M. Martin Jones,
Counselor at Law.
Rochester, N.Y.
Granite Building.

"Dictated"

February 23, 1898.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

919 I. St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I find your letter of the 18th. inst. awaiting my return home from New York after several days absence. I thank you for inviting me to assist you in securing reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln. I have read your articles in McClure's magazine with much interest. You have been doing a very nice work, indeed. You have done it well and you are entitled to the thanks of every one who loves the memory of the martyred president. Your collection of pictures of Mr. Lincoln and of scenes incident to his life is a very valuable contribution to Lincoln reminiscences.

It is true, I knew Mr. Lincoln. I was for a short time only Secretary for Mr. Seward and his son Frederick, but was for a long time in the foreign service of the nation, and had opportunities of becoming more or less familiar with the career of Mr. Lincoln. It so happened that I sat only a few feet from Mr. Lincoln when the fatal bullet closed that career. I hardly feel, however, that I would be willing to turn over these matters into the hands of any one else just at present. I am just now more particularly interested in the acquiring of one or more naval and coaling stations for vessels of the United States at points more or less remote from our long line of sea coast. It was on that subject that I wrote Mr. McClure. Events have been crowding on us within the last two weeks so rapidly that I feel that this other matter, so different from the one relating

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to the Lincoln reminiscences, should be given attention to the exclusion of other subjects. Later I may see you or correspond with you in regard to this subject concerning which you have written me. I wish you every success in your most excellent work and undertaking.

Yours very truly,

A.C.C. W. Martin Jones

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