JOHNSON & JOHNSON,
Attorneys at Law and Solicitors of Patents,
UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN,
No. 637 F STREET, NORTHWEST,
OPP. U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

REGISTERED, U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

Washington, D. C., January 31, 1899

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
"The Edward "
816 Fifteenth St. N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Craving your pardon for my seeming inexcusable conduct in not giving immediate attention to your very kind note of the 15h ultimo. I beg to offer as the reason that I have had unusual trouble with my health much of the time and daily hoping for my usual work-like self, delayed to look among my papers for the newspaper clippings , of articles written by me and which you wish to use in your McClure writings on Lincoln.

I regret that I have not been feeling well enough to do myself the pleasure and the honor to come and see you at your kind-suggestion.

I now beg to hand you herewith clippings of such of my articles as I can find , and in which I hope you will find something which you may deem of sufficient interest to quote and which I should be glad indeed to have you do.

That marvelously great and sweet souled man, in his coming to the War Department day and night , was like rays of sunshine

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in the gloom which everywhere hung upon its walls . There every person loved him , even the stern tyrant who ruled as the God of War--the great Secretary.

The President 's coming, with rare exceptions, was not to see the Secretary, but to the telegraph office to see the telegrams to the Secretary from all the armies , and this seemed a relief to the President 's never ending strain. They had no effect to depress or disappoint him however bad the news.

But the telegrams reporting the reqruiting of the armies, if they showed a falling off of the daily number , would show in him the grief he felt , because it was the people ,in which his hopes of saving the country were fixed. In General Vincent's room the President would tabulate these daily reports on a slip of paper which he would keep and compare with the reports the next day and General Vincent told me ha daily noticed his changes of spirit and his simple and noble character , in the different phases of the reqruiting .

There is in the War Department a volume of telegrams made by me and written and sent by President Lincoln , which shows his great statesmanship and his generalship in dealing with the army commanders. The wife of President Cleveland hearing of this volume sent for it and kept it for some time at the White House by reason of its interesting character in showing the greatness of

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the writer and his master mind.

The last tele gram written by President Lincoln was in the telegraph office which joined the Secretary's room, and the President concluded it after conferring with the Secretary -- coming into his room for that purpose--because of its importance in relating to the closing tragedy then being enacted at Richmond.

It was the first and the last telegram written by the President in which he conferred with and deferred to the Secretary. It was the only occasion in which the Secretary delivered an impassioned appeal to the President to control and shape an act which he was then about to do.

In the President's early days in the White house , it was common talk in Washington that the resident foreign representatives with one exception, the German Minister- Baron Jarolt, looked upon and characterized the President as a jester and a clown , who would fiddle and tell little stories if Washington was burning. He lived to command the homage of these very foreign representatives and who afterward spoke of him as the sweetest souled statesman among the nations foremost men - who were then clamoring for each other's lives. In the midst of the destruction all around him he stood alone like a beacom upon a waste in advancing all that was great and good in man -- and after his death the homage of the world was bestowed upon him.

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Your history is on lines that will make a popular book and is written in an interesting style and Mr. Nicolay, the Presidents' historian, in referring to your McClure articles, said to me that he was following with much interest your new matter and disclosures.

Please put me down as your first subscriber to your book ; and if there is any aid I can render you pray let me know.

How glad I should be, as you suggest , if you can find it convenient to come to my home . My daughter Mrs. Oldberg knows and will be glad to see you -- I am at home every night.

Among others of Articles written by me, clippings of which I cannot find, are "The Nine Reasons" published in the "Star" of September 3,1892 ; and " The War Telegraph " published in the "Star" of Dece mber 10,1892.

I am dear Miss,

Your obedient servant

A. K. McClure

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