729 Waveland Avenue
Chicago

August 13, 1924

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth St.,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:—

It was more than kind of you to reply so promptly and so interestedly to my letter regarding those two items of "Lincolniana" which I asked your opinion upon. There can be, I think, no reasonable doubt of their authenticity, as the circumstances of their discovery make any suspicion of forgery or "faking" untenable and the documents themselves are so convincing.....Many thanks for the addresses that you give me of persons with notable Lincoln collections that might be interested. Later on I may take up the matter with Mr Hambrecht, Miss Hammand or Mr Fay. I had thought of calling it to the attention of Mr Oldroyd, of Washington, the owner of the wonderful Lincoln museum installed in the old house in which the Emancipator died. He was a childhood friend and schoolmate of my mother's and I once met him, years ago. But he must be a very old man now and I have also understood that of late few or no additions were being made to his collection. You of course know all about it and the efforts that have been made to interest the Government in its purchase, all which have failed--I suppose from political reasons, for surely these mementoes of her greatest man should be the property of the United States.

Since I formerly wrote I have been reading your "Footsteps of the Lincolns" and wish to express my high appreciation of the splendid piece of work that you have done. It is of immense interest and equal value and, but for your enthusiasm, patience and ability, undoubtedly never would have been done. All the comments I see upon it express the same sentiments. The book is,in short, one that will become a great national and patriotic document.

In closing I wish to ask you if there is any way of procuring your "History of the Standard Oil Co." at present? I agreed to procure a copy for a friend but have asked for it in vain at all our book shops, the reply being, "Out of print." Is this correct? I had supposed it a book that would never be allowed to go out of print!

With many thanks for your kind letter and the interest you have taken in the Lincoln relics, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

John A. Vance

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