

EAST NORTHFIELD,
MASS.

Feb 21 '96

My J. M. Tarbell,
Dear Quaker;
You will much

enjoy the article on
Lincoln's Genealogy
written by the E. E. Clit-
tenden for Harper's
Weekly Feb 22.

You say you wish
you had lived in his
day - Had it not been
the case you would
never have had the
unrivalled opportunity
of knowing the man
that you now enjoy.

many then enjoyed their
own particular ex-
perience of the man -
You are an heir of
the age, and have
an unprecedented op-
portunity of gathering
up into one compre-
hensive intimate
knowledge all their
separate, individ-
ual experiences.

You can know the
man better now than
any one of his
contemporaries could,
& will be better pre-
pared to meet him

in a higher world, by
that. Then your knowl-
edge, now historical,
will also be merged
into experimental
acquaintance, so
that you do with
of him as well
making you welcome
to his company.

Neither flattery nor
any shadow of un-
truth would please
him.

Another sign of his
religious faith is in
his fast-day appoint-
ments. It takes a Chris-

rule
tion, to make a
sincere proclamation
of a day of fasting
& humiliation, prayer,
These were of his free
determination, and
his sincerity no one
ever yet has dared
to question. How are
they avowed, and
what use did we
make of the day?

I imagine a "free Thinker,"
so called, or any body
but a Bible Christian
in theory, even if not in
sympathy, writing those pro-
clamations.

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What - do Arnold &
Chittenden say of his
own mother's religious
influence upon him?
What of the influence
of those early backwoods
preachers, & of Anne
Routledge's death?
Such a bereavement
always has one of
two effects; It makes
a man hard & bitter
or else opens his heart
to God. Which effect
did he exhibit?
"It is well for a man
to bear the yoke in his
youth". It seems

to me that with a
 deep plough I had open-
 ed the fallow ground
 of his heart when
 he was young, and
 kept it open open
 to the shower of hea-
 ven ever after.

These profound be-
 reavements, at least,
 he suffered, with a
 cumulative effect
 in the ripening of his
 iron character;
 first his mother,
 then Anne Rutledge,
 then little Tad^x.

We can estimate these
^x (meant for the child, the youth, the man)

influence in their life
 long effects, the soul of his
^{own} compulsion.
 Another thing that
 impressed me, an
 interesting historical
 analogy, and another
 link for the theistic
 argument—
 Lincoln's visit to
 New Orleans, and per-
 sonal experience by ob-
 servation of slavery
 had the same provi-
 dential place in
 his career. That belonged
 in the career of Martin
 Luther to his personal
 visit to Rome.

Compare the first three
 chapters of Kästner's Luther
 (Scribner) & D'Aubigné's
 acct of this Roman
 visit, with the anal-
 agous events in Lin-
 coln's life.

I read your chapters
 with intense interest,
 & think they must
 make you feel your
 help to be in a differ-
 ent problem world
 than when you studied
 Napoleon. Did you ever
 read the essay on Napoleon
 by Wm Ellery Channing?
 Surely it was the best acct
 of the man - the truest, ever
 written on this continent.

Yrs Truly - Henry W. Raub