The Wilsonian
August 12, 1939.

Dearest Aunt Ida:

Yesterday afternoon when I came in your book was here and that was very exciting. As our weekly maid was cleaning, I didn't have a quiet place to write you, so I started it. How I thank you for it and your few words touched me so. That I shall not be lending my copy except on rare occasions. You are dear to think them and I wish I felt they were true!!

Friends came to dinner and Mark picked it up. I showed it to Marion to Mom & will lend it. She is the most brilliant girl of 3 I know

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Pet was in bed with T.B. for 18 months.
She a darling.

This morning Annie had left the room when I woke up and asked her where she'd been — with Ida Tarbell. "How long?" "Since six" and we didn't get to sleep till after midnight. She said it was the best autobiography she'd ever read. That it was literature, that it was more than just a person's life & that it gave what was worth while to the world & showed the record of a thoughtful person. This was practically all in one breath! She reminded me that she had always admired your writing and last Sunday she was here all afternoon, met us for supper 6:30 at the Tennis Club & she'd been reading about Lincoln all afternoon — Britannica etc. One of her favorite books is "He knew Lincoln".

Well, I was amused. He chose

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ray four times this a.m. after I ordered. Saturday is always very busy & she went round in circles. When she left she said she'd left the dishes, the flowers to throw out, her stockings to wash (I've tried to get them daily in rain but she's promised when I get settled I can do them. She's been doing mine with hers for 2 years to save me) & she left her bed. She never leaves that unless she's operating at 7 A.M. So you've been welcomed wholeheartedly into our lives & I'm going to be allowed to do more for her, so she can enjoy what you've written.

And I was only just in time for tennis yesterday as I read all but 2 pages of the first chapter. I read to Marion & mark about your dropping your little brother into the brook. I could hardly put it down. There aren't going to be people

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o for, resulting from pioneer life
way more, nor like Aunt Minnie with
3 months of school a year, with half
bred indians, a father from England
who bought land, cleared it, put up
his house, mortgaged it & it took 500.
~~to~~ 3 years to pay off 500. or he
had to go & live in another town
to work in a store to do it.

It isn't always the people who
start as you did, who make some-
thing very big & very dear, out
of themselves. But many of us
who started as I did, are just
where I am — Anyway its sweet
to know you, & I'm terribly grate-
ful that you should have sent
me your book. I shall love every
word!

I got back here not an hour
too soon. I developed a boil —
my first — on the train & it had
to be dressed every day at the office
till yesterday. lanced 36 hours

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after I arrived. Aunt Minnie said she would die if I were absolutely well. My guest came that same Friday but I did take her to Mt. Rainier Saturday, as sitting quietly was all too hard. Sunday was pretty hard but we went around the lake. Monday I began not to mind being alive & we went all over town. Tuesday I caught her lying down twice, so she said she was tired. But I simply couldn't give a party for her & she was such a darling, from New Haven — the friend of a friend. She left Wednesday & Thursday, yesterday & today I've played tennis. I've lost several pounds since you saw me & am very glad. We've been out to dinner 5 nights & luncheon 2 or 3 times. We go out tonight & to Aunt Minnie's sister in Anacortes for the day tomorrow. There are 2 luncheons for me next week & one week after.

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...ple have been sweet about my
being back & I appreciate it. I
miss Redding & the people but am
so thankful I did wait till the
next train, 24 hours later, and
consider even have unpacked by
Martha arrived. Weather a little
warm weather but it's like fall
again to-day with no sun-

I've thought of you so often &
am hoping you are gaining daily
on your porch in the sun - The
"pardner" picture in the book is
fine! The first one I think, is
splendid. I had been thinking
of asking you for a photograph
but that is so good, I feel I
should. However if you should
have an extra one, that wasn't
planned for, I'd love it & Aunt
Ida. My love to you & all best wishes
and appreciation of your thoughtfulness.
Affectionately yours, Dorothy.

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