

Millersburg, Pa., August 9, 1920.

Miss Ada M. Tarbell,
New York City, N.Y.
My Dear Miss Tarbell:

In due course of time your little volume "Selections from Abraham Lincoln" came along, and I should ere this have acknowledged receipt, but other things crowded it out, and you know that procrastination is the thief of time. I wish to thank you for the item, and under separate cover am sending you a little item of mine, not in itself so valuable as yours, and yet I thought that perhaps you had a little library of Lincolniana, wherein it might find a place.

In your last communication you mention that you do not remember the introduction to the magazine article on Lincoln's secret journey from Harrisburg to Washington. I have located it in my files. It is found in the American Magazine for February 1913 and is called "Allan Pinkerton's Unpublished Story of the first attempt on the life of Abraham Lincoln" "The History of the Letter" by Jesse W. Weik, "Introduction" by Ida M. Tarbell. I trust that the above will recall it to your mind.

No you had not written me that you were beginning in November in "Boys' Life" a life of Lincoln for the Boy Scouts. You had mentioned that in the February issue had appeared an article. I have had my order in for some time with my newsdealer here for a copy, but he has not as yet secured one. Should you have occasion to write me again, just please give me the address of the publishing house of "Boys' Life".

You mention that anything I could suggest for the Boy Scouts biography I should mention to you, I really do not know what I could offer, but a few thought at random occur to me, such as Lincoln's well known kindness of heart and courtesy to all with whom he came in

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contact, be it prince or pauper. Then there is the incident of the lad Lincoln coming home with a few fish and giving them to a soldier who was returning from the War of 1812, as related by Nicolay & Hay. Also the incident of little Abe shooting his turkey in Indiana, shortly after his arrival there. Such incidents could be elaborated upon. His personal bravery and moral courage, as well as his freedom from vices could be brought out. There is the incident of him chopping wood a short while before his death in 1865 you relate somewhere. I remember to have seen (and have somewhere) an article on "Lincoln the Athlete" which could also be dwelt upon. To one who knows the life of Lincoln as you do, it seems to me that you should be able to get up an account such as will appeal to the best that is in Young America.

Should I find anything which I think might be helpful to you, be assured that I will let you know.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

John W. Stanger