

May 10, 1932

Mr. John E. Hope
Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Hope:

Sometime ago you were good enough to send me a copy of a little paper bound book called, "The Lines and Nature of Lincoln's Greatness," written by Robert Woodward Barnwell, Sr. The book reached me at a time when I was very much occupied and when all work that was not immediately pressing had to be put aside temporarily. The result is that it is only this week that I have been able to look over the book. I quite agree with your characterization. I also agree that it will not do Lincoln any great harm. It is not the first work to which my attention has been called, intended to keep alive the prejudices of the Civil War. It has not been possible for me in my rather crowded professional life to give this subject the careful attention that I should like to. One of these days I shall get around to it, taking the matter up and analyzing, as far as I am able, the assertions, pointing out the arguments. But I do not know that even this attention is necessary where the efforts are to keep alive old hates, old opinions. It is hard to give up the cause to which men have been as devoted as those of the south were in the last cause!

However, one of these days I may get around to attempting an answer. In the meantime let me thank you for your kindness in calling my attention to Mr. Barnwell's book. I shall be glad at any time to have anything from your part of the world which concerns Abraham Lincoln.

Very truly yours

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