

October 19, 1931

My dear Mr. Barrett:

You have always been most cordial to me when I have gone begging to you and now here is something that I want to ask your help. I think I may have said to you, or written to you, that I found on my hands a considerable amount of Lincoln material which seemed to me worth using as a nucleus of a collection - a working collection - which my old college, Allegheny, Meadville, Pa., will be glad to have in their American History Department.

One of my projects for this collection is making as complete a set of fac-simile letters and speeches as is possible. If I do this I must depend upon my friends - upon other Lincoln collectors who own originals. I have not a scrap of original material but I have of course a good many fac-similies that I have picked up in one place or another. I am hoping that Mr. Angle will let me have duplicates of what he has in Springfield and Judge Horner will help me out a little and Dr. Warren at Fort Wayne will be kind to me. And how about you? Of course, dear Mr. Barrett, you have more than anybody else, at least I suppose that is true, and I suppose a good deal of what you have has been copied. Could I secure from you copies of the documents which you are willing should go out? Of course I should want to bear any expense in the matter.

I shall be interested in your answer.

One of these days I am coming out to Chicago to sit down at leisure and have a talk with you and Carl Sanburg, but just now all the time I can give to Lincoln does not amount to the little finger of my left hand, much to my sorrow. One of these days if I hold out I shall bombard you.

Thanking you in advance for anything that you can suggest in this matter of a collection of fac-similes of letters and speeches, believe me, dear Mr. Barrett

Faithfully yours

Ida M. Tarbell

Per T. Wolfe, Secy.

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