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Sept. 25th, 1936

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Several years ago you and I discussed Henry C. Whitney, and particularly his report of Lincoln's "lost speech," in several letters.

For several months I have been working on an introduction and notes for a new edition of Whitney's "Life On The Circuit With Lincoln." In the course of that investigation I have become convinced that Whitney was something of a scamp and I think that I have adequate proof. I now believe that he not only fabricated the "lost speech" but that the report of Lincoln's alleged address at Urbana in October, 1854, which he publishes "for the first time," is simply the text of Lincoln's famous Peoria speech slightly distorted to fit another occasion.

If you are at all interested in this subject, I shall be glad to send you a carbon of my introduction, which I hope to finish next week. It is not long and the reading of it will be no great burden. For my part I think I should profit greatly from your reaction to it. You have been more sympathetic to Whitney than I ever was and perhaps by this time I need the kind of an antidote which you might well administer.

Sincerely yours,

Paul M. Angle.