

Publishers of Books and of Harper's Magazine

April 10, 1923.

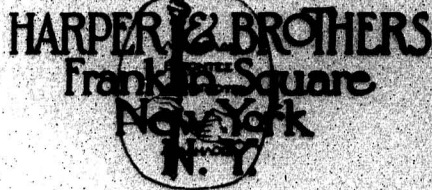
Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Thank you for your promptness in sending the descriptive matter for the Lincoln book. Actually, it seems to me that you have written a brief, spontaneous and most effective introduction to the book. For the purpose of the salesman's dummy I have written a paragraph to precede your material -- saying bluntly for the busy bookseller what you say so much better for everyone in the trade we can make stop long enough to read it. I am enclosing a carbon copy so that you may have it to use later on if you wish to furbish it up for the book.

Two of us have now read Installments 1 to 11 in the Syndicate proofs. I do not believe that you yourself know how good this material is. We think it is, by all odds, the most important and the most fascinatingly presented Lincoln material which has come along in this generation. The point about which you are doubtful, I know, is whether the material is in good order for the book. Both of us believe that it could hardly be improved in this respect. Naturally, you would delete the paragraph in each installment which recapitulates things for the reader of these daily installments. Otherwise, I think you can safely rest on this version for the book. The matter of chapter headings is one to which you will probably give your attention without any suggestion from me. I think these headings could be written on the McClure proofs. So I am returning the set to you herewith in case you wish to change or revise any of these titles. I have kept the proof of the first article for our dummy, thinking that you probably had a copy of this proof.

I think we will proceed in this way: Make our dummies with the description you have furnished and the first installment, with a tentative title page, etc., which you can revise later on in the proof for final use in the book. I think we will also get one illustration from the Syndicate to use as a tentative frontispiece.



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Miss Ida M. Tarbell.....#2

If you can check up on the titles of the chapters and make any other changes you wish in the Syndicate proofs within the next week or ten days, it will be of great assistance to us in our work in carefully manufacturing the book. This would mean that we will then have in hand about one-half of the manuscript. We can give you until early in August for the completion of the latter half, although naturally we would like it a little sooner. I believe that is the earliest date you felt like fixing after going over all the probabilities as to your working time.

When it is convenient, say the first part of next week, won't you let me know by telephone when I may talk over with you details of the publishing agreement.

Most cordially yours,

William H. Briggs

William H. Briggs...BS