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258 ARGYLE ROAD
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Feb 5th 1923

My dear Miss Tarbell, In looking over my memoranda as to incidents in and about our Hospital in the Civil War, which might do for publication the following may interest you -

On April 15th 1865 (just one week after I had gone through part of the Hospital with President Lincoln) a mounted soldier rode through the Hospital crying out "President Lincoln assassinated". "President Lincoln Assassinated" and then for the first time in my life I saw men cry - shedding tears

Later in the day standing at my tent door I saw a man thrown out of a tent (as if sent by a catapult) in the Cavalry Corps Hospital - about 1000 feet away - Running over there with others I found it was one of the rebel [illegible]

prisoners, who was standing in the door way. When he heard of the assination, and how said "I am damned glad of it." On a bed where left side was towards the open door was one of our soldiers who had had his right leg amputated only a few hours before. When the Southern soldier said what he did our Soldier rose from his bed & balancing himself on his left leg put all his power into his right fist & struck the rebel under the chin & sent him out of the tent. & then fell himself - some of the stitches broke and several of us helped to stop the bleeding. This is the way our men felt.

Years after the war was over I read that at a meeting of a Grand Army Post - an old veteran said, "During the war a young soldier was going into a liquor saloon in Washington, when Lincoln came along

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and putting his right hand on the soldiers shoulder said very quietly - "young man the United States doesnt want to see its soldiers going into such places" And I was that young man & I have never been in a saloon since"
The quiet rebuke just as in my case when I spoke of rebels.

In your published account of my incident I did not say that when escorting Lincoln through the Hospital he had a joke ~~on~~ for nearly all of the fat, thin, tall and short men. Sorry I cannot remember any of these humorous sayings. On entering the first of the 3 wards for sick and wounded Southern soldiers he said - "boys if you dont have all you think you ought to have - let that

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my young friend helps you" - pointing to me. Tearing out of this ward a rebel; caught me by the arms saying "Who is that man?" When I said President Lincoln - he said "Good Lord - you dont mean Abe Lincoln?" When in the adjoining ward. The President & I heard the man tell the news in his ward - to which they replied - "shut up, what youre talking about" etc,

But next day when I was making my rounds, a Southern officer said "Will youens got a better man for President than we ens have"

Yours Sincerely
Jerome Walker M.D.

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