HENRY B. RANKIN
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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Sept. 17th 1923.

My Dear Friend Ida:

When your "Footsteps of Lincoln" trailed into the Chicago Convention in 1860, and since up to this last No. XXXII I have, more and more, had borne in on me the lack of an occasional chapter that, - beginning with the Charleston Convention, and antidated with a short but comprehensive pen-sketch (=Number) of Southern "fire-eaters" urging secession from 1820-1850, - and the settled conviction among the larger slaveholders in the cotton states in 1860 to secede) showed the progressive ripening of the secession sentiment in the South. And then, from Nov. 1860, write up the practical progress of what the Confederacy was doing in organizing their nation and preparing an effective military equipment, etc., and securing foreign intervention in several forms.

I hardly need to amplify (= for) the scope of your attention to what the South was doing, that (= thought) should keep step with "Lincoln's Footsteps" to make more intelligible what the North was doing, - or rather not doing, and thus make more visible to readers the whole executive and military situation, that Lincoln's path was through South as well as North. How. where and when, the South got the start (bulge) on us in the North for more than two yrs. - Southern action from date to date, lights up the paths of Lincoln's "Footsteps" must be taken in. The issues at stake, - the difficulty, the conflict, was dual - The history needs some mentuality in the telling. "game",

So thinks (in brief) Yours Sincere Friend Henry

(Yours suggestions are for the best, - and practical ones, - and I feel a hesitation in sending them. A reliance on your open minded and surest disposition, are all that eases this from the coats-basket.)

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