Louise Welles

210 High St., Germantown, Pa., 2/14/11.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Here's that duplicate of "Lincoln's Love for Billy Herndon" - under separate cover this time. My object in sending it to you when you asked for my Dunn interview, was to give you the best I had, for what I used in the North American syndicate was "left-overs" I had sent my best to the McClure Newspapers - after describing what it should be - but Mr. P. returned it, too late for any one else last year, because it wasn't "dealing with authority" (evidently not thinking mine sufficient)

The whole thing is worked up from two interviews, one with Mr. Robert Lincoln, & his secretary (Mr. Scott?) & the other with Mr. John W. Dunn. Of course the Hon. Robert should not be quoted, and Mr. Dunn did not wish to be known in it, then. But perhaps he wouldn't care, now, for he seems to have told the same story to some one else, who wrote it up badly & used it in a small way - a book of small circulation, which I shouldn't have seen but for Major Lambert.

It is high time those Herndon libels were met. He had no friends in Springfield, where he was known. He died in the poorhouse of Christian County, I was told. Dr. Jayne is considered "Judge" Herndon's best friend, out there, but he told me there was no truth in that story of Lincoln not putting in an appearance at his own wedding.

Lincoln's unpopularity there makes people a little more willing to credit stories involving him just because they reflect on her. Col. Van Cleave told me stories galore, reflecting against her, that are current there. But there is no doubt she was insane before the neighbors knew it.

The Hon. Robert is very friendly & kind to me — even offering to help me revise my book for a larger edition! I should not like to publish anything as from him. But it seems to me that if you cared to unite your authority with the little I am credited with, we might do something together to correct a little of Herndon's bad work. Mr. Robert Lincoln also wrote me a letter or two about Herndon's jealousy & spite — but cautioned me against bringing his name into the matter.

Mrs L's nieces were all up in arms then about the Wedding Story ~~that~~ repeated in The Ladies' Home Journal, by Mrs Perrine here. They heard of it beforehand through an illustrator who came to Springfield to make his sketches. They wrote to Mr. Bok to protest that the story was not true, but L.H.J. published it after all.

Now, if you wish to use any of this without me, you're welcome to do so. Or change it to suit your needs. It is too late now for

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me to take up the matter with The Century as I thought to do, when they asked me, last winter, if I couldn't give them something new on Lincoln. (They had a pretty flat group of stale stories last Feb.

My idea about this L. & Herndon business suits The American (or my notion of your magazine) better than The Century — aside from the special weight it would have, coming from you as a Lincoln letter.

But please believe me, I don't hold you responsible for the fact that I bundled it off to you when you merely asked for something else. It is unfortunate that the other Ms. was went astray. I sent a story to Delineator once, & got it back from The Independent, saying it was not suited to their publication! No one had noticed the blunder in delivery. Perhaps I'll get that Ms. back in time to cobble over for The Century another year.

I hope your Tariff book is going well — especially in Washington. It ought to & it will, no doubt. I read it in the magazine. It is a wonderfully strong thing — & fascinating & convincing & simple.

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I am doing Washington & Lincoln scenarios for Pathé Frères "educational" moving pictures. Have just finished (a musical comedy lay-out for Victor Herbert, — at his request. Mrs W. says that comic opera will come out simultaneously with my Story-Life of the Christ — of which Firolin promises to sell a million! That was good advice you gave me at the start — "Stick for a royalty!"

It still looks "like" my rearrangement of the stars in "Old Glory" when Arizona & New Mexico finally come in. Yet — "there's many a slip!"

Met "Bije" on Chestnut St. the other day. He always tells me he has just seen you & how busy you are — which I can well believe.

Mrs W. sends her regards and good wishes for Christmas & the New Year.

Cordially,
Wayne Whipple.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell.
this is the letter you didn't get & this one, too!

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