

Belvidere Ill. Oct. 25-1899

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,-

Dear Madame,- Recently I

accidentally came across a copy
of McClure's Magazine for May '99
and in your article "Lincoln's search
for a man," was a letter written
by Pres. Lincoln July 13-1863 to Gen.
Grant. I have in my possession
a letter written by Gen. Grant May
10-1863 to Gen Banks which I
thought might be of interest to you
in this connection; and of which
I enclose a copy.-

Very Respectfully.-
Mrs. A. E. Aldrich.

Headquarters Dept. of the W.
Rocky Springs, Miss

May 10 1866

Maj. Gen. W. P. Banks, -

Comdg Dept of the Gulf - Gen -

My advance

will occupy today Utica, Auburn, and
a point equally advanced toward
the Miss. Southern railroad between
the latter place and the Big Black.
It was my intention in gaining
a foothold at Grand Gulf to have
sent a sufficient force to Port Hudson
to have insured the fall of that place
with your co-operation, or rather to
have co-operated with you to secure
that end. Meeting the enemy, however
as I did south of Port Gibson, I followed
him to the Big Black and could not
afford to retrace my steps. I also learned
and believe the information to be
reliable that Port Hudson is almost
entirely evacuated. This may not be
true, but it is the concurrent tes-
timony of deserters and contrabands.

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Many days cannot elapse before
the battle will begin which is to
decide the fate of Vicksburg, but
it is impossible to predict how long
it may last. I would urgently
request, therefore, that you join
me or send all the force you
can spare to cooperate in the
great struggle for opening the
Miss. river.

My means of
gaining information from Port
Hudson are not good, but I
shall hope even before this reaches
Baton Rouge to hear of your forces
being on the way here. Grierson's
Cavalry would be of immense
service to me now and if at all
practicable for him to join me
I would like to have him do it at
once. For fear of this accidentally falling
in the hands of the enemy, I will not
communicate to you my force.

I am, Gen. very respectfully,

Your obt. svt. W.S. Grant Maj. Gen.