East Northfield Mass
April 6 - 96

Compare Dr Integer Vitae
of Horace.

Dear Miss Tarbell,

In Mr Barnes address on Lincoln the former characterizes him as one of the happiest men he ever knew. On this is a fine ~~editorial~~ comment in Harpers Weekly March 28th p 306. 1st Column. which you may have seen. My health does not permit my looking up these matters with much care, nor the material even that I have in the house. But in regard to Lincoln's religious life there are certain interviews on record somewhere in which he Expressly and heartily acknowledged his Christian

faith, especially in connection with the influence upon it of Tad's death. I wish I could recall the names connected with these interviews. One was with a famous Army nurse whose biography has been published. The impression left on my mind in reading the accounts was that Lincoln had previously cherished the hope that he was a Christian believer, but the loss of Tad had definitely cleared his mind, so that then he knew he was a believer, and was glad to acknowledge it.

Among the rulers & great ones of history, after all, the number is very limited of ~~those~~ whose persons who seem ideally fitted for the work to which God's providence has called them. They may be obviously great in many ways, but how few fulfil their office & function both private & public in a way that meets every demand, and leaves nothing, or very little to be desired. But Washington & Lincoln have this rare distinction. In personal character as well as public ability they were almost ideally suited to the very great work, and extraordinary Exigencies, which brought them before the world; and separately each had this marvellous adaptation to his own special time. No world sees nothing duplicated in that. But each of these men personally

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hand of the Most High who are
fitted & given to a people
in a time of supreme trial,
& in response to the urgent &
persistent prayer of great
multitudes who have come
to realize their helplessness
without God's aid.
That just such prayers as
this 90th Psalm ascended
confidently before the revo-
lution & the Civil War, is
a matter of familiar re-
cord, and during those
wars by the prayers of the
people the hands of Washing-
ton & Lincoln were held up, &
their hearts encouraged, as
by no other means.
They recognized it, & they were
the ones principally concerned,
however unbelievers may de-
ride.

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had the deepest conviction that
not ~~only~~ merely that he was
the man of destiny, but of a divinely
ordered destiny; each felt with
profound humility that he was
only an instrument in the hands
of God, & wholly dependent on
God's favor for wisdom and
success. Whatever degree of pri-
vate ambition animated the
early efforts of these men,
it seems evident that before
their careers were finished
their private ends had become
wholly merged into public
ends, and a pure love of their
country & fellow men became
the paramount passion of their
lives. Can this be said of Napoleon?
But is it not true of them?
I always associate them with
the 80th Psalm. They are the
sort of men described in the 17th
Verse, those men of the right

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Another chapter that I associate with Lincoln is the 45th of Isaiah.
Long before the birth and extraordinary training of Cyrus he was called by name, and his preparation for his mission, his divine education for it, which Xenophon describes, Isaiah accounts for in the 5th verse of this chapter.
The careers of such men, and their relation to the progress of history, seem to me to furnish one of the best pieces of collateral evidence for the theistic argument.
But such men as Napoleon are equally well described in the Scriptures of Truth.
Pardon my encroachment on your time with these observations which are probably quite needless.
Yrs truly, Henry W. Rankin.

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