

WEST SIDE UNITARIAN CHURCH

544-552 Cathedral Parkway

New York

Rev. CHARLES FRANCIS POTTER

June 20, 1924.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

For some time I have been in correspondence with a prisoner in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary and have finally secured from him, for examination, a book which he calls a Bible, but which is really an old edition of the Westminster Confession.

In three places in this book occurs the well-known signature of "A. Lincoln."

The first occurrence is on the inner side of the front cover as follows:

"21st September 1832
A. Lincoln"

At the bottom of the page giving the table of contents occurs simply the signature. On the inside back cover is the following:

"21st April
A. Lincoln"

I am wondering if this signature is genuine, and if so, whether or not that fact makes the book of any value. This prisoner says that he has three or four other old books containing Lincoln autographs. He claims that his grandfather had them in Kentucky. I am rather suspicious about the whole matter. Any clever person could secure a number of old books for five cents a piece in a second hand book store and imitate a signature so well known as Lincoln's, but there may be something to the story, and the book may have some value.

What I should like to do is to take this book and show it to you. I want to meet you anyway as I am much interested in Lincoln. I have read your book, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns," and intend calling the attention of my congregation to it. If you would care to have me call and will suggest a date and hour I should like very much to show you the book.

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

Cordially yours,

Charles Francis Potter