June 26, 1935

Dear Dr. Graves:

I hope you will forgive me for having been so slow in replying to your interesting letter of some weeks ago and in reading the manuscript which you enclosed with the letter. I have had a rather crowded Spring and absence from the city put me behind in my work; and when you came to my desk I was shoving all my mail into a corner to wait for a freer day.

Very sincerely

I have had today off and among other things read your manuscript, though I confess it would have more weight with me if you did not find it logical and right for Douglas to ask for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Is it not true that his Kansas-Nebraska Bill did not at first ask for the repeal, that he only put it in at a last moment and that he had in the past declared it as sacred as the Constitution?

I never could accept his explanation that the refusal to extend the line to the Pacific had practically repealed it. That line was meant to be a permanent compromise and any attempt to do away with it was giving up territory intended to be free to the demands of the advocates of slavery.

But of ~~no~~ Douglas Unionism there can be no doubt; there can be no question of the courage and the nobility of his struggle against the Lecompton Constitution, and of course after Lincoln's election and the question of secession came he was a great power.

I am afraid I can never come to feel about him as you do. I regard his effort to repeal the Missouri Compromise not as a mistake of judgment, but as a sacrifice of something which he had thought to be sacred in order to carry out his far-seeing plans of future settlement.

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But I did not mean to write so much on that point. What you want to know is what to do with the article. And for the life of me I cannot say. The Magazines and Weeklies publish historical discussions only when that discussion is closely allied to contemporary interest and may throw some light upon that interest. The place I suggest for it is one of the Middle West State Historical magazines. It might be that the Illinois Historical Society would consider it. Certainly I should try them - Illinois - Iowa - Minnesota and Kansas. Why should not Kansas consider your article?

I am sorry as I can be to be of so little help.

I am glad your daughter is getting on in Paris. It certainly speaks well for her resourcefulness and her energy that she has been able to live through the hard years there.

I hope you are well, dear Dr. Graves, and I am glad you are keeping yourself so deeply interested in worthwhile things. This article of yours is full of spirit and very well written.

With all good wishes

Very sincerely yours

Dr. Walter Graves
Wichita, Kansas

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