

PHONE

SMITH & BAILES
LAWYERS
WEST TOLEDO, OHIO

February 25, 1926.

To Ida M. Tarbell, 120 E. 19th St.,
N.Y. City, N.Y.

Dear Lady :-

My first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, when in the Sierran foot-hills of California, so you may get some idea of my age; and have ever been trying to vote for him since.

I am a lawyer and have been hard at work in the profession for more than fifty years. Ever since mental maturity I have been much interested in poetry; so much so that Themis and the Muse have had sharp controversies in my mental gymnasium. Often the Muse would win, when I would have to do her bidding, and try my hand at writing poems, and as a consequence have much of it on hand, but have never printed, save now and then a piece in the magazines or daily press,

It has become a canon of the law with litigants, that if a lawyer has any thing to do with the Muse, they best get some other lawyer.

However, becoming indifferent as the years gather, I have ventured to print a little bookie, which I entitle "LINCOLN AND SOME WANDERING SONG", and have ventured to inscribe it to you in these words:

XOXIXXIXTARBEELX
XSXTOKEKXGANEHAKYSTKXHXKXISTINGUISHEKX

TO IDA M. TARBELL
AS TOKEN OF THANKS FOR HER DISTINGUISHED
AND DEVOTED LABOR
TO THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
THIS BOOLET
~~THIS BOOLET~~
IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED
BY ITS AUTHOR.

I have ever been a devotee to the memory of that truly great Man, Abraham Lincoln. I enclose the little booklet herewith in the hope that you may find time and inclination to read it. The poem, Lincoln, has been commended highly by by literary gentlemen (pardon this allusion to myself). That poem is long, I know, but the subject will not properly admit of brevity. And now, may be I ought to apologize because I have inscribed the Booklet as above without first getting your consent; but in so doing I sincerely hope I Have not offended the modesty of our American Lady of Letters; if I have offended I must take the penalty of a guilty culprit.

As you will see, a number of the pieces are cast in the esoteric vein; but I can't help that for it is my nature.

Hoping for your health and success in all your labors, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Philetus Smith