1928 Apr. 18

JOSEPH BENJAMIN OAKLEAF
TERRACE HILL
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

April 18th, 1928.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Thank you for your kind letter of the 16th inst.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Helm, Mrs. Lincoln's half-sister, and also Mrs. Helm's three children, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Helm, and Ben Helm. I had a very pleasant afternoon with them.

I wrote a letter to Miss Helm criticizing a small particular in her first article in McCall's. It was just a slip of the pen, but I wanted to have it corrected in the book. She stated that the children had picnics, hunted flowers, walnuts and chestnuts in the summer time. I told her to leave out the walnuts and chestnuts.

Yes, I have read Mrs. Morrow's book which is called an "Appreciation". She did not go quite far enough. She could have made some pleasing explanations of her condition in later life and the heavy burden that she had to bear. She could have said that it was a wonder that Mary Todd Lincoln did not lose her reason, with her excitable temperament, during the ordeals of the assassination period. Then besides, it was truly a shame that people were so unjust to her while she was mistress of the White House.

Thank you for your promise to send me clippings of your article in the Ladies' Home Journal.

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I will be at Lexington the first part of June. I will spend two weeks in Kentucky.

Yes, I agree with you that Mrs. Morrow has a good title for her forthcoming book, "With Malice Toward None". I think she will make a good thing of it.

Most cordially,

Joseph Benjamin McCleary

To:
Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
#120 - East 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.

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