

1928 Mar. 24

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Madison, Wisconsin.
March 24, 1928
(Dictated March 23)

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth Street,
New York City, New York

My dear Miss Tarbell:

There was just sent me a clipping from the New York Herald Tribune, March 12, 1928, an interesting Mary Lincoln item. The clipping reads as follows:

"Wall Street remembers Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln, widow of the President, as strong-willed and determined, but a shrewd investor, says The Associated Press. Frederick Hatch, president of the Unlisted Security Dealers' Association of New York, declares that Mrs. Lincoln knew exactly what she wanted and why. He recalls that, about 1881, the widow came to Fisk & Hatch, his father's brokerage house in Nassau Street, to buy with the \$25,000 voted her by Congress some government 4s sold about 1870 to acquire gold for the Treasury. She wanted registered bonds in the name of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, although this was contrary to Treasury regulations. 'Treasury regulations did not daunt Mrs. Lincoln,' Mr. Hatch says. 'She was a very determined woman. She insisted to my father and to Harvey Fisk that the bonds should not be registered in the name of 'Mrs. Mary Lincoln,' but 'Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.' They didn't want to lose the sale, of course, and agreed to petition the Treasury Department for a ruling. 'Finally, after much correspondence, the Treasury decided to make an exception in the case of Mrs. Lincoln and the bonds were delivered to her in exactly the form she had insisted on having them -- registered in the name of 'Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.' 'Evidently the President's wife was a shrewd investor. Her bonds, within five years, sold at 125. They matured in 1907 and I never did hear what finally happened to them.'"

I thought this might be of interest to you in your forthcoming book on Mary Todd Lincoln.

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

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GEO. P. HAMBRECHT, DIRECTOR

I have read with keen interest your magazine installments on this subject, and I am very much pleased with the way in which you have presented the subject.

With kind regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Geo. P. Hambrecht,
KC

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