Putnam, Conn.,

January 5, 1917.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

132 East 19th Street, N.Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Your interesting letter of the 2d inst. is at hand, but the book you mentioned sending has not reach me as yet.

I regret to inform you that the Lincoln letters are not published yet and I do not know exactly when they will be. The person, Mr Allen, who were to prepare them for publication, was drawn on the jury where he served four or five weeks and only returned just before the holidays. I am disappointed as

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I anticipated the book to be out by February. The publishers inform me, on account the spring publications of light or summer reading my book cannot be published before early Autumn. They have been long at the Rothschild book "Honest Abe" which I understand will appear in the spring. The delay with the Lincoln letters has enabled me to add half-dozen important letters, and one very valuable one which I received from Judge Fish two weeks ago. You know a great deal about publishers and their management but I am under the impression Houghton Mifflin Co. are holding back from publishing the letters for their own convenience. I would not

mind it, if it were not on account of my advanced age. As one knows how suddenly the thread may snap. However, I am very well and hope to remain so, until after the publication of the letters and your next visit in May or June.

Yes, I think you have made an excellent choice of the books published since your Life of Lincoln. Welles and Schurz stand foremost. Hay's Letters I have never read and hence I could not speak from knowledge. Rankin's "Personal Recollections" might be considered worth mention. It is a very interesting book.

I am immensely interested

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in your work on the Introduction to a new edition of your "Life of Lincoln". Are there any changes to be made in the text? It is my favorite Biography, and three or four weeks since, I read the first two volumes of the four vol. edition, to note, if any, any error of fact, but did not discover any. I heartily endorse C. H. Dana on your Biography.

Can I do anything to aid or assist you in the undertaking?

With sentiments of my highest regards,

Cordially yours,

Gilbert H. Tracy.

P. S. I am sending Marmel Lamon's History or a copy of it, of Mr. Lincoln's visit to Antietam. Please read the Lincoln pamphlets — "Solitude of Politician".

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