

April 13, 1936

Dear Miss Cutler:

*me*

I have been no little disturbed by hearing from several people interested in Lincoln work that I had been giving a dinner at the Hotel Lincoln and intimating that they were surprised they had not been invited. Now I do not know where the idea that I gave a dinner to which you invited me originated, but if it comes up in conversation you certainly should make it clear that I had nothing to do with the dinner. I had no idea that anything had been planned for it, I was simply going as a person interested in the exhibit and had thought you had done a very good job, which it was right to recognize. Of course when I went I had no idea that anything like a Lincoln Society was contemplated. My name must not be used in any future advertising. I am not willing to sponsor publically a Society of which I, so far, know so little of the plans, particularly as I feel that in some way entire misconception of my relation to the undertaking has been given.

*who*

You see, my dear Miss Cutler, there are a great many Lincoln students, writers and collectors in this city and neighborhood. They feel that they should be taken in if any such project of this is to be undertaken. The whole situation should have been canvassed and at least all of the prominent people approached, sounded, before a public announcement was made. I think I gave that as my opinion at the dinner. I am afraid, dear Miss Cutler, I can have nothing more to do with the undertaking until there has been thorough ground work without publicity. Of course it must be made clear to people that this is a genuine thing and not a hotel advertising scheme. ~~think that I charge you with the mistake of crediting the dinner to me. I am sure that you did~~ Please do not think that I charge you with the mistake of crediting the dinner to me. I am sure that you did not at least intentionally give any

*2nd notice*

~~report of the idea that I was giving the dinner.~~ but the report went out and it has caused me considerable annoyance and makes me feel that until the basis of the proposed Society is entirely clear, and the proper ground work has been done, I can have nothing more to do with it. It must be a bona fide Lincoln Society formed for the purpose of studying the life of Abraham Lincoln if I am to go on.

I am sure you will not consider this letter unfriendly or critical of you.

With all good wishes

Very sincerely yours

Miss Cutler  
Hotel Lincoln  
New York City