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

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Feby 21, 1934.

Dear Miss Tarbell.

Thank you for your very kind letter of the 16th. Since its receipt I found some light on the famous epigram in Nicolay & Hay – vol. 3 – Here it is said that Lincoln used the words in a speech at Clinton, Sept 8, 58.

May I ask whether you have seen, or ever had access to, the Herndon-Weik material? I wonder whether there is, as they claim, so much in it that the earlier biographers did not use. If so, I am sure that I share the hope of many that you will write it. It is a pity

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that it has fallen into such unworthy hands.

May I take this occasion to express to you my gratitude for the great work you have done in this field?

Sincerely and respectfully

Joseph Tainter

Miss Ida M. Tarbell.