

July 12, 1929

Mr. Alfred C. Howell
524 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Howell:

I didn't think I should be writing you so soon after our - to me - interesting talk of last evening; but I have been answering this morning a letter concerning a Lincoln matter in which, I think, you certainly would be interested, and in which, because of your financial knowledge, you might be of considerable help.

You may know my correspondent - Eugene E. Prussing, a former Chicago man, now a lawyer at Hollywood, California, the author of an interesting study of the Estate of George Washington, recently published by Little, Brown & Co.

Mr. Prussing has become interested in the Estate of Abraham Lincoln, and in his studies has come across an article of mine on "Lincoln's Money Sense", published in "The American Magazine" for February, 1924. It is reprinted in the last edition of my Life of Lincoln.

You can see by copy of part of his letter, enclosed, that he seems to think that there must have been some kind of crooked work in Lincoln's accumulating something over \$100,000, which he left. I am not stopping to argue that with him, but simply telling him that when he comes on in September, I shall be delighted to talk the matter over with him and collaborate with him, if necessary; but before that, I should like to talk it over with you, if you don't mind.

I have a theory, too, about the way that money was accumulated. It hinges on Mary Lincoln's "financial policy" which was, to put away every cent you could, never pay a bill if you could help it. That is, that's my way of reading the lady.

If this interests you at all, I would like to have a talk with you about it before Mr. Prussing comes on.

Sincerely yours