April 11, 1938

Dear Dr. Tolley:

I have been vacationing for a couple of weeks down in Charleston, S. C. My sister and I left summer flowers to arrive yesterday morning to find five inches of snow over New York - quite unbelievable.

This vacation which was taken under orders of no mail explains why you have had no answer to your letter of April 1st telling me of Mr. Craig's death. I was shocked to learn of it. I learned to value him very highly as a Trustee, and his quiet way of making useful gifts always pleased me. I wrote him last Fall telling him how much that piano he gave Tarbell House had done for the girls.

I am writing Mrs. Succop today telling her why she has not heard from me before.

Thank you for sending me Mr. Richard Lloyd Jones' letter. I hope he will stop off in Meadville when he returns from Europe the last of May. I doubt if I can be there. Tufts is giving me a degree on the tenth of June and I am afraid I cannot get to Meadville and to Medford at the same time. Possibly I can arrange to see Richard Lloyd here before he goes on. I will try it. I would like to talk to him about the Lincoln collection.

I have been much gratified in the interest the Alumni here are showing. Mr. Beazell and Miss Yost are particularly enthusiastic. You know about our effort to get the books Lincoln read, the really influential ones. We just succeeded in securing a copy of The Indiana Statutes which for the first time gave him the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, that is so far as we know - the edition of 1824, the one he used. Dr. Coleman of Indianapolis has shown an interest in the undertaking and will no doubt be able to put us on the track of other difficult pieces.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

I want to make it clear what I have said many times, dear Dr. Tolley, that I do not consider what I am turning over to the College anything more than a nucleus, a nucleus around which I hope the Alumni would be glad to work. It should be merely an Allegheny College Alumni Collection, and so called.

The two weeks I have spent in Charleston has emphasized my feeling that we ought to have in connection with the Lincoln collection a good and complete representation of the Confederate side of the questions involved, as well as their conduct of the War. There is not, so far as I know, a Lincoln collection in which the two sides are properly represented. What do you think of this? I do not want to over-emphasize it, but I would like to be putting out feelers while I am around for the books we ought to have. Do you think this is right?

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Tolley, believe me

Faithfully yours

Ida M. Tarbell

Dr. William P. Tolley
Meadville, Pa.

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