

J. L. MCGONSON, JR., PASTOR
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18 CURRIER AVENUE

Riverside Memorial Church

(CONGREGATIONAL)

HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

18 February 1932

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Shortly after I was graduated from college, I happened upon your book "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns." This book opened the door to a new, and, with the passing years, an increasingly rich experience. As a boy in northern Wisconsin, I was reared upon the conventional stories of Honest Abe, but somehow these stories failed to strike fire. Since, however, as I have read more and more of Lincoln, the stature of Lincoln's character has grown upon me, until now one realizes that his spirit was one of the most noble that has ever blessed our race.

As a young minister, (I am just finishing my theological work at Harvard) I have found one of the most fruitful sources of illustration in the life and experience of this man whom so many of us love and admire. So I have resolved to gather together those things which will enable me to most thoroughly understand and appreciate the spiritual and religious side of Lincoln's life. I desire to know the intimate Lincoln- his home life, his realtions with his boys, and his religious hopes. I do not have a great deal to spend for this purpose, but what I have is used with discrimination. I am wondering if you have any duplicate pamphlets or other literature which you would be willing to share with me? Should you have material of this character of which you would like to dispose, I shall be very grateful for your courtesy if you would send copies of it to me. My collection numbers about one hundred and fifty titles at present, most of which I obtained by purchase. When I have finished with this material, it is to be placed in the Northland College Library of Ashland, Wisconsin, at which institution I did most of my undergraduate work.

Would you be willing to send an autographed note which I might paste on the fly-leaf of the copy of "The Footsteps of the Lincolns" which has been in my library for some time- in fact my first Lincoln acquisition? I shall be particularly happy to have this. With all good wishes to you,

Yours very truly,

J. L. McGonson, Jr.
Pastor

Miss Ida Tarbell
New York City