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*Please address reply to New York Office
522 Fifth Avenue New York City*

February 1, 1926.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have been intending day after day to thank you for that delightfully appreciative letter which was received sometime since. The delay has been due merely to the fact that the executive head of our organization is meditating the propriety of suggesting to you a very brief note which we might reproduce in full. At the present moment, however, this communication to you is to be considered in the same class as those famous remarks to Mr. Jefferson, which he insisted had been made to the individual and not to the Secretary of State. I will be writing the author of the Life of Lincoln upon this interesting subject a little later.

Today, after much hounding by my publishers, I am writing to the same official personage on matters concerning myself. Sometime ago I rashly consented to piece together a string of excerpts from Lincoln, in the hope of producing some such autobiographical record as R. M. Johnston did in his volume of Napoleon's excerpts, which he called "The Corsican". Of course, all sorts of copyright complications have resulted. The Century Company have given us carte blanche with the expanded form of the writings of Lincoln and Houghton-Mifflin Company have been similarly generous with regard to the uncollected letters. A patient research worker has been running down in all these cases the person who appears to be the present holder of the original copyright privilege. Of course, I have made use of your Life and we have acted upon the intimation in Volume IV with regard to the ownership of the excerpts there found. But, when everything has been traced out, the publishers write that there are still several quotations which they cannot locate outside your pages. The latest letter just received refers to "some seven pages" ^{passages} exclusive of those taken from the appendix to Volume IV. I am hoping that you will see no impropriety in the use of these. At the moment, I have not here a list of them but, of course, could secure it if you desire to see it. My purpose has been to take only such passages as have a personal significance: in fact the subtitle of the volume (the main title is still a little in doubt) will probably be these words, "Consisting of the personal portions of his letters, speeches and conversations". The idea is simply to show us Lincoln's story so far as it is told in his own words and no further.

Hoping that I do not seem to be committing a trespass,

Yours very sincerely,

Nathaniel W. Stephenson

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 E. 19th St.
City.