Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

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April twenty-first
1 9 3 3

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 E. Nineteenth St.,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Thanks, very much, for your very fine letter of April 14th. I am indeed sorry to hear that you have been ill, but glad to note that you are well again.

The suggestions you make are very fine ones particularly the first one, but I am afraid that we have progressed too far with our program so that we cannot very well change at this time. I am sure that a reproduction of Lincoln's law office in Springfield would have been not only interesting but truly characteristic of him. The suggestion you make of reproducing the White House room in which Lincoln worked, is also excellent and I had this one in mind when I wrote you, but the thought of our committee was that we present the environment of Lincoln in Illinois prior to his becoming president with the result that we will reproduce the living-room of his Springfield home.

You will be interested to know that we have found the original oil portrait of Lincoln painted a week after he had been nominated for president at which time twenty artists came to Springfield to paint his portrait and this one he selected and purchased himself. The artist George Frederick Wright, subsequently painted portraits of the first thirteen governors of Illinois. Later Lincoln gave this portrait to his friend Butler. Finally it came into the possession of Edward F. Payne of Springfield who died about a year ago and his estate is loaning it to us so that we are going to be able to display it in one of the rooms available for our purposes.

I sincerely trust that I may have the pleasure of showing you our exhibit during the Fair if you are planning to come here. I am sure that you would find the Fair and our exhibit interesting.

Again thanking you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J. F. Cornelius

Chairman,
Lincolniana Committee

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