April 23, 1923

General John McA. Palmer,
Washington, D.C.

My dear General Palmer:

I have your interesting letter of April 19, and if I were not going westward tonight for several days' work, should be only too glad to look up some references for you on the point of Lincoln's military studies.

I am certain that he used Clausewitz, but I cannot give my authority without going through notes which I have packed away. Have you consulted Francis Lieber? If I am not mistaken, he wrote some kind of a military manual. He used to see Lincoln often, and I am inclined to think that it is he that says he found him once reading Clausewitz.

So far as I remember, the only thing that Nickolay and Hay have to say about it is that he gave himself "night and day to the study of the military situation. He read a number of strategical works. He pored over the reports of the various departments and districts of the field of war. He held long conferences with eminent generals and admirals, and astonished them by the extent of his special knowledge and the keen intelligence of his questions. This in the winter of 1861-62, and it was on the basis of this study that he issued his first General War Order."

As soon as possible after I come back I will get out my notes, and if I can find anything more definite will let you know. I shall be grateful, too, if you find anything if you will pass it on to me.

I am glad to know you are getting on with your book. You may be sure I shall be most glad to see it when it comes. I like your title, "The Organization of Peace."

Congratulations to your daughter and to you and Mrs. Palmer. What more delightful thing could there be than a marriage in June in Washington! As to going to the wedding, you may be sure that I shall do it if I can.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

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