

Sept. 17, 1941

Dear Dr. Peterson:

Do forgive this long delay in replying to your letter of August 13. I have been up to my favorite occupation these days--doing nothing but sitting in the sun. But don't think that your letter did not interest me as well as the copy of the Michigan Alumnus with Thomas Starr's excellent article on the Greenley Collection. It was very good of you to write Mr. Adams. As you see from his reply they are already in touch with Allegheny. Of course I shall be pleased and honored for that matter if I had anything I could turn over to the Greenley Collection. Just at the present my Lincoln letters and papers are in a rather confused state, my not having much time and strength to give to them. However, a nucleus for a good collection is already in the College and a well equipped small Lincoln Room is established, that for which I hoped in turning my papers over to Allegheny is happening. Alumni and students and friends are turning items over. Perhaps J. S. P. has told you that he has sent me recently two valuable pieces. Something comes almost every week from somewhere, so I am hoping that we'll grow surely, if slowly, and grow through interest rather than through riches. I shall keep track of the Greenley Collection, however, now--that you have been so good as to introduce me.

You ask about my article on Old Age. The truth is it's running away with me. Gets longer all the time, that is, in outline. I am calling it "Life After Eighty." Please don't think I've forgotten that I have three of your pamphlets. They are the best things I've seen on the points they make. But what I am trying to do now is to analyze and report my personal experience in estimating what I can make of what is left. You've been very helpful and I shall be grateful for any suggestions that you care to make.

I find that having this interest in Lincoln is a healthy mental stimulus. It's rather fun to have something you can see growing through the kindness and interest of other people.

With gratitude for your kindness and best wishes to the family,

Faithfully yours,