Lida Rose McCabe in an article on the poem on the death of Lincoln, which in 1867 was awarded a prize by the French Academy, says that she was told by the author, Edouard Grenier, in the Salon of Mme. Blanc, that his reasons for writing the poem were the following:

"I had two motives, first, to pay a due homage to an illustrious American; and second, to play a trick and give a blow to the despotism of Napoleon III, whom I hated and despised, by gaining the prize and thus of course obliging the French Academy to proclaim Republican truths and words of liberty amid the universal and constrained silence and the prostration of the France of yore. So I succeeded, and it is to me a new success to see my forgotten poem revived by your pen and your friendship."

It shows how from his death Lincoln was used by those of liberal principles to back their cause.

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