



Heart of the Highlands
NASHVILLE, INDIANA

February 7, 1923.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

How fortunate you are in your title, "The Fortunate Boy," in Collier's, and how fortunately you have written of the phase of Lincoln's life that has been strangely overlooked. Henry Watterson, John J. Ingalls - but why enumerate them - there are a hundred more, who pity the youth of Lincoln. In this connection I thought you might like to know that Whitcomb Riley always pitied those who (as he said) were of that pittiabie, unaccountable opinion.

"Poor Lincoln," a friend once remarked.

"Poor," promptly repeated the poet, "poor! the boy by the cabin fire in the back woods was infinitely rich!"

As Riley saw it the children of today are poor for want of the frontier surroundings, which made Lincoln's boyhood rich. He went so far as to say that it is a question whether the future will produce typical Americans as the past did when statesmen and patriots were neighbors to privation, wild animals, and sturdy pioneers.

My friend William Fortune told me in most interesting fashion of those days with you and friends last October, in Kentucky and southern Indiana. We are looking eagerly forward for more about Lincoln from you.

In connection I wish to add that your Life of Lincoln, your charming treatment of details and simple incidents, helped me over several rough places while writing my Life of Riley. I do not mean that I handled the details with the skill that you did, but I dared to include things that I might have omitted had I not read your book.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Marcus Tickey