I. Collection

OMRO, R. I, WIS., Nov. 18, 1939.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

For over forty years I have been gathering from all over the world historical source materials pertaining to archaeology, antiquities, history of writing and printing, American history, especially slavery, Civil War and Abraham Lincoln, etc, etc. I also have a museum of North American Indian objects, including Toltec, Mayan, and Aztec relics: I own to eight thousand items all told. This historical library and museum ought to be placed in some public institution for permanent preservation and use (some college, historical society, city library or museum.)

I am an old man, and this should be done as soon as possible.

I am a poor man, and can not donate this outright.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

But I will sell it for a song, a mere trifle of its value.

It contains a good working Lincoln collection, Slavery and Civil War collection, and a collection of material pertaining to the presidential campaigns of 1856, 1860 and 1864.

I appeal to you.

Will you buy it and present it to some public institution?

I can give good references.

Or, come and see what I have.

Come to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, thence on Highway 44 to Pickett, about 12 miles and inquire for me.

My wife is a good soul, and you will enjoy meeting her. We can feed you, board you, and take care of you.

I refer you to Wayne Whipple, who has known me as a Lincoln collector for many years.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

I shall be very glad to hear from you.

Sincerely.

Albert H. Griffith.

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