

June 28, 1933

Dear Mr. Townsend:

Pardon my delay in replying to your letter of June 12th in regard to that quotation that ^{which} Madigan makes from one of my old letters. Before answering I wanted to look over my notes and correspondence of the period. My memory told me that I had never received an answer, that ~~was~~ Wallace, but I have no great confidence in that organ. It has deceived me too often.

I find there is nothing in my files, that is that General Wallace never answered me. If Lincoln ever made the remark that he quotes I suspect that he did it wryly - half facetiously. I doubt if Lincoln for a moment ever seriously believed that McClellan would surrender. Perhaps that is putting it too strongly. He, of course, must have considered that possibility.

If you are working on this point I shall be interested to know how you come out. It has been a long time since I, myself, have gone over the records.

Very sincerely

Mr. William H. Townsend
Lexington, Kentucky