

December 21, 1936

Dear Mr. Rankin:

What a neglectful person you must think me, but it has not been because I have forgotten your good letter and your kindness in sending me the copy of Mr. Pitts' "Life of Moody" that I have been so slow in writing you. The truth is I have not been in my usual working condition for the last two or three months and I have put off many things I wanted to do.

However, I have read the book you sent me and found it a fine thing. It gave me more of Moody's activities than I have ever had before. Of course the more you know of these activities and the period in which he laid them out the more you reverence the man. Pitts writes with the sincerity and the sympathy his associations gave him and carries over to the reader something of his own feeling. Thank you again for sending me the book.

I wrote you some time ago that I had a little book called "In Lincoln's Chair" in which I had gathered in fictional form what I had learned of Lincoln's religious life. There is nothing in the little story which has not respectable documents behind it. I have always believed that Lincoln had an unusual strong religious feeling. His whole life seems to me to be shot through with this effort to understand God, keep near him. I have not put into the little story all that it might have had but it was all I could do at the time. I hope you will find it not unworthy, dear Mr. Rankin.

I have been attempting to get together the Lincoln clippings which you have been sending me for the last year. I have a great bunch of them which I treasure and which I am going to put into some kind of a form where they will be useful to students with a little account of how they came to me.

I hope you are well, dear Mr. Rankin, and that you are going to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Henry W. Rankin
Northfield, Mass.