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January 17, 1928.

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

My dear Miss Tarbell:

A friend of mine recently called my attention to a book entitled, "The Boyhood of Lincoln" by Eleanor Atkinson published in New York by the McClure Company, copyright 1908, which is a most interesting account of an interview by Miss Atkinson with Dennis Hanks at a time according to the book before you had become interested in the life of Abraham Lincoln, as an editor and historian.

I read this book with deep interest and it covers the ground which I knew ought to have been covered by Dennis Hanks and which could have been covered by him if the proper effort had been made. It is of course at a late period in his very old age and the narrative shows that his physical condition was feeble, although when his memory was aroused he seemed able to recollect and to talk clearly.

I judge of the value of this evidence not only by the condition of Dennis Hanks as mentioned at the time but also as to the probabilities of the truth of the facts stated by him and I have no doubt that his statements are true. However, you would take the historians view and you probably know something of this publication when it was made, your attention called to criticisms of the statement after the book was published.

May I trouble you to let me know what you know of the book and what you think of the value of Dennis Hanks's testimony. The facts stated are of supreme value in dealing with Abraham Lincoln's opportunities. The historical pot is boiling out here in Indiana and I am pretty busy but after things finally work out I will from time to time, no doubt, have a chance to see you and bring you up to date.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Iglehart.

JEI:VB