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19 Morgan Ave.,
Norwalk, Conn.,
January, 9, 1927.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have just been reading with interest your story in Collier's about Henry Wing. Did you know Wing and do you know of his contacts with Lincoln which followed the one you tell of and if anything were of more real importance although not so spectacular and dramatic?

A few years ago I came across Wing out here in Connecticut and found him a most unusual and interesting man. Quite a number of long interviews followed in which he told me the story you have told and conwiderable other matter beside. This material I worked into an article entitled " A Messenger for Lincoln," and sold it to Mr. S. S. McClure who at that time was trying to rehabilitate McClure's Magazine and had an office almost opposite the Tombs on Lafayette St. Mr. McClure, Miss Roseboro, and other members of the staff professed great interest in the article, I secured photograhs for illustrations and it was scheduled to appear in an early issue of the magazine. It was advanced a month at a time for several months then for longer periods and finally was never published at all. Just before the final debacle of the magazine and its purchase by the Hearst interests the manuscript was still in the offiwe among those which it was planned to use. What has become of it since I have no idea.

I am telling you this because I feel that the article had matters in it which should not be lost sight of and which you, as the outstanding biographer of Lincoln, should see if you are not already familiar with them. Evidently Lincoln was deeply impressed with the character of young Wing and the latter did much confidential work for him, usually seeing Lincoln alone for a short time whenever he came to Washington, which was often.

Wing also had the confidence of Grant and his staff and saw and knew much from the "inside". It would be necessary for me to refresh my memory in order to outline the matters he told me but in the manuscript mentioned above I know that Wing quotes Lincoln as absolutely denying the famous remark credited to him, wishing that his other generals would drink Grant's brand of liquor. It also tells of Wing's watching by Grant's side an important operation in the war which went wrong and cost many lives and explains why the plans miscarried, an explanation which I do not recall seeing in print. If I am not mistaken Wing also quotes Lincoln in regard to the latter's dependence on the Almighty.

No doubt Mr. McClure would remember both the article and myself and might be able to tell you what had become of it in case the facts which I have outlined to you and you wished to see it. If Mr. McClure is out of reach Mr. William H. Briggs of Harpers knows me and while he knows nothing of the Wing incident he could answer questions about me.

Yours very truly,

Harvey W. Root.

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