Nov. 10th [1912]

President F.W. Hixson,
Allegheny College,
Meadville, Pa.

My dear President Hixson:

Your letter of October 28th reached me only two days ago. I have been out on a Lincoln pilgrimage for the last six weeks and my mail has had much trouble finding me.

Now, as to the invitation with which you honored me to deliver the Founders' Day Address at Allegheny on April 24th. I appreciate enormously the opportunity. I would not hesitate if I were not so overloaded with work that I fear I would find it impossible to prepare a fresh address, as I should like to do. I would feel it safer if you would ask me a year from next April. The best I could do this year would be to revamp some old talk, and that would not be worthy of so fine an occasion. I am working now on a new Lincoln address, but I am not certain that it would be appropriate. You see it is all a question of finding time to do something as good as I could do for you. Under the circumstances, would it not be better to say a year from April?

With all good wishes, dear doctor, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

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