Springfield Ill
715 So. Douglas Ave
Jan 26 1923.

My Dear Miss Tarbell

Dr Winn's pamphlet came safely and am glad to have been able to have accommodated you. Doubtless there are several copies of this in Springfield as Dr Winn was popular here and was generous in distributing his address to his host of friends.
Dr Newton Bateman gave an address before his Boys + Girls of Knox College which was published by the Cadmus Press Galesburg Ill in 1909 and which I prize highly as it recalls my friendship with Dr Bateman founded on my close acquaintance with his son Clifford. Cliff Bateman Tad Lincoln and I were within a month

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or so of the same age and we were frequently visitors in the offices of Newton Bateman & Lincoln & Herndon. My father was a merchant & banker and in Lincoln's time his place of business was on the north side of the square about one half block from the Lincoln & Herndon office. My father & my uncle Elijah Iles were pall bearers at the funeral in Springfield. We Springfield people are all very liable to say we were in "I knew Lincoln" class. The truth is that there were very few who knew Lincoln. Many were acquainted with him, but very few even at this time can in truth get at the real, the inner life he led. His life may seem an open book for all to read but there are sealed and sacred pages that never can be exposed to mortal eye. I did not know

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Lincoln. I saw him many times and have heard my father, Maj Stuart, Uncle Elijah Iles and many of the old Fathers of Sangamon tell tales of Lincoln and I am an ardent admirer of the Great American.

Three score and ten summer suns have shone on my old white poll and it has been my good fortune to have met many prominent men of my State, yet my greatest pleasure is to remember that in my lifetime it was given me to see and speak to the greatest man of the ages.

I was a boy 8 years old when with my father I drove up to the old depot and saw him leave Springfield.

I also remember well the time of death and of the funeral.

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Father's store was nearly opposite the north entrance to the State House and in my mind's eye I can visualize the steady stream of mourners as they past in to take a last look; and the scuff, scuff of feet seems as I write to come to my ears even now. Excuse the garrulity of an old man.

I would have enjoyed meeting you when you made your last pilgrimage to Sangamon and am impatiently waiting to read your work which comes as a serial in the local paper.

Very truly yours

Geo. Williams

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