

Oct. 9, 1922

Miss F. Odell,
McClure's Newspaper Syndicate,
373 Fourth Ave., New York City.

My dear Miss Odell:

Miss Scanlin, my secretary, to whom you may apply for any information you may want in a hurry in my absence, will send you the second of the Lincoln articles.

In your advertising, do you not think it would be well to insist on the point that this is a story of the making of this country; that in the struggles, the adventures, and the migrations of the Lincoln family we have going on under our eyes the growth of the country, not only materially but politically and spiritually? It gives us the picture of how we were made, we, the United States. That is one point.

Another is that this is the story of the making of Abraham Lincoln, and to understand how he, the kind of man that we most want and most need if we are to realize our notion of democracy, is one of our most imperative duties. We see Lincoln here in the making, from 1637 down, all these men contributing something to the final miracle of the man. He is a logical product, and to understand and believe that is a first task for us.

I think some insistence on these ideas, put very simply of course will help to emphasize the serious reasons for the series.

You said Sunday that you could use the story of my hunt for Deborah's grave in some form if I could send you the material. I would like to have dictated it for you but have not the time before I go away. I am sending portions of my informal notes of the experience. By running these over you can get something, I think. You will know how much you want. I need not tell you that I would not want to lose these notes as I have only one copy.

Sincerely yours,