

59  
Burlington Vt  
19 Hickok Place

March 13. 1934

My Ida M. Tarbell  
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell,

You may possibly recall  
some correspondence with  
me at the time when you were  
preparing the biography of Lincoln.  
In a recent number of the Tribune  
Magazine I was much pleased  
to read some account of you by  
one of your admirers: for  
altho' I have just passed the  
83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of my antiquity  
I have not lost interest in your  
words. I am glad to find that  
you <sup>are</sup> still in vigorous health, &  
able & ready to keep right on with  
your chosen & accustomed task.  
I wish that here my own case;

for on the inside, by the grace of God, I feel younger than at 21, when I knew nothing of that grace. I carry in mind, a program of work that would move them bill do years of health; but my health has long been broken, & I am here in the hands of a nurse under treatment for arthritis.

I have wondered whether you still purpose any further edit of your two vol. Lincoln; as new material on his life seems to come out every year. A recent note that you may have seen I enclose. I read at the time in the Atlantic Mo. those articles on Lincoln & John Rutledge, & I'd be glad to learn if you think the account trustworthy. They were certainly of deep interest & seemed valid. Has any contrary evidence appeared? The Atlantic for last month has a paper on Lincoln's attitude to the liquor problem that seems prepared from first hand sources.

I have a few more clippings that I wd send you if I cd get them, but with all my books & papers they are in cold storage out of present reach. You certainly were the first to do justice to his early life; & for that re-search & record while it was still possible to make it, we are all immeasurably indebted to your care & competence & labor. What Chas. A. Dana said of it will always be true.

Pardon my interruption of your duties,

Yours cordially

Henry Wm Rankin