Lida Rose McCabe in an article on the poem on the
death of Lincoln, which in 1867 was awarded a prize by the
French Academy, says that she was told by the author, Edouard
in the Salon of Mme. Blanc,
Granier/that his reasons for writing the poem were the fol-
lowing:

"I had two motives, first, to pay a due homage
to an illustrious American; and second, to play a trick and
give a blow to the despotism of Napoleon III, whom I hated and
despised, by gaining the prize and thus of course obliging
the French Academy to proclaim Republican truths and words of
liberty amid the universal and constrained silence and the
prostration of the France of yore. So I succeeded, and it is
to me a new success to see my forgotten poem revived by your
pen and your friendship."

It shows how from his death Lincoln was used by those
of liberal principles to back their cause.