

Jacksonville, Ill.
Aug 10th, 1897.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell -
141-155 E. 25th St. New York
City -

My dear Miss Tarbell -
Perhaps my interrup-
tion at this time, of
your duties and at-
tention may have some
excuse in the corre-
spondence had last
year as well as some

facts with which I
am desirous of ac-
quainting you, re-
garding the personalities
of ^{Dr.} Peter Abus and
Abraham Lincoln.
In respect to the latter
a matter of grave inter-
est was recently made
public here in our
midst.

In our city is located
the Illinois Female College

under care and di-
rection of the Illinois
Annual Conference of
the M.E. Church.

The last commence-
ment season was ob-
served as its fiftieth
anniversary and
brought to the city a-
mong others its first
President - Rev. James
F. Jaquess D.D. Though
an elderly man he is
clear and intelligently
responsible in what he says.

It was my happy fortune to meet him at the reception when he kindly spoke his regard for my mother when she was a girl in the college. From another I learned he narrated at the old folks meeting the conversion of Mr. Lincoln. I cannot give details, but it was on this wise. Dr. Jagnace was pastor of one of the Springfield churches, and had, a friendly acquaintance

with Mr. Lincoln.

The latter when assured who was to preach attended Dr. Jaquess' services on some occasions.

During a season of protracted services Mr. Lincoln, under conviction, and seeking spiritual light, held with Dr. Jaquess a private counsel and prayer service.

As told Mr. Dr. Jaquess
describes the whole in
as simple language
and to the point as
in Methodism we are
used to hearing when
telling of the event - a
"Soul's awakening."

You would enjoy the
narration in full, but
as it will appear
in a book to be pub-
lished soon by Dr. Ja-
quess, I will leave

you with myself
to get particulars
from his own hand.
Personally I am per-
suaded Mr. Lincoln
learned much of God
and the way of the
Master, from the ne-
cessitous circumstances
of his life and the
sweet blessing of a
Christian motherhood
wafting him forth upon
the bosom of life.

The one pristinely
true, simple, and with-
ful, the other 100
seriously rugged left
little leeway for him
long to defer a trust-
ful acquaintance with
The Creator of the universe
The Lord of all and
his own strength and
support - his very Friend.
He never would have
been characterized "Honest
Abe", if the same had not
characterized him heart
and brow ere the public
knew him.

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A few weeks since
Bishop Charles Fowler gave
here his lecture on
Abraham Lincoln, which
was quite acceptable at
the last General Conference
in Cleveland, Ohio.

If you have ever heard
it you know pretty well
his estimate not only of
Mr. Lincoln but also
Dr. Peter Akers.

Narrating the circum-
stances - the substance of
which you have given
in the McClure's Magazine.

He was greeted with
applause when he
spoke: "Dr. Peter Akers is
the greatest Bible preacher
in America".

This could not have
been prompted of him be-
cause he was addressing
people who knew Dr. Akers
personally much better
than did he, for un-
interrupted attention by his audience
was given from 8³⁰ until 11 P.M.,
Patronage was not needed.

The sequel of usefulness
is-consecration to Christ,
and how thoroughly that
was done in Dr. Akers'
case - let him narrate.
As a description of
the soul's spiritual ex-
perience ^{and} life, it is
wonderful, and to me
truly helpful.
Perhaps you would en-
joy reading it - I
venture to enclose it
to you trusting to receive
it again when you

have done therewith.

Also I send, if you
will please to accept it,
a picture of the Dr. Akers
Mr. Lincoln knew ^{as} heard.

It was not discovered
until late last summer,
but in it you will dis-
cern manhood a-
bundantly glorified.

The photographer who
made this from the original
picture exclaimed:
"Where are those
men today!",

11
I desire to express to
you my gratitude for
in anywise being in-
strumental so that you
should have brought these
personalities together in
your narratives con-
cerning Mr. Lincoln.

That womanly Ken
does not discover of
the personal life of an
individual, it seemeth
me was intended should
disappear from the

Knowledge of human
histories, the conclu-
sion being - your story
will ever be the popu-
lar "Life of Lincoln" to
be delighted in by the
young as well as the old.
And certainly it is not the
travails of Christian faith
to believe God that
through faithful human
instrumentalities He
makes known the
things of His high purposes.

It is a happy sense
of satisfaction to know
that many here are
pleased that such was
consummated.

I trust it is neither
familiar nor unseemly
- you will not regard it
as such - when saying
to you I rejoice for
two particular reasons -
first - it is effecting
correspondence be-
tween the written and

unwritten history;
second - my esteem for
the man of God who gave
me, when starting to col-
lege in 1885, as it were
his bishop's blessing with
his laying on of hands.
It's some token of his
rich bounty I give back
to him.

Yours with best wishes
Very sincerely -

William J. Lane

221 Pine St.