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February 21, 1920.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 E. 19th St.,
New York City.

Dear Madam:

Thanks for your appreciable note from Chicago concerning my article on Lincoln. I am interested in your suggestion that the family had absorbed a number of stories of his later life.

This is no doubt true. One of the old Doctor's cousins occasionally visited his father in Missouri and Arkansas and the Doctor related to me a number of their stories about Lincoln's experiences in Illinois. I endeavored to eliminate all of them from my account because that period is better covered by first hand witnesses.

As to Lincoln's departure from the religious orthodoxy of his time I doubt whether Lincoln adhered to the usual beliefs of his neighbors until he left Indiana at the age of 20 or 21. He had a habit of straight thinking which must have made the crude orthodoxy of his neighbors appear impossible to him long before he became of age. In my own case, without access to the works of non-conformists, the essential unreasonableness of the religious teaching I had, had impressed itself upon me by the time I was 14 and by the time I was 18 my attitude toward this teaching was fully determined. From the stories told about Lincoln, I would judge that the same was true with him.

Very truly yours,

Arthur E. Morgan
Arthur E. Morgan.

AEM.E