

October 19, 1936

Dear Miss Wakefield:

I am sorry that it is impossible for me to go to the meeting of the Lincoln Fellowship this evening. I am not very well and my physician has ordered me to stay at home evenings which seems to be the part of valor if I am later to be of any service to your Society.

As I told you and Miss Cutler when you were good enough to call a few days ago I should be glad to join a Lincoln Society made up of students and collectors, not one open to the general public. I should suppose its meetings would be for the general discussion of some assigned Lincoln problem, a leader being chosen who would present the case either in a prepared paper or in an informal talk. This would give real value to the regular gatherings, and if it turned out after a year or two that the papers and talk offered were of sufficient value I should like to see them issued by the Fellowship.

I think something very valuable could be done if we had a permanent Club room in which a Lincoln library and an exhibit of Lincoln objects could gradually be gathered, all to be the property of the Society.

That is, what I am interested in is a group working seriously to add something to our knowledge and our interpretation of Lincoln's life. I am not interested in public dinners, or in a heterogeneous membership.

