The First Congregational Church

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HOUSE
Lake Street and Kenilworth Avenue
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March 30, 1923.

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Thank you for your gracious reference to me in the current installment of your work on Lincoln. Of course these sketches are to be gathered into a book, whose publication I shall welcome.

I have never met you and shall be glad some time to meet you face to face. I am to be in New York for three furious days next week. My place of abode on Tuesday, April 3, will be The Commodore, though I shall not be there very much. A good part of the day I shall be in our National Council office, 287 Fourth Ave? and the latter part of the afternoon at the office of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund, 375 Lexington Avenue. About the only breathing space I shall have will be at dinner in Broadway Tabernacle, at 6 o'clock. There is to be a friendly and informal gathering of the Faculty and Students of Union Theological Seminary, with whom I am to dine, and to whom I am to speak. If by any chance you should be interested in meeting me or in the program that shall follow, I am sure that you would be welcome, and I should be glad to have you my guest at that dinner. If you have the least fear of being the only woman persent at a dinner of men, you might call up the office at Broadway Tabernacle and inquire whether the wives of the Faculty and of such of the students as are married are not to be guests also? I am pretty sure it will be so. I have not time to write and get an answer back.

I am a somewhat late comer in the matter of book publication as relating to Lincoln, but I have been gathering material ever since I taught school in the Kentucky mountains in the early 80's and rode on horseback there and in the Tennessee mountains in the later 80's. Now that I have begun I have a great deal to say.

I note you that comment in this installment on the unreliability of human testimony. That is a fact of which I have become very painfully aware. Many a happy discovery of mine has been shattered through learning that the good, honest man or woman who told me what he heard Lincoln say or saw him do was not among those present on the occasion. Fallstaff, himself no bigot in the matter of veracity, was thoroughly justified in crying out in righteous horror that old men were addicted to lying. For this and other reasons I intend to remain young.

If you are in Chicago at any time I shall be glad to see you. I have I suppose the best private collection of Lincoln books in the city and some other things of interest. I also have the best church organ west of New York City and the church which I now have served for nearly a quarter of a century has come to be one of the outstanding influence. Possibly you would

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be interested in the historical sketch just published in our current Red Book. Shall a copy -

Cordially yours,

Ida M. Tarbell

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