

Tarbell - Nov. 3, 1927 to Ireland

Mrs. Clifford Ireland  
643 Moss Avenue  
Peoria, Ill.

My dear Mrs. Ireland:

When you were good enough to send me your file of material gathered for your proposed life of Mrs. Lincoln, I wrote you of its receipt and also that I was going to be out of town for some time and so would be unable to give it a thorough examination.

I have only just returned from a trip that I took into Kentucky and to Springfield, Ill., looking up certain points on the life of Mary Lincoln of which I was in doubt, and have gotten around to going through your box.

I find that I already have in my files most of what you have here. This Mrs. H *Edin* 's article, which is of course important, is an article which I myself secured from her years ago for McClure's Magazine. I always send for copies of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society when I find they have articles bearing on Lincoln, as they do so often, so, you see, the bulk of your material is not new to me.

I shall not follow up any of your correspondence as I think that possibly you may some time reconsider your decision not to go on with this work and want to avail yourself of these connections. As a matter of fact, what I am doing is so short - magazine articles, not a book, though possibly some time in the future the matter may run into a book - that I have more than enough material for the purpose.

As I see it, dear Mrs. Ireland, the main point in regard to Mary Lincoln is to gather a substantial body of material which will counteract the effect that her unfortunate hysterical public exhibits of herself had upon the public mind during the War and in the years immediately following. She unquestionably was a woman of intelligence, education; strong, loyal and affectionate with those she loved; delightfully social when she would be; but her uncontrolled impulses and her inability ever to discipline herself properly led to unhappy episodes of the kind that people love to seize upon, enlarge and spread forth. There is much to admire about Mary Lincoln and.

much to deplore. I do not know that I have ever known a woman subjected to such a succession of tragic losses and so unfitted to bear them. The whole story is very painful to me. As time go on and we get more and more information concerning her life, I think people who were very severe with her may come to a kinder view, at least I hope so.

I am very grateful to you, dear Mrs. Ireland, for your confidence in sending me your material. If you should some day feel that the request that Mr. Robert Lincoln made of you before he died <sup>was</sup> entirely unreasonable - as it seems to me - and that you could, as a matter of fact, do something to make the public think more kindly of his mother, you may be sure that I shall be glad to help you if I can.

Thanking you again for your kindness, believe me

Very sincerely yours

see Ireland, Louise Savage Aug. 8, 1927?