Mr. Ludwig's Lincoln

Ludwig develops better than anyone else, I think, that Lincoln when he thought politically, thought of mankind in the concrete, of humanity at large. "Springfield and Illinois might be his starting point ....... but his heart throbs responsively to a world far wider than even the great world of the United States."

P. 267 MS - Lincoln after-dinner speech, Chicago (?) -
"Public opinion has always one central thought. The equality of mankind was this central thought ....... it steadily progressed toward a true equality of all human beings."
Ludwig quotes Herndon reporting Lincoln: "How hard it is to die without leaving one's country better than one found it. One might just as well not have lived at all. The world seems a hopeless sort of place," etc. Look this up.
p. 87, line 8  I doubt if "whole companies of recaptured negroes were massacred without trial." I do doubt some were, but I think the statement is extravagant.

Again, I think Ludwig has in mind when he speaks of the behaviour of the Northern army in Virginia, Sherman's army. The Army of the Potomac was, on the whole, as armies go, well behaved.

p. 94, end of first paragraph  "He pressed on toward the realization of what he had most at heart, the ending of slavery." The quotation that follows does not relate to the ending of slavery but to the giving of the ballot to freedmen. I do not recall the quotation. It is not directly from Lincoln's writings. I suspect that the words were put into Lincoln's mouth after his death by some ardent believer in immediate negro suffrage. Lincoln himself was extremely cautious how he advocated giving the ballot at once to the freedmen.

p. 160, second line  Mary Lincoln did not die in a lunatic asylum. She once passed a few months in an sanitarium, but, at the request of her brother-in-law, was released and went to live in her sister's household in Springfield; and it was there she died.

The last paragraph will arouse question in many men's minds. A great many innocent men have worn fetters since Abraham Lincoln lived and died. Is it not Mr. Ludwig's intention to say that no negroes worn the fetters of slavery since Abraham Lincoln died? But how about other parts of the world?

It is a beautiful paragraph - so beautiful that I don't want its force to be marred by a question that I fear would immediately come up in the minds of a cynical world.