

June 3, 1923

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

I was mighty glad to receive your letter of May 21st in company with the two beautiful volumes of your Lincoln. I think Susan has already thanked you for them but I want to add a word to hers.

Very near as long as I can remember the two books you gave Mother and Father have had a honored place in the house; and many a time we have exhibited with pride your signature on the fly leaf. I imagine that Susan and I will continue to take such a pride in showing and enjoying these books of our own.

In your letter you mentioned something about Phi Beta Kappa with regard to my being unjustly left out. I fear that a fond Mother has let a few idle remarks

convince her that I should have had the honor. I do not believe that my grades were as high as those who received the honor that year and as the consideration rests entirely with the faculty the matter ends there. I did not know that Mother had spoken to you or I would have explained the situation; but I thank you for your interest.

It has occurred to me that perhaps with your interest in the working man, that it might interest you to know how I have been received by that group out at our mill. There are three jobs on an open hearth steel furnace as it is run here, the lower two of which depend entirely on muscle and not on brains. These jobs are held down by Slavish and colored men, who are a great deal stronger than myself. Two weeks ago by a queer coincidence, entirely according to their own customs I was given

an opportunity to work at the second job
in a furnace. This means that I was
carried over men a great deal more able
than myself. This is only temporary as I
understand it but it may last several
months. But what I have been getting
at is that these men older and more able
have all at different times given me a hand
with my work. They have shown a remarkable
spirit of help to other men. I have been at
the job two weeks now, but I could not
have lasted a day if they had not gone out
of their way to help me. It made a big
impression on me.

My return address is, Mrs. W. E. Jordan,
5920 Master Street, Philadelphia.

Thanking you again for your kindness,
I remain,
Your affectionate nephew
James W. Kinnear, Jr.