
LINCOLN LETTERS

(AFTER SEVERAL YEARS COLLECTING THEM)

In the glow and fervor of my appreciation of Mr. Lincoln's letters, I believe him to be the most skilful letter-writer this age and country have ever produced. There are no letters like them anywhere, in all the realm of English literature—they are exceptional—unique. These letters reveal the real Lincoln more truly than any biography of him; they reveal the man in all the greatness and grandeur of his being. Not a breath of rancor or asperity in all his varied correspondence. They show *his great ability, sagacity and comprehension, his remarkable political acumen, adroit diplomacy, and unrivaled statesmanship*. What letter-writer can match the sublime majesty of thought, tender sympathy and pathos as expressed in the letters to Mrs. Bixby and Fanny McCullough?

With what rare skill and tact he replied to Gen. Hunter's "ugly" letter, to Gen. Hooker in giving him command of the Army, to the impatient, impertinent, fault-finding Schurz! With what rare skill, ability, and comprehension he addressed letters to O. H. Browning, Horace Greeley, A. G. Hodges and James C. Conkling, while his general political correspondence was astute, adroit and circumspect throughout.

How direct, pointed, and terse are all these letters showing great sagacity, acumen and comprehension—the finest specimens of epistolary correspondence in existence.

GILBERT A. TRACY.

July 1, 1917.
