December 6, 1933

Dear Mr. Blaisdell:

It was pleasant to hear from you. Of course I remember you, but it is a long time since I have known where you were. It must be fine work teaching English in a State Teachers College. I always have a little homesick feeling about teaching, that is the way I meant to go, you see.

Now as to the quotation from Lincoln that you found on a chain-store advertisement. I am afraid it has been doctored, at least I don't seem to be able to put my hands upon it in any of the speeches where Lincoln expressed his philosophy of labor. It is possible this is in the speech that he gave at Milwaukee in 1859 at the State Fair where he scoffed at Douglas' mud-sill theory of labor, but unfortunately I haven't a copy of that speech at hand.

The best thing I know that he said on this is in the second annual message, that of December 3, 1861. There is a fine paragraph beginning, "Labor is prior to and independent of capital, etc." I believe that you would find in these paragraphs something better for your book than what you quote.

When I can get my hands on my books I shall make a little more thorough search for the quotation as you give it.

Hoping this may be of some use to you

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Thos. C. Blaisdell
Slippery Rock, Pa.

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