

816 F St. N. W.
Washington, D. C. *Sept* 1901.

Sir:-

Probably no event in modern history ever so profoundly moved the world as did the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The nature of the struggle in which he was the central figure, combined with his own intellectual and moral greatness, placed him in the very focus of the world's gaze, and gave to him a place altogether unique in the hearts of his own countrymen. His untimely and violent death was a shock to civilization everywhere, and the details of the funeral obsequies through which the national grief was officially expressed, must always be of deep and abiding interest to the American public. Among these details, by no means the least important, were the funeral arrangements made by a select committee of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. In designating the pall-bearers, the purpose was to have both Houses of Congress, the Army, the Navy, and the private citizenship of the country fittingly represented. To this end, were selected six Senators, six Representatives, three army and three navy officers of the highest rank, together with four of the most distinguished men in private life, who had formerly occupied notable official positions. The inclosed list will give you the names of these gentlemen, all of whom, save those unmarked, are now deceased.

I have been at great pains, labor and expense to secure the best attainable photographs of all these gentlemen, as well as of the immortal Lincoln himself, the negatives and plates^{of} which belong entirely to me.

Upon the earnest solicitations of friends, I have had these photographs appropriately and artistically grouped, that of Mr. Lincoln being the center and much larger than the others, and the whole souvenir, thus formed has been copyrighted in my name. It is in three sizes respectively, 11 x 17; 18 x 22 and 24 x 30 inches. Many persons have expressed the opinion that the souvenir would find ready sale, and I am desirous of placing it before the public in some suitable and advantageous way. Hence, I have taken the liberty of addressing you, believing that with your facilities you would find it both pleasurable and remunerative to handle it.

If you are favorably impressed with the suggestion, I shall be very glad to hear from you, and shall take pleasure in furnishing you with any additional information which you may desire.

With great respect, I beg to remain

Most truly yours,

H. G. Wathington