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NEW YORK

March 14, 1938

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

You will probably recall this writer from his keen interest in the Lincoln genealogy in connection with my prolific correspondence with you on that subject. As I told you in previous communications, my mother, with whom I live, was Julia Salter before her marriage to my father. She is descended from the Salter family of Monmouth County, N.J. into which Mordecai Lincoln married as you so aptly explain in your chapter, "The Call of New Jersey" in "Footsteps of the Lincolns". My old friend Dr. John E. Stillwell, who died several years ago was the author of "Historical and Genealogical Miscellany" a four volume work that carried a great deal on the Salter family and verified all you have said on the Lincolns. Dr. Stillwell and I covered all the ground in Monmouth County before his sudden death and visited the scenes of the Salter and Lincoln episodes.

Your political career, casual and infrequent as your activities have been, have always been a source of admiration with me. Your Liberalism is at one with my own. I remember reading Fred Howe's "Confessions of a Reformer" with pleasure and profit. Out of it grew a friendship that gave me an even deeper admiration for Ida Tarbell. Your autographed photograph which you graciously sent me several years ago hangs above my desk as I write this letter.

My purpose in writing you at this time is to urgently beg your assistance for a lady who has known me ever since I was a little boy. Throughout the years she has been a constant friend of my mother and our family. When my grandmother was ill, she was in constant attendance at her bedside and proved a real friend in our hour of need.

Now she is in need. Her son, who is a brilliant lad of eighteen years is working his way through Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. His mother is endeavoring with all that is in her to aid him achieve his ambition to become an Engineer.

Domestic circumstances over which she has no control makes it impossible for her to seek work outside her home which would require full time working hours.

She is highly intelligent, being a graduate of Pratt Institute and prior to her marriage had an appointment to teach in New York Public Schools. She can type and has had experience in proof reading and editing.

She has had a fine training in English and also in research work.

Isn't there some kind of special work which you can find for her to do at home or at certain times at your New York apartment? Or if not isn't there some recommendation or suggestion you can make?

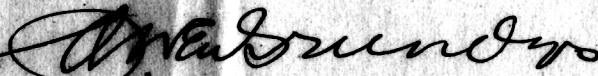
Your many years of helpfulness to women and your genuine interest in humanity generally would prompt your help in this case if you knew the circumstances, I am sure.

I should be happy to have you meet this friend of ours for a brief interview, if you should desire it. But I vouch for her in every way.

My mother and I would be eternally grateful for whatever you may be able to do. I only hope the chance to reciprocate will present itself.

With earnest wishes for your kind helpfulness and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



J. Owen Grundy