

TRUMAN H. BARTLETT,
CHOCORUA, N. H.

2nd

July 12-16

My dear Miss Tarbell

I am very glad to get your kind

letter about the Daguerreotypes - Thank you much.

The find was quite to produce sleepers night's worrisome

days - You were lucky to ^{have been} a young woman of pleasing

fortune - for I doubt if any man could have got the

precious object to copy. I had heard of it - thro' a college

classmate of Robt L. but I hesitated to ask for it; & if

I had should have been refused - There is no overrating things

As values. Maxwell sent me the original proof from the

Daguerreotype which he says he thinks you saw him -

The thing about this picture that beats me most is

that N & H had no idea of its value - This leads me to

say that in a visit to Steeplechase some years since

he seemed to me to have no idea whatever of the value

of Lincoln's pictures, & what is worse had the incredible

chuck to say that about any photo of Lincoln

which he knew nothing - & he knew of but few -
were "made up by photographers" - I had quite a
correspondence with him about Lincoln pictures
before you published them - & talked with him in

Washington in '76, with the same unsatisfactory result.

The country people were curious by stow about
L's pictures all thro' & they took by carelessness
one of the best ambrotypes of L - taken at the
same time as that of Judge Frankfort Macomb Ill.
in Oct, '58

I tried some time ago to get a fresh copy of the
picture, by writing to Mr Robt L, but he, kindly
objected. I did not blame him.

Another thing that bothers me is that no intimate
friend - like Major Merwin, who used to stay
weeks at a time at Lincoln's home never heard
of the picture - Merwin writes me that he saw
Mrs L burn a work basket ^{full} of L's ambrotypes
& C by throwing them in ^{to an} "open grate stove".
Merwin was crazy over "L's pictures, & very critical
of what he thought of "bad ones".

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

It's a very interesting fact that Lincoln sat for his best pictures on his own account, that only a very few of them were made because they were asked for -

After '57 he was a patron of about every itinerant gallery in Ill. & in Washington of Brady or Gardner. He came along very often for Sunday -

Gardner told me that there was never any demand for Mrs. L's pictures before or after death -

I don't see how they would have ever been put together if you had not done it -

many thanks - Truly truly
J. M. Hartlett