

Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Miss Tarbell,

Despite my believing that you must be
the victim of innumerable letters in reference to
your life of Lincoln, after much hesitation I decided
to add to your burden in the belief that I could
say a few words, which have not been said.
My parents were people who having settled in
Kentucky soon after marriage, left it for the
new free state of Illinois, father being a lawyer
he soon came in contact with Mr Lincoln -
they served in the Legislature together, became both
political and personal friends - I saw
Mr Lincoln in my youth, he stopped at the door
way once, when he had no time for a longer
stay to speak to us children - I heard one
of his speeches in the debate with Douglas, at

Quincy Illinois - when his voice was clear, and
sounded so well, that his speech was easily
heard at a distance - What I particularly
wish to say, that in all the years, when
I had knowledge of Mr Lincoln, I never heard
him spoken of as an ugly man, his eyes
and head forbade that - and, admittedly
I attended his burial services in Springfield,
and stood at the side of the casket - a few
comments - as a girl I was impressed with the
nobility of his head, as a woman in the
rightful I recall it, as the noblest head
I have ever seen.

You are of course making use of the letter
I made the mistake to send to Mr Howard -
in reference to Mr Nottingham - the letter to
my father - John Hay used it - it is a notable
example of his true style -
Being in this instance a hero worshiper - I

and much antagonized by the innum-
erable lies appearing, written by people
utterly unable to deal with Lincoln's charac-
ter, and because he was a humorist
crediting him with innumerable common-
place stories - Commercial ventures,

Barlett's statue of Lincoln which was accepted
and placed in Westminster I think, to my mind
was a caricature - the like opinion of his son
was disregarded - I was sorry I was not at
home, when you consulted our dear friends
the Lays, but you, my, I should have seen
you, and I trust this letter will not too
much add to the burden of mail, which must
be brought to you -

Respectfully
A. E. Wells

Mrs Thomas B Wells

March 8th 1923.