February 16, 1935

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me the copy of the Burlington Free Press and Times with the Parker letter owned by Mrs. Sidney P. Noe of New Brunswick. It is an unusually interesting document. I am particularly impressed by his characterization of Lincoln, his comparison with Mrs. Lincoln. "In every feature of the man was written character" - "on every feature of the woman was plainly written characterless." The more I know of Mary Lincoln the more I feel that fact was one of the great tragedies of Mr. Lincoln's life. And yet I would not underestimate the qualities that she had. I wonder if you feel as I do about her. There was a time when I felt very harshly about Mary Lincoln - that has entirely passed. I feel now a genuine sympathy and feeling for her.

I hope, dear Mr. Rankin, you are well. It is a real satisfaction to me that you remember my interest in every scrap that concerns Lincoln and a satisfaction, too, to know that you keep the same strong interest.

I am so immersed in the business of my active profession, kept up because it is what you call an economic necessity, that many things about Lincoln slip by me. I do not like to miss anything so that your recollection of my interest helps me out.

I think I told you sometime ago that I am trying to get my small Lincoln collection organized to give to my college in Meadville, Pennsylvania. It is not a large or an important collection but it does contain a correspondence running over a good many years - a few rare pieces - a few unpublished manuscripts written for me when I was working on my

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Life of Lincoln. As things have developed I think it is worth saving and be made the nucleus of something I hope will be a collection, not for show, but for use by students of the period in the College.

With many thanks for your kindness to me and all good wishes for your health and happiness believe me, dear Mr. Rankin

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Henry W. Rankin
19 Nichols Pl.
Burlington, Vt.

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