Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Dear Madam: My apology for this intrusion is the very great interest, instruction and, I trust, profit, I have derived from your McClure magazine series on Abraham Lincoln. Their inspiring, wholesome portraiture of the foremost Kentuckian and American has appealed to my best impulses. I most sincerely thank you; and am constrained to beg your indulgence for two queries: Do the influences of heredity, in your judgment, account for Lincoln? I have heard a N.Y. clergyman of much popularity and very wide culture assert that so inferior was Nancy Hanks his inheritance was in no

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measure from his mother? If this be fact it must seriously invalidate the popular understanding respecting heredity. Must Lincoln be considered as in inheritance from remoter ancestry? The doctor of theology in question evidently assigned our American Abraham to the Melchisedec order as if "without father, without mother, without descent."

11. Would you kindly give me the particular date and circumstances of Lincoln's address to the voters of Sangamon County when with pathetic reference to his past struggles: "But if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background I have been too familiar with disappointment to be very much chagrined"? I should indeed and double deed appreciate your good offices and courtesy. While always and in all things,

(Rev.) Delah G. Applegate.

Digital Image, 2010. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.