Mount Zion Georgia
Feb 13th 1896

Miss Ida M. Tarbell.

My Dear Friend

Time sweeps on and brings us nearer the period of Lincolns disclosure to the world — My last letter left us with first acquaintance in 1853.— The object of that visit I will now more fully state — within find a page or two of my report to the Legislature of Indiana for 1853 containing the joint resolutions of that body on the question of the African Slave Trade then in great activity; and through which certain

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parties in the south wished to extend ~~their~~ the dominion of the slave power into Texas and the North-west.

I carried my reports of 1852. and 1853 with me, and letters from Gov Wright and others placing them before the state Colonization society of Illinois in Springfield, and as I have already told you Rev R. R. Dodge pastor of the third Presbyterian Church, secretary of ~~that~~ ~~society~~ took hold of the matter and aided me all he could.

Although introduced to Mr Lincoln he at that date did not appear able to aid me much, nor had he the grasp of the public Mind he afterwards secured

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so that in fact I did not rely on him to move his state — but addressed myself to the work of a canvass such as I had made in Indiana — Nor did I rely on any one particular state in my field (the N Western states) to effect the desired change in our Federal policy outlined in the resolutions of Indiana. Nor did I rely on the N. West alone but moved on New England Washington and Canada

In the winter of 1852-3 I visited Mr Pierce ~~at his~~ in Concord ~~home~~, and was introduced to him by Bishop Baker one of our Bishops who resided in Concord at that time

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He agreed to give Pres's Federal policy calm attention when he reached Washington — but such was the agitation of the country produced by Senator Douglass' bill for the repeal of the Mo. Compromise that I did not visit Washington until the summer of 1854 at which time I tried to secure action thereon

The history of that visit was really the beginning of the end to which this note I enclose a cutting from the Atlantic ~~Journal~~ St Louis Globe Democrat and have marked the paragraph relating thereto — if it is important to your work I can give you a full account of that visit to Washington

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Whilst moving our own people as best I could, our friends in London were aiding us to some extent.

I forward you my reports to the Legislature of Ind for 1858, 1859, and 1860 the other years I cannot find amongst my old papers. Please read them carefully for Mr Lincolns policy was my policy on the Negro question.

There was an event in 1857, the memoranda of which I have not yet found relating to my first meeting with Dr George Bickley Commander in Chief of the Knights of the golden Circle through whom I discovered the springs of European action in our national trouble

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It has pleased Providence to ~~Thrust~~ me into such relations with public men and policies ~~that~~ before our civil war — and after it, ~~Not without~~ intending it I have had opportunities of advising measures and lines of action calculated to defeat the plans of European Imperialists and Hierarchs aimed at this Protestant nation. Such being the case you will, I trust, not regard it improper for me to respectfully ask you, as a Correspondent, with which of the great religious parties ~~that~~ of Rome, or that of Protestantism you affiliate?

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I will close this letter agreeing to dwell more fully on events as we near the sixties, and enter into the dark and stormy period wherein our national being was endangered.

Yours respectfully,
James Mitchell

P. S. I am now on my plantation four miles address me here or at my City home just as you please — but Atlanta is 60 miles east of this. so do not place both P. Offices on your letters.

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