

DEAR MISS TARBELL .

PLEASE / OH PLEASE / HAVE YOU READ THAT TERRIBLE BOOK OF BARTONS HAVE YOU READ IT THOROUGHLY OR JUST SKIMMED IT ? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE IS DRIVING AT ? HAS HE PROVED ANYTHING AT ALL ? I SPENT A FEW HOURS ON IT THE OTHER DAY AND I CANNOT SEE THAT HE HAS DONE A THING BUT REHASH THE MOST TERRIBLE SCANDALS THAT EVER WERE WRITTEN ABOUT NANCY HANKS . TO MY MIND THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BOOK PUBLISHED SO DISGRACEFUL AS THIS ONE - FOR THAT MAN IN A WAY PASSES AS A LINCOLN AUTHORITY . MR. LINCOLN OF WORCESTER USED HIM AS A ~~RECOMMENDATION~~ OF ~~RECOMMENDATION~~ OF ~~RECOMMENDATION~~ OF LINCOLN SAYING HE WAS THE AUTHOR OF "THE PATERNITY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND MANY OTHER LINCOLN BOOKS . THUS ADVERTIZING THE ANFUL SCANDALOUS BOOK .

SO ALL THE LINCOLNS WILL BELIEVE AND READ IT . I WROTE TO MR. LINCOLN ABOUT THIS AND HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE WHAT HE WROTE - BUT COULD NOT SEE THAT HE HAD SAID ANYTHING EITHER - AND YET HE USES HIS NAME AS RECOMMENDING HIS OWN BOOK / HE HIMSELF TOLD ME ABOUT THIS BARTON BOOK , AND I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN I READ THE TRASH . SO I WROTE AND TOLD BARTON WHAT I THOUGHT OF HIM AND WHEW ! THE LETTER I GOT BACK / HE TOLD ME ~~HE~~ WHAT HE THOUGHT OF ME -

I AM A WICKED AND CARELESS CREATURE WHO PROMISES TO PUBLISH BOOKS AND NEVER DOES AND SO IS TRYING TO CONCEAL SOMETHING - AND MOVEROVER HAVE NOTHING TO CONCEAL ANYHOW . FOR I KNOW NOTHING AND IF I DONT THINK HIM A SPIRITUAL MAN THERE ARE HOSTS OF PEOPLE THAT DO ! AND HE WOULD LIKE ME TO KNOW IT AND MOVEROVER THAT BOOK WAS ONLY A PRELIMINARY TO THE BIG BOOK HE IS GOING TO WRITE WHICH IS GOING TO SHOW ME UP AS AN IMPOSTER IN GENERAL . ONE OF THOSE REGULAR OR RATHER IRREGULAR "HANKS GIRLS" SO DISGRACEFUL IN GENERAL .

DEAR MISS TARBELL .. I HAVE JUST READ THAT YOUR MIDDLE NAME IS MINERVA - GODDESS OF WISDOM - AND I APPEAL TO THE MINERVA IN YOUR WONDERFUL SELF - TO RUN THAT MAN DOWN AS YOU DID ROCKFELLER - FOR EVEN THAT OIL MAGNATE NEVER DID ANYTHING SO WICKED AS THIS MAN HAS DONE - IN TALKING AS HE HAS OF THE DEAR BRAVE MOTHER OF THE GREATEST SOUL ON EARTH ABRAHAM LINCOLN . NOW BELIEVE ME MY FRIEND I CARE NOTHING ABOUT WHAT HE DOES TO ME FOR HE HAS PROVED THAT HE CAN PROVE NOTHING . HE CAN ONLY REHASH OLD WICKED STORIES . I CANNOT FIND THAT HE HAS ANY FACTS AT ALL EXCEPT THE OLD SCANDALS REPEATED BY HERNDON , LAMON , BLACK , DENNIS AND JOHN .. AND THE LETTER HE PUBLISHED IN THE BACK BY JUDGE ADVOCATE GEN . HOLT SIMPLY LAYS THEM ALL - EVERYONE OF THEM OUT AS LIARS - AND HERNDON WHO STARTED THE WHOLE THING - NOT EVEN WORTHY OF A PASSING KICK ! I SIMPLY TOLD BARTON IF HE HAD BEGUN WITH THIS LETTER HE WOULD NOT HAVE NEEDED TO HAVE WRITTEN THE REST OF THE BOOK .

