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Madison, Wisconsin,
 January 12, 1928

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
 120 East Nineteenth Street,
 New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Your letter of November 18 came to my desk just as I was leaving for Los Angeles, California, and this is the first opportunity I have had to reply since my return.

I regret very much a typographical error that appeared in the third paragraph of my letter of November 1. The "Scott items" mentioned in that paragraph should read "stock items."

Referring further to the book "A Reporter's Lincoln" mentioned in the first paragraph of my previous letter, will say that the author's name is Walter B. Stevens.

I just recently came across another interesting reference to a Mary Lincoln letter advertised for sale by Thomas F. Madigan in his autograph bulletin of April 1, 1925, listed at Ninety Dollars. The letter bears date of December 14, but no year. The following is a copy of the letter as advertised by Madigan:

"I feel assured, that your characteristic consideration for the feelings of others, suffering as YOU are now doing, will plead an apology for my silence, whilst believe me my thoughts are daily with you and sympathizing with you in your great sorrow. My own griefs, deep and fearful as they have been, have taught me, that "this is not our rest," and that the Author of our heavy afflictions, can alone give us peace. Yet without my idolized husband, I cannot hope for a freedom from suffering, until we are reunited. I have two very noble boys, and they are indeed all the comfort I have left me. You have been indeed blessed in your charming daughters! My ideas and feelings correspond so entirely with your own, in the beautiful and consoling belief, that our beloved ones, whose home is in Heaven, can, unseen by us, enter into our midst, witness the

anguish, we suffer over their loss and can console us by their invisible presence. There are moments, WHEN I KNOW that my darling husband and my precious Willie are near me. Without this belief I would not care to live a day. The dream related in your letter is certainly very remarkable, it came from the hand of God, and was sent as a warning to you of the terrible bereavement so soon to fall upon you. When we pass the portals, through which our loved ones have entered, we will then know, why such crushing sorrow and trials were permitted us here. Why the protecting arm of those we loved TOO WELL was withdrawn from us, so that our dependence upon our Heavenly Father should be recognized and acknowledged. The return of the approaching holidays with my desolation upon me, so fresh and painful makes my heart sink within me. We can but remember each other, in our prayers, in such hours of suffering as these. I regret to say my dear Mrs. White, that I am unable at present to give you any satisfaction regarding the two letters, your daughter addressed to my husband. Judge Davis has a large box of papers, letters, &c., in the vault of his bank, at Bloomington, Ill. He is now in Washington, for the winter. Should I ever gain access to these letters, I will hasten to return them to you. Knowing how pleasant it will be for you to possess them. Both my dear husband and myself admired the talent they evinced. I hope you will often write me. My days are passed in sadness, when I sometimes fear that even our gracious Father has forsaken me. Pray for me. I remain,
Most truly yours, Mary Lincoln."

If you do not have a reference to this letter it may be of some service to you in your present work.

I am working on a book which will probably be entitled "The Education of Lincoln." If you run across any items that you think will be of interest to me in this research which I have continued for a number of years, it will be appreciated.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Geo. P. Hambrecht
K. C.

GPH: KC

Address:

Geo. P. Hambrecht,
State Capitol,
Madison, Wisconsin

Mr. Hambrecht was called out of town before he had an opportunity to sign this letter.

Katherine Cook.