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My dear Miss Tarbell.

When your beautiful gift - the "Early Life of Lincoln," came to me - more than ten days since - my heart prompted an immediate acknowledgment - & I fear you have thought me very remiss - or neglectful, in having so long delayed making it -

I have not been at all well, for more than two weeks - have had a Playing Company - & so many unlooked for interruptions have intervened - I really, until today, have not had an opportunity of writing - But in the mean-time, you have not been forgotten, one single day -

I appreciate this remembrance from you most highly - It was so unexpected - therefore the more gratifying - & touched me

dressly, that you should ever have thought of me, when so much engaged, in your literary work.

I wish I had remembered - & could have given you - many of the occurrences & incidents of Mr Lincolns life - which I heard, & which came to my observation, when he lived among us - & at the time, were exciting & interesting - but - my remembrance of them was too vague - & I was afraid I could not recall them correctly - but often - my often have thought; if we had only known - could have foreseen what the future had in store for him - how carefully - every thing which he said & did, would have been treasured up in the "store house of memory"

However - our mental vision is limited - & in the natural order of things - "it is well"

With kind & loving wishes, for your success, in all you undertake - I am,

truly your friend,

March thirty first - 1890 - Helen K. Edwards

Springfield -

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