

O'Fallon, Ill. March 17th 1911

O'Fallon, Ill. March 17th 1901

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Pal. Alt. Gal.

Dear Miss Tarbell;

Replying to your Letter of the
recent date, I will say we had contemplated consulting
by letters and otherwise the leading members of all
of our large family (Leinens,) in regard to
publishing the papers mentioned, but our
friends insist, that as my father was the only
one who cared to preserve his father's writings
and the only member ^{who} collected and preserved his
papers and notes of early Minnies, that his
family alone is all that should be consulted, and as
that will save much valuable time and I can
speak for them, knowing their wish, I will say that
I will send you all the matter or papers men-
tioned soon, Antinged only on one even, and
which is this:

A leading Publishing Company, who at a reasonable price, is anxious to publish ^{the} paper named. As I have just been heard from, insists that we offered them the papers, unconditionally, But I am confident they are in error, as we simply stated, we would "consider" their offer if they stated their terms. I will get a copy of my statement to-morrow from the parties who hold it, and will write you again Monday, March 20, and I think there is hardly a doubt but that I will feel at liberty ^{and} to give the papers their right along with my letter. There are other letters of Mrs. Lincoln among my Father's old papers, but they are scattered around, that is the only one I have at this time.

Cordially Yours - Joseph B. Leman

P.S. Some days since we concluded to act on
our friends' advice, not to molest all members
of the Lemmon families scattered widely, which
would have delayed action for months, as to
publishing the papers, but to keep the matter
in the management of my father's dependants,
and so we went to work to collect and prepare
to write up matters. I am very ill, but I
have written a little every day for several
days and I think I caught everything
in readiness to send you all the matter
next Monday, if the parties mentioned cause no
big "hitch", which I don't think they can.
Yours &c. L —

In my other letter in stating the fact as to
the meeting of Thomas Jefferson and James Lemmon
at Annapolis, Md. to arrange the terms under
which, as Jefferson's confidential agent, he was
to settle in the North West territory, (Illinois then
being a part of it), I wrote largely from memory
and now have the impression I gave a wrong date.
I should have said the meeting was on May 2nd, 1854.