

December 11, 1925

Mr. William Fortune
War Memorial Building
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Fortune:

I have just been replying to a letter from Judge Iglehart in which he tells me of the fine address that you gave at the recent meeting of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society. I wish I could have heard it. I hope there is going to be a fuller report published than the newspaper digest which you sent me. However, I am glad to have that.

Judge Iglehart suggested that I should come to Indiana soon for a study of the new material. I have been obliged to write him that it is quite out of the question for me to think of doing so. I am already under book contracts and only get my head up now and then to do a piece of Lincoln work. I have one on hand at the moment and as soon as I get through with that I shall begin to try to digest what has been coming to me out of Southwestern Indiana.

I hope if you are coming East you will let me know in advance. Then I will go over again the material which you have sent me and which is most provocative, compare it with what I have on hand, and a good talk over it would be, I am sure, a very great help.

I do not see any chance now of my getting into Southwestern Indiana, at least for any length of time. I always do a little lyceum work in February and March, but, even though it should take me into your neighborhood, I am so pressed for time that we would get very little satisfaction, I fear, out of a talk. All I can say now is that I shall go on collecting material and trying to digest it, with the hope that when free time does offer I shall be so saturated with the subject that I can get it down acceptably in a comparatively brief length of time. I find that method, on the whole, the only practical one in my rather driven professional life.

I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate your kindness and that of Judge Iglehart in this matter.

With a good wishes to you and to Mrs. Lilly, believe me