REFERENCES

Hon. Robt. T. Lincoln, Attorney, Temple Bldg. Chicago, Ill.
Hon. S. M. Cullom, U. S. Senator, Springfield, Ill.
Exchange Bank of Franklin, Franklin, Neb.
Franklin County Bank, Bloomington, Neb.
John D. Miller, Wallingford, Vt.
Eugene M. McIntyre, Danby, Vermont.

James Conkling, Investment Banker.

J. C. Conkling & C. L. Conkling, Mgrs., Springfield, Ill.
Rev. Francis L. Robbins, D. D., Greenfield, Mass.
Geo. B. Wheeler, Attorney, St. Paul Bldg., New York.
Judge L. W. Bradley, Attorney, Omaha, Neb.
Wm. L. Van Harlengen, Oakland, California.
Wm. C. Berry, Attorney, San Antonio, Texas.

Franklin, Nebraska, November 10, 1928.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Your favor of October 27th inquiring about my personal recollections of Abraham Lincoln, was duly received. About that time I returned home from my summer place in northern Minnesota pretty well worn out from the trip. I had an attack of heart trouble about last Christmas and have been unable to do anything to amount to anything since, although I am gaining a little now. This accounts for my not having acknowledged receipt of your letter before.

I am aware of the fact that you have been collecting Lincoln reminiscences, etc. for some years. Until the last year or so I have always declined to deliver public addresses upon this subject or to give personal recollections except once in a while with personal friends in private conversation.

I have never written out these recollections, and did have at one time a good many mementoes both from Mr. Lincoln and from his wife, but I lost my residence some years ago by fire and lost all of these mementoes.

I would not have you make a trip out here for the purpose of interviewing me as you suggest in your letter, largely because I might not be here when you arrive, although I think I am now steadily gaining, but I am unable to attend to my own affairs and those of my clients, largely through weakness, so that I would not want at this time to go into the above matter, though I appreciate very much, and can readily understand why you desire such an interview as there are few persons living that had any real and personal knowledge of Mr. Lincoln and his life in early days.

I am the only one left in my family and so it goes. You will notice at the top of this letterhead that his son, Bob, is one of my references. I don't need any references any more but he and two or three others have occupied a position in the above column for a great many years, I am loathe to drop them so when I have new letterheads printed, I simply have the old one copied.

Bob and I were old school mates. One of my brothers, who is now dead, was the 1st person to notify Mr. Lincoln of his nomination

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the first time he ran for President. My father, James C. Conkling was Chairman of the Peace Convention of Illinois during the Civil War and to him was addressed a letter from Mr. Lincoln to be read before that convention, which has always gone since as the Conkling letter. I only refer to the above from the fact that it will help in a slight degree to show you that you have not been misinformed as to my acquaintance with Mr. Lincoln.

I had the pleasure, and now in my old age it is a good deal of pleasure to think of it once in a while, of driving Mr. Lincoln in his first campaign to many of the old fashioned mass meetings in the State of Illinois, where he and others with us made speeches, many of which would now be gems if we could only get ahold of them again.

You say your information as to me was through Mr. Arthur E. Morgan, of Antioch College. I have just now, no recollection of where I may have met the Gentleman if I met him at all unless it was on Star Island, at Cass Lake, Minnesota, where my summer home is and where this past year or two, there have been a good many persons from Ohio and where I did give a rambling talk at a boys school and most of ~~one~~ were from Ohio.

I appreciate your letter and if I can help out in any way in the future, I would be glad to do it but I am unable to do it at this time and neither have I the strength to dictate farther and will send the enclosed letter, asking my stenographer to sign the letter for me, as I have to go home.

It is possible I may be able to find among the papers of my youngest sister, that are in my possession, some newspaper clippings that might interest you that I could send you at a later date. If I do I would want them returned to me as soon as you were through with them as my sister lives in California and like myself is quite well along in years, and left her papers with me to keep in my vaults until such time as she would send for them, so I am unable to say when if ever, she may send for them, but I want them intact if she does.

Respectfully yours,

James Conkling.

BQD.

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