

1931 Apr. 6

ROBERT R. REED
145 S. WADE AVE.
WASHINGTON, PENNA.

April * 6 * 31.

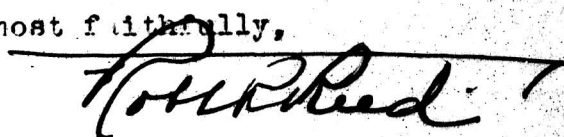
My dear Miss Tarbell,

The enclosed (facsimile) copy of of a letter written by Lincoln to my father during the darkest days of the Civil War. As you know, this letter has been quoted, in whole or part, by many of Lincoln's biographers, among whom you hold first rank. I am sending it to you in hope that you may use it as an "extra-illustration" in your own copy of your great book.

This was printed at this time as a sort of protest against the insanely audacious and scurrilous book of Masters. I know nothing of Master's forebears, - nor any item of his, probably ill-spent, life, but he sounds immensely like the degenerate son of one of those "squatter sovereigns" of Kansas to whom the Little Giant was patron saint. If that surmise is is correct, then we all owe a grudge against John Brown that he did not, in one of his forays, hang the father.

Of course his silly attack, which sounds largely like Herndon's scandalous lies re-written in modern style, won't touch America's great ideal, Lincoln. But, as you well know, there is that lunatic fringe of self-styled "intellectuals", (like Mencken for example), compounded out of foreigners resident with us, Jews of the lower type, degenerate Americans, parlor-pinks, who suffer a constant fret that all men are not as small as themselves. To these, Master's slush is truly a "Masterpiece".

Yours most faithfully,



See her answer April 4, 1931
enc. facsimile L.S. of February 22, 1868
Lincoln