1928 July 24

JOHN E. IGLEHART
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK BLDG.
TELEPHONE MAIN 312
EVANSVILLE, IND.

July 24, 1928.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

By today's mail I sent you a copy of Dr. Vannest's book "Lincoln The Hoosier", which is through the press but remains in the hands of the printer and publisher waiting directions from the author of the book for some weeks, perhaps months, so that it has not been distributed or publicly announced excepting a local review in the Evansville Courier a couple of weeks ago.

Enclosed is copy of a letter from the author of the book to me when he sent me a copy of the book, and in which letter he makes a somewhat unusual admission that without my aid the book could not have been produced. The printed material from which this book is largely produced is the result of the work of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, including two of my most important printed papers prepared and printed before our Historical Society was organized.

Dr. Vannest is an Indiana man, has written his book from a sympathetic and friendly standpoint and has adopted to the fullest the views and interpretations that we have furnished, and treats as true all of the facts which we claim to be true. In addition in the most important parts of the book in which he deals with the matter of the interpretation of the life of Abraham Lincoln in Indiana and his environments, he puts me forward as the chief interpreter, and in presenting what he adopts as the great view along those lines he quotes from my published addresses at much length and puts me forward as I had really never expected to happen as such an interpreter.

There were none of the members of our Society in condition to produce a book like this, neither such a book if produced by any of the members of our Society had the stamp of impartiality or been freed from the suspicion of undue bias in dealing with our own work. So that in addition to the splendid testimonials which we have had now from the highest sources privately, from a number of partial and most competent historians, we have in confirmation and corroboration over all that this endorsement of our work. The work of our Society is by no means done but if it never does any more work Dr. Vannest treats it as completed. I have in my hands an incomplete manuscript which I hope to complete within a year and perhaps sooner, dealing with the general subject and particularly the treatment of the methods adopted, work done by our Society and [redacted] other similar work relating to Lincoln in Indiana up to this time involving other

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interpretations than those quoted by Dr. Vanneat, and where he quotes me he does so from previous published addresses of mine of which there are a good many, all published by the State of Indiana in its historical publications.

If you have the time and curiosity to read the book, I shall be much interested in having your view upon it and shall not publish any statement you give me unless I first obtain your consent.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Iglehart

ENC.
JEI:VB

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