Petersburg, Va. April 28th 1898

My Dear Miss Tarbell,

I send you to day a brief sketch of what I suppose you want. It is written just as I would speak or tell it to you. You can stretch it out any length you chose.

Hoping this is what you want and that you will be able to read my bad manuscript - I remain

Yours truly
Chas H Black

P.S. - I will send you a map of Petersburg later on.

$ 6.75
(ordered sent)

1

On Monday Morning, April 3rd, 1865 General Grant entered Petersburg, and soon after his arrival he telegraphed President Lincoln, who was then at City Point, asking him to come to Petersburg to see him, while he would await his arrival. When President Lincoln arrived, there was hardly a soul to be seen except now and then a negro, or some small white boy on the streets. ~~Presidential~~ General Grant had only his staff officers and a small escort of cavalry. Where they met was on the piazza of a deserted house, the former home of Hon. Thos. Wallace,

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a prominent lawyer of Pittsburg, on Long Market Street, but now owned and occupied by Mr Simon Seward and family

Mr. Lincoln, in reaching this house had to pass through some of the streets, the houses of which had been torn to pieces ~~from~~ by the shells from Union Fts. McGilvrey, Steadman and Sedgwick, (Fort Hell).

About the first thing that President Lincoln said to Gen. Grant, after congratulations for his victory and thanks to himself and army was; "Do you know, General, that I have had a sort of a sneaking idea for some days that



you intended to do something like this." From this the conversation drifted to Gen. Sherman meeting Gen Grant at a fixed time to co-operate in the destruction of Gen Lee's army. Gen Grant told him that he had been very anxious to have the Eastern armies vanquish their old enemy, who had so long resisted all their repeated and gallant attempts to subdue them and drive them from the Confederate capital. Gen Grant said to President Lincoln that if the Western armies should even be upon the field, operating

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against Richmond and Gen. Lee, the credit would be given to them for the capture by politicians and news correspondents from the section of country which those troops hailed. It might lead to disagreeable debate between Eastern and Western members of Congress.

Mr Lincoln said he saw that now but had never given it a thought before, because his anxiety was so great that he did not care where the aid came from, so the work was done.

# When the conversation was at an end Mr Lincoln mounted his horse and started on his return to City Point while Gen Grant and Staff



started to join the army. Mr Lincoln rode down along Market Street, turning into Bank Street at its intersection with High Street, going straight through the portion of the city where hundreds of houses were almost totally demolished. But the house that attracted his attention more than any other was the old Dunlop Mansion on Bollingbrook Street, which had been struck more than one hundred times by shells, and fragments of shells. He stopped at this place for a moment looked and shook his head and rode off.

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The writer saw Mr Lincoln as he passed through Petersburg, as he lived on Long Market Street and though very young, he will never forget that spectacle. Mr. Lincoln was dressed in a black suit with silk hat, and his trousers had almost worked up to his knees, by the jogging of his horse.

When Mr. Lincoln entered the city he came into the Jerusalem Plank Road just beyond the "Crater", following this down to Wythe Street, up Wythe to Sycamore down Sycamore to Washington, out Washington to Long Market, up Long Market to Wallace's residence



When he left Petersburg he came down Long Market St to Bank, down Bank to Sycamore, down Sycamore to Bolling brook, down Bollingbrook to Main, up Main to Lombard, down Lombard to Prince George county road which leads to City Point. There was no demonstration of any kind, as the streets were almost deserted and not one hundred of Petersburgs inhabitants knew that he was here, until he had returned to City Point.

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