IN MANY PLACES HE PATRONIZES YOU AND SHOWS UP YOUR "MISTAKES" AND IS ~~SOON~~ ~~THE~~ THE WHOLE - RATHER RESPECTFUL TO ME BUT HE /S GOING TO TAKE THAT ALL BACK IN HIS NEXT BOOK AND INFORM THE WORLD THAT IM ALL WRONG AND IGNORANT IN THE EXTREME . WHY I WOULD BE PROUD OF THAT DISTINCTION FROM SUCH A MAN - FOR I WOULD NOT WISH TO BE BELIEVED BY A MAN WHO CAN SAY SUCH VILE THINGS ABOUT WOMEN AS HE HAS SAID IN THIS LATEST EFFUSION OF HIS . TWICE HE REPEATED THAT "HUGGUNG KISSING CAMPMEETING" STORY - AND THEN SAYS HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IT WAS NANCY HANKS ANY ~~WHERE~~ IN CONNECTION WITH WOMEN I NEVER HEARD SUCH VULGAR LANGUAGE AS HE USES CONSTANTLY THROUGH THE BOOK .. AND HE'S A MINISTER , OF A BIG CHURCH OF GOD ... THE SAME CHURCH MY FATHER WAS ... AND CONSEQUENTLY HES GOING TO PASS - UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE ABOUT IT FOR HE WILL REPEAT THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS ABOUT THE HANKS GIRLS AND THE SCANDALOUS DOUBTS ABOUT NANCY HANKS TO A GREATER EXTENT IN THE NEXT ~~Y~~ BOOK - ON THE PLEA OF "PROVING THE CHASTITY" OF THE LADY .

THEN IF HE WOULD ONLY LEAVE ABRAHAM LINCOLN HIMSELF ALONE - ! FIVE OR SIX TIMES HE REPEATS THE STORY OF THOMAS KNOCKING ABRAHAM OFF THE FENCE - AND DID YOU READ THE STORY ON PAGE 22 ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN VISITING THE FIELD OF ANTIETAM JUST AFTER THE BATTLE / CAUSED HIMSELF TO BE AMUSED BY SINGING VULGAR SONGS WITHIN SIGHT AND HEARING OF THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD . " HE GENEROUSLY ADDS

"THIS WAS PUBLISHED IN N.Y. PAPERS AND WHILE GROSSLY UNTRUE HAD IN IT JUST ENOUGH OF TRUTH TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO REFUTE - " SUCH INSINUATIONS OCCUR ALL THROUGH THE BOOK

SUCH INSINUATIONS OCCUR ALL THROUGH THE BOOK ABOUT BOTH ABRAHAM AND HIS MOTHER .

HE KNOWS THEY ARE ALL LIES BUT IT SELLS HIS BOOK - TO TRY TO PROVE THAT HE IS THE ONE TO HAVE DISPROVED THEM . EVERY ONE OF THE STORIES OF "THE SEVEN SIRS OF A.L." HAVE BEEN DISPROVED AND WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO BRING ALL THOSE SCANDALS UP AGAIN . AS I SAID TO HIM - HE IGNORANT WILL READ AND PERHAPS BELIEVE THEM AND THE WISE DONT NEED THEM . WHY THE ROTTEN PSYCHOLOGY OF IT ALL - TO REPEAT A SCANDAL IS NOT THE WAY TO STOP IT . .

I HAD TO LAUGH WHEN ON PAGE 26 HE SAYS YOU SIMPLY "SWEEPED UP THE WHOLE AFFAIR INTO A DUSTPAN AND THREW IT OUT OF DOORS" GOOD FOR YOU . YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THESE WICKED MEN . HE SAYS ON PAGE 36 HE QUOTES HERNDON AGAIN "THE HANKSES MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT THE LOWEST PEOPLE ON EARTH ." THEN WITH HIS WICKED INSINUATIONS GENERALLY ADDS

