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Dec. 6th, 1927.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
#120 E. 19th Street,
NEW YORK.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

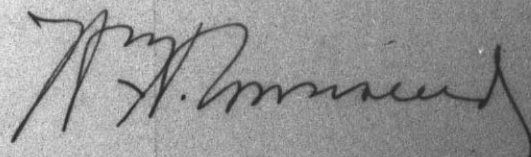
I have delayed response to your letter of November 10th in the hope that I might be able to, in my reply, give you some definite information concerning the letter of Mary Lincoln to Miss Wickliffe, which you mentioned. I have conducted a quiet but thorough investigation as to such letter, but I have utterly failed to find any trace of it whatsoever. I am certain that it is not in the possession of any of the surviving members of the Preston or Wickliffe families. In fact, practically all of the papers of General Wm. Preston and Robert Wickliffe, his father-in-law, were burned some years ago. Robert Wickliffe was not "Governor Wickliffe." The Wickliffe that was governor was named D. C. Wickliffe and was from Bardstown, Kentucky and only distantly related to the Wickliffes of Lexington. I am sorry that I have not been able to locate this data, and I thank you very much for writing me about it.

By the way, I am of the opinion that the ages of the first children of Robert S. Todd are as stated in the Edwards' genealogy, about which you spoke when you were here. In other words, I believe that Elizabeth, and not Levi, was the oldest child.

I am slowly progressing on my book, and I shall greatly appreciate anything further that you may have discovered with reference to Mary Todd or Abraham Lincoln's connection with Lexington.

Awaiting with interest your article shortly to appear in the Ladies Home Journal, and with the hope that I may have the privilege of seeing you again in the near future, I am,

Sincerely,



T/J