

RUTGERS COLLEGE
AND THE
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

March 31, 1923.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City,

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

I observe that you have made use of "The Diary of a Public Man" which appeared in four issues of the North American Review during 1878 in your life of Lincoln and wonder if you can give me any light as to its authorship. I have spent an inordinate amount of time in an effort to determine who was the diarist but without avail. H. Barrett Learned accepts its authenticity because of its obvious sincerity. Mr. Rhodes writes me of his ^{and} Frederic Bancroft's extensive efforts to determine its authorship and their ultimate abandonment of the problem. They accept it nevertheless as valid and have used it. On the contrary, Edward G. Pierce, after extensive examination, came to the conclusion that the Diary was spurious and so expressed himself in a paper before the Massachusetts Historical Society. No records are to be found in the offices of the N.A. Review and all letters suggest no recourse but to internal evidence. By such method I was early driven to Senator Jacob Collamer as the most plausible diarist but letters from a daughter of his eliminate Senator Collamer. (Miss Frances Collamer has since died).

I will be very glad if you will tell me what you did with the question of the authorship of the Diary and if you will pass on any hints as to who the modest diarist may be. I assure you of my indebtedness.

Yours very truly,



Irving S. Kull.