

51 Elm Street  
Worcester, Mass., October 28, 1923.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell  
120 East Nineteenth Street,  
New York, N.Y.

My Dear Miss Tarbell:-

You have quite overwhelmed me with your kind words about my book. I confess I thought that I had done a pretty good piece of work, but I am "pleased as Punch" to find that you think so too. The review in the Boston Transcript was very disappointing, and the failure of the Times to review it at all was still more so, but you have quite made up for all this disappointment.

I am not surprised at what you write concerning Mr. Barton's "Life of Lincoln." I have never found him at all convincing in the evidence he presented me concerning Nancy Hanks' parentage, and I agree with you that he has only confused the case. I am glad that my book is out first, for I feared that his opening up Nancy's parentage would only serve to renew the arguments about her son's legitimacy, but I hope that I have scotched that snake.

I should be delighted to have you write an article, such as you suggest, for the Atlantic Monthly. I am trying to get my son-in-law to write on the character of the first Levi Lincoln, Jefferson's Attorney-General. Mr. Hoar considered him a very great man, but he is now entirely forgotten. His connection with the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts was a curious coincidence. I want Mr. Dresser to write for the American Antiquarian Society's Proceedings. It would not conflict at all with anything you might write for the Monthly.

I hope you may try again to visit our library. We are now building an extension and by next Spring we shall have it all rearranged.

Yours very truly

