February 26, 1938

Reverend Robert Dale Richardson
First Parish Unitarian Church
Malden, Mass.

Dear Mr. Richardson:

I suspect that I am not the first person who has written you that the Lincoln autobiography published in the New York Herald Tribune on February 13th of this year is not as the article says "published today for the first time."

I am sure you know that the Fell autobiography was used in the campaign of 1860 in whole or in part, that it has been used regularly by every biographer of Lincoln since, and that it has often been republished. The revision that I used and published I had from the collection of Mrs. Hester G. Fell of Normal, Illinois.

I am not writing you to call attention to the fact that it is a well known Lincoln piece which I am sure you know, but to ask you how the manuscript came into your hands. And is it the original given Jesse W. Fell?

I am sure you will pardon my inquiry. I have been for many years a Lincoln student, always interested in unravelling these little problems that come up over documents.

If you will be good enough at your convenience to give me the information I ask I shall appreciate it thoroughly.

Very sincerely yours

Ida M. Tarbell

letter not delivered

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