HARPER & BROTHERS
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FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEW YORK, N.Y.

September 7, 1921.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Enclosed is copy of a letter which I am sending to Mrs. Webber, Springfield, today. I have also mailed to her the letter you wrote, which you told me I might over the telephone yesterday. As soon as we have any word, I will pass it along to you.

Thank you indeed for all your helpfulness and patience.

Cordially yours,

William H. Briggs

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th St.,
New York,
N. Y.

William H. Briggs--D

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

September 7, 1921.

Mrs. Jessie Palmer Webber, Librarian,
Illinois Historical Society,
Springfield,
Illinois.

Dear Mrs. Webber:

Mrs. Price Miller, of Berkeley, California, with whom we have been in correspondence concerning the use of some material from Senator Browning's Diaries, has notified us that you have purchased the Diaries and the rights of publication in them. Mrs.Miller some time ago had sent to us the typescript of the Diaries, and I wish to acknowledge for the House our understanding that this typescript is now your property and that we are to negotiate with you for the possible use of some of the material.

The manuscript was put into the hands of Miss Ida M. Tarbell as the best Lincoln authority available near at hand in New York. Miss Tarbell spent some time in a careful study and appraisement of the material for publication. The result of her study was her advice to us that portions of the Diary could be taken out and edited and, with the addition of some further editorial research on her part, made into a small book on Lincoln. Miss Tarbell believed that if she were given time enough to develop the material, the book would be a fresh and valuable contribution to Lincolnian literature, although she did not believe that there was much likelihood of a sensational popular sale.

Our problem, as you will see, is to recompense the Illinois Historical Society for the use of these extracts, in the neighborhood of fifty thousand (50,000) words, and to pay Miss Tarbell for the necessary work involved in the preparation of the material. Harper's Magazine agreed to take this latter burden off of the book; to pay Miss Tarbell, using two or at the outside three, articles from the material which she prepared.

This arrangement will leave the book free from editorial charges, and therefore allows us to make you a royalty offer, just as we would if you had offered us the material in readiness for publication. We should expect to make a fine book, with numerous illustrations, of medium crown octavo size, to sell at about $2.00. We are able to offer you a royalty of 10% on the retail price of all copies sold.

It has seemed probable to us that the Society might at some time wish to publish these Diaries themselves. Should this be your ultimate plan, I think you will feel that the publication of a small Lincoln book, using the extracts from the Diaries, will be of genuine advantage to the verbatim publication by the Society. It would give a certain publicity to the Diaries and would attract the interest of important persons all over the country to them. There would be no clash in the sales of the two works, naturally, and yours would be complete in several volumes, covering the many fascinating incidents in Senator Browning's career, in addition to those directly concerned with Lincoln and the Johnson impeachment.

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September 7,1921.

Mrs. Jessie Palmer Webber, Librarian. -2-

Our negotiations with Mrs. Miller had about come to a conclusion when you purchased the Diaries. In fact, we urged her to make an immediate decision concerning the publication rights, so that we might make an advance announcement in Harper's Magazine of the publication of the articles later on.

You are so familiar with publishing matters that I need only mention to you that it is important for us to include this in our announcement for the forthcoming year, together with the various other articles and features to appear in the Magazine. This announcement is being set up now, and therefore I trust that you will be able to give us an immediate reply.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) William H. Briggs.

William H. Briggs--D

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