

Nov. 10, 1927

Mr. W. H. Townsend  
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Mr. Townsend:

I have been intending to write you ever since I came back from Lexington, but have been so busy getting out my Mary Lincoln articles that I have had time for nothing else.

I have not forgotten my promise to send you a copy of my latest Lincoln book, "A Reporter for Lincoln", but I have just been too busy to see about it. It goes today.

I told you that if I had any hint of possible material in your district that I would let you know about it. Now, do you know anything about a letter written by Mary Lincoln to a Miss Wickliffe when both were young girls?

This Miss Wickliffe became later Mrs. William Preston, and there is said to have been found in Governor Wickliffe's papers a letter written by Mary Todd to his daughter, describing her betrothed, Abraham Lincoln. This letter is said to have been saved and to be somewhere either in the Preston or Wickliffe families.

Now, if you can unearth this you will have a treasure. And if you do, you must give me a copy as soon as you find it, for letting you know about it. Will you?

It is worth a long hunt, I should say - but let it be a still hunt.

I didn't find anything in Springfield with which you are not familiar, I think; and I was obliged to return to New York before I had finished my work in Chicago. I was very sorry because I might have unearthed something there perhaps.

I remember all your kindness to me in Lexington with great satisfaction, dear Mr. Townsend. If there is anything I can do at any time, please let me know.

Very sincerely yours