

with

5-2-39 or 4-18-39

letters

May 26, 1939

Dear Mr. Bullard:

I am just back at my desk and find a large accumulation of mail. No item in it interests me more than your letter of May 18th with the enclosures. I have read both with care.

The points which you develop so authoritatively and interestingly are both new to me. It is a real satisfaction to have fresh Lincoln material come to my desk. The fact that so many newcomers tell the story is evidence of its vitality. But such material as yours broadens the theme. Thank you very much for sending the article.

I am particularly interested in what you say about my interview with Robert Lincoln. I am not sure about the date of that interview, but I think it was between 1912 and 1916. I am sure I have his letter making the appointment somewhere in my files but I have not been able to put my hands on it.

I am convinced that what he was destroying when President Butler ran in upon him were letters which he thought might injure some man who had violently disagreed with his father about the conduct of the War and had angrily expressed his views. There are plenty of such papers, that of Carl Schurz among them. I am trying to find time to set down more fully my notion of the matter for publication somewhere. At all events I was glad to see the note which you published in The Herald.

Yes, the person I think who swindled me was Henry Whitney Cleveland. I want to take up the matter soon when I have a little more leisure and if you care for it I will give you in detail what I have.

letters

to have

As to the document to which you refer at the bottom of Page 170 of "All in the Day's Work" I found it in the Barton Collection of September 1932. So far as I know the Chicago University Library still has the document though they may have concluded to return it to the Kentucky records where it belongs.

I congratulate you on being able to belong to a group of genuine Lincoln students.

Thanking you again for your letter and assuring you that I shall welcome any Lincoln items to which you may care to call my attention and that I shall be glad to clear up any point on which you think I may have been wrong or have not made clear, believe me, dear Mr. Bullard

Very sincerely yours

P.S.

I have a Lincoln project on hand which one of these days when I am in Boston I would like to talk over with you. I have never been a collector but a good many Lincoln items have "stuck" to me the years I have been on the subject. And then there is a considerable correspondence of more or less value. All of this I am turning over to my old College - Allegheny - in Meadville, Pennsylvania. They are setting aside a Lincoln room in the Library with the hope of building up a working collection for students, particularly in American History. There is no notion of making it a show collection but something which will be an integral factor in college work.

I have just been out there for five weeks with a class of students and I am convinced there is

something in the notion, though I do not mean to say that I developed it to my own satisfaction.

All of this to say that any Lincoln item to which you might call my attention would be fitted in to what I hope will be a really useful piece of work for undergraduates. We haven't "Tad and His Father", but I am ordering it and I am going to be bold enough to send it to you for autographing.

Mr. F. Lauriston Bullard
The Boston Herald
Boston, Mass.