June 8, 1939

Dear Miss Rowley:

Thank you for your letter. It was a pleasure to autograph the books for your young people. I was proud that you and Miss Hendershot believed that they would care for them.

I should have been delighted of course to have seen you at Cambridge when I "sailed", but how could you even think of it with all the crowd of duties and services which press upon you. I looked with wonder on your activities in the Library when I was at Allegheny. You discharge them so cheerfully and so efficiently. You must have your reward in the way the young people run over the place.

I wish my remaining Lincoln material was in shape to send on, but it is not. The most important matter - the correspondence and the outlines - are incomplete. They are so personal that they are going to require a lot of work, and it is quite impossible to send them on. They are as bad as writing a book - one has to do his own book, you know.

As to the book and pamphlet material, we will try to get that in shape and into the catalogue. Moreover, all of it is not here in town - a little of it is in the country.

I am afraid, dear Miss Rowley, you think I am a very helter skelter person. What I have in the way of Lincoln material has come to me not through any will of my own, but through the necessity of work. As I never had any idea of making a collection I treated it cavalierly thinking someday that I would dump it somewhere. Now I have dumped it on your capable shoulders and I only pray that it is going to grow into something that will be really a useful adjunct to the college work.

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

I hope you are going to have a happy summer. I shall be writing you now and then, perhaps sending on an item as it comes to me. I want to re-make the subject catalogue.

One of the things I think would be most valuable for the Library to do now is that of which you and Miss Hendershot and I talked before I left, and that was what items in the books that Lincoln read you have in the library. When once that is known we can go to work more systematically to add the other. I should like to find this out so that I can suggest what we have to one of two collectors who have practically complete collections. What do you think of this?

Love to you and Miss Hendershott, and to the both of you a happy vacation.

Faithfully yours

Ida M. Tarbell

Miss Edith Rowley
Meadville, Pa.

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