Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.
Dec. 15th. 1898.

Miss. Ida M. Tarbell,
Associate Editor McClures Magazine,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Friend: I have been down with Grippe, now, nearly three weeks, reaching back beyond the date of your charming letter of Dec. 2nd. 1898; but am slowly recovering, and use my first strength to acknowledge my indebtedness for the pleasure you have given me by permitting me to form your personal acquaintance. You have made me fond of you.

Yes, I have been receiving "McClures Magazine". I supposed that it came through your kind interposition; and thank you for your generous thoughtfulness.

Your mention of my interview with Mr. Lincoln in Feb. 1861, is perfectly satisfactory. In the manuscript mentioning interview of Senators in the early spring of 1862, I suggest the change of the word "slave" for the word "colored men"; because that was the fact.

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None of us desired the enlistment of slaves, as such, to serve as soldiers. We insisted on the enlistment of able bodied capable colored men, without reference to their condition of servitude or otherwise; intending that they should ever afterwards continue to be free-men!

The two pictures of Mr. Lincoln, which you sent me by express, are greatly prized by me; both on account of their merits and rareness, and my vivid recollections of the esteemed donor. I have caused them to be placed in my work-rooom, at the Harlan House Hotel, as supports to the pictures of the two grand daughters.

I shall always be delighted to hear from you.

Wishing that you may always be well and happy, I am,

With great respect,

Yours Truly,

Jas. Harlan.

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