicity of details which have filled my days, I have found some time to ponder over your plans for the usefulness of the Room and your books and papers. Dr. Giddens, Dean Schultz (who is now our acting president), and Miss Hendershot have been of such real help to me in assuming direction of the work here. We have felt our responsibility even greater since the loss of so loyal and generous a friend as Mr. Scheide. We shall miss his advice and counsel in our selection of books new and old, and manuscripts, for the Collection.

You will be happy to know, I am sure, that we are adding the thirteen last volumes of Bernhardt Wall's FOLLOWING ABRAHAM LINCOLN, which he has informed us are just now ready for distribution. And I feel particularly flattered that Mr. Paul Angle, whom I met only this summer, has invited me to contribute an article on the Tarbell Collection for the birthday number of the ABRAHAM LINCOLN QUARTERLY. I trust that I may give a good account of my stewardship on that occasion.

May all this give you assurance that we are anxious to fulfill all the plans you have for Allegheny as the custodian of your Lincolniana. And may I add that your name is kept bright before us. To the largest freshman class we have ever had I have told the story of your gift to our library; and in the senior course on the contemporary novel which I still rejoice in teaching, I have found no words more suitable for setting a standard of values for these times than thoughts taken from your own in ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK. . . . And all this is why your message today means so much to me.

With gratitude and sincerity, believe me

Most sincerely yours,

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