

M. I. Hauser

BOX 24
PEORIA, ILL.

March 12, 1934.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Thank you for your nice letter about the use of "Phoenixiana" by Lincoln. I shall add it to my list of books that have been sufficiently authenticated.

If your friends at Bloomington are still living, I shall, as you suggest, find out from them all I can about the books you mention, and also see if they know of any others.

What you told me about "Yankee Notions" interested me a lot. I happen to have a bound copy of that publication for 1854. Picked it up simply as an example of the humor of those times, but I shall now move it over to the Books Lincoln Read shelves.

For some time I have been unable to do much with my Lincoln studies, but have managed to collect some notes about the books he read. When in a position to make up a list of additions, I shall take much pleasure in sending you a copy -- for whatever it may be worth.

While reading books that Lincoln read or studied, I often run across ideas and expressions that I had supposed were original with him. In "Bacon on Slavery" (1846) I recently noted the expression, "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong," a rather unusual one that Lincoln used during the war. In "Speeches in Congress," by Joshua Giddings, (1853) can be found many ideas and expressions that Lincoln used in the Peoria speech and in his debates with Douglas.

My Lincoln studies have enabled me to reach two beliefs that comfort me: (1) That he was the natural product of his ancestry, training, environment, and times; and (2) That much of his greatness is explained by his ability to digest, remember, and use most of the best thoughts of his time.

It is mighty nice of you, Miss Tarbell, to help others as you do, and I thank you again.

Very sincerely,

M. I. Hauser

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York.