"THIS IS AN EXTRAVAGANT STATEMENT - BUT THE HANKS FAMILY WAS NOT ONE OF THE HIGH GRADE FAMILIES . IN IT ILLIGITIMACY WAS NOT UNKNOWN ... BY THE WAY DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE BARTON FAMILY OR HIS MOTHER'S FAMILY ? NO ONE WHO HAD NOT SOME BAD STREAK IN THEM COULD EVEN USE THE EXPRESSIONS HE USES - AND A CHRISTIAN ! NO WONDER THE WORLD TURNS FROM THE CHURCH - SUCH A CHURCH WITH SUCH A PASTOR ! TWICE HE REPEATS THE STORY OF THAT "HUGGING" INSINUATING THOMAS AND NANCY AND USING THE RHYE "I HAVE JESUS IN MY ARMS SWEET AS HONEY STRONG AS BACON HAMS ." THEN QUOTES HERNDON "THE FACT THAT NANCY HANKS DID MARRY THAT YEAR GIVES COLOR TO THE BELIEF IT WAS SHE ." HE DOES NOT HANK HOWEVER HER HUGGING KISSING PARTNER WAS THOMAS ! GENEROUSLY ADDING THERE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY IRREGUAR BLOOD IN SOME OF THE HANKS WOMEN .

WILL YOU KINLY ALSO TELL ME WHEN SLAVERY WAS A BLESSING ON PAGE 129 HE SAYS "SLAVERY ONCE A BLESSING HAD COME TO BE A CURSE . ? " ON PAGE 164 HE SAYS "IF NANCY HANKS WAS HUGGED AT A CAMP MEETING A WEEK BEFORE MARRIAGE" BUT ADDS THAT HE REALLY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WAS SHE - FOR SHE "LEFT NO SCANDAL IN ELIZABETHTOWN . IF SHE WAS PREGNANT WHEN SHE LEFT , THE FACT WAS UNKNOWN TO HERSELF ." CAN WE ALLOW HIM TO SAY SUCH THINGS ABOUT WOMEN ? I ASK YOU .

ON PAGE 233 HE TRIES TO BE FUNNY - BY TELLING HOW SCANDALS COULD ARISE OUT OF NOTHING . I TOLD HIM THAT WAS WHAT HE HAD DONE TO NANCY HANKS AND HER REVERED SON .

DID WOODROW WILSON SAY THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN CAME FROM POOR WHITE TRASH ? PAGE 270 - PAGE 280 "THE HANKS FAMILY KEPT FEW RECORDS ... (I HAVE TWO VOLUMES OF THEM) . " THE TWO BRIDEGROOMS ACCEPTED THEIR RESPECTIVE BRIDES AS THEY WERE . BUT DID NOT ACCEPT THEIR ILLIGITIMATE CHILDREN .. THEY MAY HAVE SEEN THIER MISTAKES .. THE PRESIDENT MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN AS HE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ABOUT CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS ... WE CANNOT ACCEPT HIS IMMATURE OPINIONS ... ETC. " THIS IS ABRAHAM LINCOLN ! PAGE 29 "LINCOLN NEGLECTED THE GRAVES OF HIS FATHER AND MOTHER ... IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT LINCOLN LACKED APPRECIATION OF SITUATIONS WHICH WERE OUT OF SIGHT HE DIED IN ARREARS ... HE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE FORGOTTEN .. ETC. " DID LINCOLN DIE IN DEBT ?

PAGE 300 ... "THE LOW ESTATE OF HIS FAMILY - HE GREW MORBID ABOUT IT ... YET THERE IS NO OCCASION TO BELIEVE HE EVER DISRESPECTED HIS MOTHER ... THEN HE TELLS THAT STORY FROM KING JOHN - ABOUT THE BASTARD SON OF RICHARD . AND ILLUSTRATES HOW LINCOLN WOULD HAVE SAID THIS TO HIS MOTHER " I AM NOT OLD ROBERTS SON . SIR ROBERT COULD NOT DO IT .. THEREFORE GOOD MOTHER TO WHOM AM I BEHOLDEN FOR THESE LIMBS ? .. HOW GREATLY HE WOULD HAVE BLESSED HIS MOTHER ... THEN THIS WRETCH GENERALLY ADDS ON PAGE 301 "IT WOULD NOT BE SAFE NOR FAIR TO ACCEPT THE JUDGMENT OF DENNIS HANKS AT ITS FACE VALUE AS THE ATTITUDE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN "

