May 18, 1927.

Mr. H. A. Wilson,
The University Society, Inc.,
460 Fourth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wilson:

I have your letter of May 12th telling me that a Club to which you belong is studying the life of Lincoln. Of course I am pleased that you should be using my book as a text.

Now, as to your discussion whether or not Mr. Lincoln was interested in what we know as the "finer traits", namely "art, music, color or flowers." Mr. Lincoln lived most of his life in a community where there was practically nothing of what I suppose you mean as art or music, but no man, as passionately devoted as he was to the best of literature and at the same time so eager to acquaint himself with all of man's development, could have been insensitive to art or music if it came his way. Few men I presume were as familiar with some of our greatest English literature - Burns, Shakespeare and the Bible. He had these literally at his tongues end. He was interested in the art of acting and saw everything that was in his day and discussed the text of Shakespeare with leading actors.

His sense of music, rhythm, was strong as you can see from the study of his writing.

As for color and flowers, I can give you no specific proof. But as a woodsman, as he was by early training, keen, with eye trained to note everything of the landscape, it is hard to suppose did not know the flowers, as he certainly did the trees and the animals, but it is not there that you should look for his interest in "finer things." It is in his devotion to high literature and in his own power of expression. You must not forget Abraham Lincoln wrote more than one piece of prose which is universally held to be as perfect as anything that has been produced in English. That certainly is proof enough of his interest in the "finer things."

Very sincerely,

[Signature]

IMT BWK.