

February 1, 1941

Dear Miss Tarbell:

It is fine to hear from you and to know that you can do a few things that you wish to do.

One regrets that you had to be worried about the Bryan matter and to make it clear just what was said I send copies of his letter and of my reply.

To make the matter clearer I will go back a little and explain that this book and the piece of original writing by Benn Pitman and the two little pencil sketches were the very first material on Lincoln that had come to us that might be called "original". It had come also from personal friends of mine, and thru (I feel sure) that friendship to the college. Immediately Dr. Schultz, who is much interested in General Lew Wallace and has some material about him that he is working on, asked the privilege of having these two little sketches reserved so he might include them in his article. Dr. Giddens likewise, interested in Lincoln, asked that he might be allowed to prepare an article on the Pitman article and did a lot of interviewing etc with people to whom Miss Pitman directed him, to make all the connections.

Another reason why we had to establish a policy of protection was that just a few months earlier than Mr. Bryan wrote, a man named David Rankin Barbee wrote here, demanding to have the Pitman material turned over to him to incorporate in a book he was writing. President Tolley, in a moment of generous (but not too thoughtful) graciousness had in a contact with this Mr. Barbee told him he could have access to the papers. I called on Dr. Schultz of the Library Committee to arbitrate the difficulty and have copies of the whole correspondence. This episode made me rather careful of what should be promised. In my letters to Mr. Barbee I told him that Miss Tarbell if she wished, would have first access to the material on Lincoln and after that the professors of the college. You will recall at this time your material had not yet come to the college. We felt in both cases cited above that the first rights to publication lay with the college, and the first courtesy to you, after which the professors came next. Dr. Giddens did publish the article based on the Pitman mss. And Dr. Schultz is now getting the Lew Wallace article he is writing is shape. President Tolley puts a great deal of pressure on the faculty to "produce" and in both cases this was a chance to use original material.

I did not mean to weary you with such a long tale of the facts. Nor do we wish to withhold privileges. But there must be some regulations and protection and in this case it was material outside your own collection.

The semester is just over. We have much snow and cold. Pres. Tolley has returned from California and is attending a meeting of Presidents in Harrisburg.

The staff join in affectionate regards.

And I am Devotedly yours.

2 enclosures