PAGE 310 THE FIRST MAN TO SUGGEST IN PRINT THAT LINCOLN WAS ILLEGAL WAS LAMON - AND HERNDON ... BUT HERNDON CHANGED HIS MIND AND SAID "MY OWN OPINION IS THAT A.L. IS THE SON OF T.L. AND N. H. " NOW THEN WHAT IS BARTON GETTING AT ? WHATEVER HE SPEAKS OF IN THE LINE OF SCANDAL - HE SAYS HES NOT SURE OF - AND HE REALLY AND TRULY SAYS NOTHING AS FAR AS I CAN SEE . THEN WHY THE WHOLE MESS ?

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HOW I COULD BLESS JUDGE HOLT FOR THAT LETTER ON PAGE 2- 349 . DO YOU KNOW HIS ADDRESS ? I AM SURE HE WOULD HELP . HE WOULD LOATHE THIS BOOK IF HE IS STILL LIVING I FEEL SURE . AND SO WOULD ANY TRUE ADMIRER OF LINCOLN . ALL THE QUOTATIONS COME FROM THAT BOOK WHICH HOLT SO WELL DESCRIBES AS WRITTEN BY HERNDON A LOW DRUNKEN INFIDEL THAT NOBODY ABOUT SPRINGFIELD CARED TO GIVE A PASSING KICK TO .. BOUGHT BY AS LOW A MAN LAMON FOR \$2000 PUBLISHED IN A LARGE EXPENSIVE VOLUME OF HIS OWN - ASSISTED BY AN EQUALLY LOW MAN NAMED BLACK AND THEN COMES FORTH THIS RIDICULOUS MESS - A VOLUME THAT WILL DISGRACE ITS O AUTHOR AS LONG AS IT WILL DISGRACE HIS CHARACTER - AND DO INJUSTICE TO THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN ...IT IS A COMBINED FRUIT OF A SERPENT AND A JACKALL "

DEAR MISS TARBELL AFTER ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN ARE YOU GING TO DO NOTHING ABOUT THIS BOOK ? IS THERE NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE BY WOMEN TO STOP THE WORK OF SO SENSELESS A MAN - DEAD TO ALL FINER FEELINGS FOR WOMEN - OR SPIRITUAL ASPIRATIONS OF ANY KIND.

IF THERE IS ANY THING IN THE WORLD I CAN DO TO HELP ? PLEASE COMMAND BUT I AM AFRAID YOU WILL SAY THERE IS NOTHING TO BE DONE BUT WAIT . SOMEWAY IT SEEMS - IF WE COULD GET INTO TOUCH WITH THE REAL LOVERS OF LINCOLN - THAT A PROTEST IN SOME WAY COULD BE MADE THAT WOULD MAKE BARTON ASHAMED TO GO ON WITH A FURTHER REHASH OF THOSE VILE LIES - FOR EVEN BARTON WOULD BE ASHAMED TO HAVE THE LEADING THINKERS OF AMERICA TELL HIM THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT BOOK - AND ALTHOUGH HE CAN DRAG ME IN THE DUST HE COULD NOT YOU OR ANY OF THE GREAT SOULS WHO HAVE LOVED AND REVERED ABRAHAM LINCOLN .

ABOUT BETHSHEBA - I AM WAITING TO HEAR FROM A MAN IN SEATTLE WHO SAYS HE KNOWS ABOUT HER - POSSIBLY HE KNOWS NO MORE THAN YOU KNOW ALREADY BUT I WILL WRITE YOU - IN THE MEANWHILE TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP . WOULD ANOTHER EDITON OF NANCY HANKS DO ANY GOOD - REVISED AND CHANGED WITH MORE RECORDS - OR LETTERS ADDED . I HAVE FOUND MANY OF MY OLD LETTERS AND I COULD DISPROVE ALL THOSE STORIES - BUT WHAT WOULD BE THE USE OF THAT ?

I COULD PUBLISH THE WHOLE GENEALOGY BUT THATS JUST WHAT BARTON WANTS - AS HE THREATENED ME WITH THAT . WHAT CAN I DO AND WHEN AND WHERE ? I REALLY WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING AND I WANT TO HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN .

*You friend
(and Lincoln -)
Arthur H. H. Hitchcock*

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