Documentary Lincolniana

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ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell
130 East Nineteenth Street
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Some weeks ago I wrote you about my forthcoming book, but your secretary advised me that you were then in Florida, so I expect the correspondence did not reach you. I am enjoying very much the results of your visit there through your articles in "Mc Call's".

The argument of my book "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood" is now in type, and I am sending back the last galley proofs to-day. The notes will come next and after they are ready the printer will want to work on the preliminaries.

You will remember in our conference at Henderson about three years ago that you offered to write a brief introduction for the book when it was ready. I shall have an extra copy of the galley proofs of the book sent to you in order that you may get some idea of the ground I have covered.

It is a strange coincident that we are practically left alone in the defense of Mrs. Hitchcock's theory that Nancy Hanks was an legitimate child. I now have documentary proof for this fact, and possibly my book will give you some satisfaction in not having been swept off your feet by Barton's Lost Grandmother.

My findings are in complete harmony with your review of Barton's book as it appeared in the Chistian Scientist Monitor. I do not claim to be the "patient, trained genealogist-someone who does not set out to prove anything etc." I have come to my conclusions , however , in much the same way you said the task must be done.

I am confident that my book will still further contribute to your reputation as a reliable historian, but I greatly fear it will make Dr. Barton appear ridiculous in the eyes of many. I am especially glad that it will bring some satisfaction to Mrs. Hitchcock.

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Next month I hope to be in Virginia to more fully support the documentary sources for Lincoln's ancestry. My next book which is well under way will be a discussion of Lincoln's four Virginia grandparents.

I have laid aside my Indiana history of the Lincolns until the question of Lincoln's ancestry can be properly settled.

I fear I am writing at to great length. Kindly let me know where I shall have The Century Company forward you the copy. If you prefer you might take up the matter of the introduction with Mr. Hewitt Howland, Editor of the Century Magazine," who is overseeing the details of the publication.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis A Warren

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