1928, Aug. 20

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FOUNDED 1920


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Evansville, Indiana.

August 20, 1928

Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 E. 19th Street,
New York City, New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have your acknowledgment of the copy of Dr. Vannest's book promptly. I sent the same book to George R. Wilson and Dr. Turner and have a letter from each of them, which is not intended doubtless for general distribution but I am sending you a copy of each of those letters to give you some idea of what they think.

The unusual character of the book produced a wonderful sensation among our leading workers and they hardly knew what to say about it, but they all appreciate that this book has so far as the author could do it, given credit of 100% to the claims and the work of this Society in this important branch of its work. None of them have done any more than you have done in your letters, most of which have been printed and which have been of much value to us.

You doubtless know George R. Wilson, a southern Indiana man, and who has the collection of somewhere to thirty-five and forty years of research work in early Indiana in type sheets, bound together in neat form and the number of volumes exceeds fifty somewhat. I know of no such collection in Indiana and I have found him to be of more real assistance to me than any member of this Society outside of Mrs. Ehrmann, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Bacon, and I concur in Mr. Wilson's opinion as to the merits of the book.

I am not interested specially in a careful literary criticism but after so many years of hard labor it is to me a most satisfactory collection and statement of our facts so far as they go. Dr. Vannest is mistaken in that he has covered the field. The truth is our work is not more than half done but I do not care to emphasize that, I am only weighing Dr. Vannest's book so far as it goes. I would like to have your opinion as to the value of the book as far as it goes. Dr. Vannest wants me to give my opinion of the book and I intend to give him a full approval of its general

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accuracy and its value, something in the line of George Wilson's estimate.

If you do not care for the present to express yours it will be all right. If you see your way give me a few words on it. I should like to have them. We are making rapid progress. The field is widening beautifully and everything looks fine. I intend to see that the debt which this work owes to you is properly recognized, but of that later.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Iglehart

ENC.2
JEI:VB

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