

May 22, 1926

Mr. Frank Shutts
Miami Herald
Miami, Fla.

My dear Mr. Shutts:

I have only just returned from my voyage of discovery in Florida. It was such an exciting and hurried pilgrimage that I did not stop on the way to attend to any of the amenities of life. Then, too, I wanted to get to the end of my trip before I wrote back to you to tell you just how much your letters of introduction had served me.

They really were everything at Tampa, at Tallahassee, at Jacksonville. My path was made easy by your kindness, and of course the people with whom you put me in touch were of the substantial, intelligent sort who could do the most to clarify my rather bewildered mind.

I presented all of your letters except those to Governor Martin and Judge Whitfield, both of whom were out of Tallahassee at the time of my visit. I should have returned had I not been so hurried.

Nobody realizes quite as well as I do, dear Mr. Shutts, the incompleteness of what I have written. The conditions under which I was working compelled me to touch people and undertakings only, and to do that rather hastily. I have come out with great confidence in Florida's future, if she will continue to curb the speculative interests, both inside and outside of the State, and to develop her horticulture and agriculture. The chances there are enormous, it seems to me, and I was more and more impressed with the quality of the work that is doing by the Agricultural College and large numbers of private growers. If you do boost, you certainly work. It is tempering of the boosting and sobering in the work that you need most, I think, dear Mr. Shutts, and that seems to me the aim of your best people down there everywhere.

Just as a souvenir of your kindness, will you not please accept a copy of my latest Lincoln book, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns" - a book which I think you told me you had not seen.

With renewed thanks for all your kindness, and with very best wishes for the future, believe me

Sincerely yours