

The name of the perch: Camp Bend o' the River
DeBruce, New York
July 19, 1923

Dear Miss Tarbell;

Thank you cordially for the remembrance and the interest evidenced by your letter of the 12th, and all the more that you took the trouble when you were so uncertain of our whereabouts and had to "broadcast" your message.

Newcastle had no coals of this kind. I had never seen or heard of this Trumbull letter; and if I remember correctly, Nicolay and Hay confess themselves completely baffled on the point it does so much to clear up-- that is, Lincoln's state of mind after he had first invited Cameron into, and then invited him out of, his prospective cabinet; in other words, the influences and considerations he was weighing and balancing from the first of January until the first of March 1861. It seems a most valuable document in that connection. If you are using it, I should like very much to have an exact reference to the publication for a note to my chapter on Wilmot's approach to the threshold of Lincoln's cabinet.

If my deductions are correct, Wilmot was definitely hors concours by January 7, 1861, so far as the cabinet was concerned. He might have been in mind as one to whom Cameron's place in the Senate had been promised; up to the night of January 7, at any rate, his election to the Senate was confidently expected, though it is true it was for the full term. That night, Cameron turned against him. The following March, with Cameron's support, he was chosen as Cameron's successor. Wilmot's anxiety to get the Senatorship in January, and his refusal at that time to take the two years' term--his insistence on six years or nothing-- seems to me conclusive confirmatory evidence that he had no thought then of entering the cabinet.

Mrs. Going and I are as happy on this mountain perch as anyone has the opportunity to be in these times. The world problems penetrate even here, and life in the wilderness imposes some peculiar problems of its own. The final draft of the book is being prepared, beginning over again at the beginning and progressing consecutively, in the intervals between hewing wood and drawing water and bumping over wretched roads to market. "She", to adopt the accepted phraseology of this section, joins me in best wishes.

Sincerely yours

