Dudley Road
Newton Centre, Mass.
13 April, 1911

Miss Ida M. Tarbell.

Dear Madam:

I am appealing to you for your opinion as to the authenticity of a letter said to have been written by Lincoln to General James S. Wadsworth, of New York, a copy of which I enclose. The letter must have been written in December, 1863, or in the first four months of 1864, for in December Wadsworth reported to Lincoln, having just returned from a trip down the Mississippi, on which he had been sent to inspect the Government's methods of dealing with the negroes. I am told by several people who knew Wadsworth that early in 1864 Lincoln offered him a military Governorship which was to include all the territory taken from the control of the Confederacy. Nothing came of the scheme, however. Wadsworth went to the front, and was killed in the battle of the Wilderness. The letter, if genuine must have been written at the time that this plan was under discussion.

I do not find the letter in your Life of Lincoln, or in the Federal Edition of his

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works. If you know nothing of this latter, perhaps you can turn me over to some other authority who will be able to throw some light on the subject.

Since I am troubling you in this fashion I will be bold to express my admiration of the American Magazine, and the way in which it carries on its mission. It was a relief to read in the last number the statement that its policy is not to be changed. The rumor that had been flying about were to me particularly annoying and depressing. In that same number I thought the article on Caregie had both depth and distinction.

At the time that the January (or was it the February?) number appeared my historical work (I am writing a biography of General Woodworth) brought under my eye the other enclosure which I send you, - the speech of a Southerner in 1877 which makes the same point as that made in the poem in that number. Of course, it was made largely in retaliation, still, if his indictment was overdrawn then it is not now.

Yours sincerely,
Henry Greenleaf Pearson.

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