

Dear Mr. Bryan:

I have just read The Great American Myth and hasten to tell you that, as a student of Lincoln's life, it has given me genuine satisfaction. It is not necessary for one familiar with the subject to look at your bibliography to know that you have made by far the most extensive research yet made of John Wilkes Booth's career; even more important than the research is the way you have assimilated your materials, the wise selection and rejections. I am especially gratified by the short shift you made of recent attempts to include Secretary Stanton in the group of conspirators collected by Booth. You give a deservedly severe and, I hope, final treatment to the story of Booth's escape and wanderings. You have written the most solid and straightforward account that we have and happily one unclouded by innuendo and sensation.

Very truly yours,