



OTTO L. SCHMIDT, CHICAGO, PRESIDENT
 CHARLES H. RAMMELKAMP, JACKSONVILLE
 LAURENCE M. LARSON, URBANA.
 GEORGIA L. OSBORNE, SPRINGFIELD, LIBRARIAN



SPRINGFIELD.

September 22, 1927.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
 120 E. Nineteenth Street,
 New York City, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

In regard to the paragraph you referred to in your last letter beginning "I see in the near future a crisis approaching, etc.", the only place that I can find any reference to it is in "Personal Traits of Abraham Lincoln" by Helen Nicolay, on Pages 379-381; I quote herewith:

N.Y. Century Co Pubs 1913

"Remembering the wisdom of Lincoln who presided over the other great change, people have sought to make him a prophet for this generation. Not finding what they wanted among his words, the unscrupulous have not hesitated to invent them. My father once made a list of a dozen or more spurious quotations and allegations concerning Lincoln; but the one he was most often called upon to deny, was this:

"Yes, we can all congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is drawing to a close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar that the nation might live. It has been a trying hour for the republic, but I see in the near future a crisis arising which unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this time more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of the war. God grant that my fears may prove groundless!"

"This alleged quotation seems to have made its first appearance in the Presidential campaign of 1888, and it has returned with planetary regularity ever since. Although convinced by internal evidence of its falsity, my father made every effort to trace it to its source, but could find no responsible or respectable clue. The truth is that Lincoln was no prophet of a distant day. His heart and mind

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were busy with the problems of his own time. The legacy he left his countrymen was not the warning of a seer, but an example and an obligation to face their own dark shadows with the sanity and courageous independence he showed in looking upon those that confronted him."

If this does not satisfy Mr. Springer I think the only other source to go to would be the New York or Washington papers.

With kind regards,

Very truly yours,

Georgia L. Osborne

Librarian, Illinois State Historical Library,
 Secretary, Illinois State Historical Society.

G.L.O. to Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
 September 22, 1927.

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