

New York, May 10, 1920

My dear Mr. Shaw:

I am answering your letter of May 6th at once, partly because of the long delay over your former one, partly too because you make the subject so interesting. Of course you have an admirable outline for a long article, perhaps a little book; and there is no doubt that you yourself ought to go ahead and do it. If you found the time to do this much research, you ought to find time to finish it -- if it needs any finishing -- to put it in publishable shape. If you do it, I hope you will let me know where it is to appear. I shall of course want a copy.

Now as to your story of how you gathered your material. I am not quite sure whether that would be of any use to me or not. I think I shall have to wait and see just how my own story comes out. I take it that my experience in satisfying myself about this or that point in Lincoln's life was not unlike what you have been through. Supposing we just leave it until I get around to my work, and then I will take it up with you. That will be certainly not before the first of next year. In the meantime, do go ahead with your work.

It is very interesting, is it not, how new things have constantly come up? I suppose there never will be a complete life or complete works of Lincoln; that a hundred years from now, possibly in somebody's garret, a new and valuable Lincoln letter will be turned up, and that a brand new point will be excavated by our followers. After all that is what keeps the world moving, that things are never done.

If you come across anything further that is interesting, I shall always be glad to hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. James Shaw,
Aurora, Ill.