

Pasadena, Cal.

Nov 27th 1895

S. S. McClure.

New York.

Greatly appreciating your
valuable Magazine so full of
current life & thought, bringing
to the hungry thousands the luxury
of intellectual sustenance so long
withheld.

Truly we are entering upon
a new departure, and one arguing
well for the future, where a mighty
force like your new Magazine
promises, can be supplied so
cheaply to the oppressed masses.

May your most sanguine expectations
be fully realized, and may it long
continue to shed its light & cheer
in the homes of the world.

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The Ida M. Turner Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

I am especially interested in the work you have in hand supervised by Miss Tarbell. The life of Chaplain is a master effort at abridged history, and you will never know what new light has been thrown upon the character of Chaplain, in the esteem of thousands who have been induced to read for the first time, the plain simple history of this great man. However, the work she has now in hand - the life of Abraham Lincoln - interests me more, inasmuch as it relates to our own time and greatest American citizen.

This brings me to the subject matter of this strange letter very naturally, and I ask your consideration of the following facts.

I was in a position, for a time, during the War of the Rebellion, to see and know personally, a few very laughable as well as pathetic & some ludicrous incidents

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of President Lincoln, which I have
never seen in print, and have reason
to believe have never been read.
Of course this statement would
gather the rejoinder "that certainly
all that is worth hearing about
Lincoln, has been told," and while I
do not care to argue the matter
here, I will simply say. That as
a soldier ^{in the war} from 1861 to 1866, having
participated in some of its most
active campaigns, in all capacities
from Private to Captain, I have ever
felt the deepest humiliation over
the renowned, popular, "War Stories",
as printed throughout the country.
Hundreds of them have been laid in
my field of observation, and I well
know that the grain of truth, if any
may be found in them, is so smothered
in absurdity and falsehood, that only
the Infinite, could justify their publication.
While I may have written many absurd
things, and said others that have appeared

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I have never yet fathered a war story in print.

Now, to write the life of Lincoln. Your "Author's," will have to enter the Emotional field, and explore it - to to emotional - bound. By this I mean, the Dancer, the Sunshine, the Heroic, the Pathetic, the Jocular and Ludicrous, must inevitably pass in panoramic procession before her readers.

If it would be pleasing to you or Mrs. Tarball, I should willingly contribute a small fund of life incident - but this wonderful woman; she of course to use them as coming from a personal friend or one in position to know the truth; they will attest their own truthfulness and thousands of Belirans throughout the country will substantiate what is said. I do not seek to have my name appear as a contributor in anywise, and especially so in one most pathetic story, as I was unfortunately the hero, wounded in front of Richmond & supposed to be dying at Ft. Monroe. Va.

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While on the Staff of Genl Butler on
the James, I was present at an interview
with the President; and heard the most
laughable allusion to Alexander H.
Stephens, I remember of ever hearing in
my life. However the story is a long
one and comes late in the list; so
I will not take the trouble to tell it here.
I will, before concluding this, give you
a day of terrible experience allotted to
President Lincoln. After which you
may, if you desire, refer the matter to
Miss Tarball, or else advise me in
person as to the fulfillment of my
suggestion. I want it distinctly understood
that I seek no cheap glory in the matter,
and only my desire to aid you in
this great & interesting work, to the end
that the world may derive more benefit
from it; induces me to make the offer.