H. L. KOOPMAN
LIBRARIAN

Lincoln Collection

THE LIBRARY OF BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
EAST SIDE STATION

Jan. 29, 1927

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell;

We have, in our possession, a large number of Lincoln's letters, written mostly in his own hand, and passed in at the telegraph office to be sent over the wires. When they came to us they were somewhat cut down, and pasted by one edge into two large invoice files. We have been unable to learn anything about their former history. Someone at the telegraph office must have kept them after they were discarded from the company's files.

In looking them over to find if any were unpublished, I find that those given by Nicolay and Hay and by some others have some slight variations which might be expected in the copy made at the other end of the telegraph line. In the appendix of your life of Lincoln, copyright 1909, I find the exact wording that is on our letters, even to words of direction to the telegrapher which would not have been sent over the wire. This leads me to think that you must have had the use of this very collection.

We would like very much to learn something as to how this collection was made, when, and by whom. Can you give us any information in this connection. I know that David Homer Bates died a short time before this collection came on the market, but we have no facts to connect him with it. We were told by the dealers who sold it that the title was clear. We should be glad to receive any information you can give us.

Yours very truly;
Esther C. Cruchman.
In charge of the Lincoln collection.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library