

1326 North Park Avenue
Tucson, Arizona

January 19, 1932

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I was sorry not to have seen you while you were in Tucson last Spring, but I did not have an opportunity. I know you will be interested in the wonderful collection of Civil War letters I have including a short note from President Lincoln to my cousin who at that time was Miss Mary Ella Steele of Washington, daughter of the Hon. John B. Steele, Congressman from New York State, and niece of General Fred Steele who was General Grant's aide and classmate.

I am enclosing you a newspaper clipping of the story of these wonderful old letters and autographs which will tell you completely of it. Besides the collection, which ~~are~~ well preserved and in perfect condition, ~~is~~ an autographic scrap book of the Civil War period, I also have a collection of autographed photographs of the noted people of the Civil War period. I have a photograph of President Lincoln, but it is not autographed, but all the rest are. I also have the invitation of Robert Lincoln's Class graduating exercises which he sent to my cousin whom he knew very well. I treasure these priceless things, but I have no near relative to whom to leave them who would treasure them as I do, and besides I would like them kept by someone who would value them and keep them intact for generations to come, along with other Lincoln collections. My cousin's husband died in October.

Recently I have been working a good deal for your friend Mrs. Ada P. McCormick and I told Mrs. McCormick about the collection and she felt you would be interested to know about it, but the reason I am also writing to you, Miss Tarbell, is that I would like to sell this collection to someone who would value it for its real worth, as well as treasure it. I need the money very badly, or I should not dream of parting with it. Would it be asking too much of you, to advise me as to who might be interested in obtaining this collection, or how I could go about to dispose of it. If you would like to see it, I would be very happy to send it on to you for examination, and perhaps then you could ~~give me~~ an idea of its value and perhaps you might know of some one who would like to possess it.

I hope you do not mind my writing to you about this, but I would appreciate much hearing from you and having your idea on the matter. I would be willing to dispose of it for a fair price, particularly at this time as I am pressed for funds on account of my property, so that I will not lose my home.

If you would like to keep the clippings you are welcome to them.

I cannot tell you what a joy it is to be able to be with Mrs. McCormick and help her with her work and also Mr. McCormick who is writing and studying. She has been wonderful to me.

Thanking you in advance for your kind interest in this matter and assuring you I appreciate whatever you may say, I am

Cordially yours,

Mary Hughston

Miss Mary Hughston
1326 North Park Avenue,
Tucson, Arizona.