

July 7, 1923

Mrs. Annie Grove McClellan,  
50 Granger Place,  
Buffalo, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. McClellan:

Do not interpret my delay in replying to your letter of June 19 as a lack of appreciation of your kindness in writing it. It is most encouraging to know that my Lincoln articles are finding interested readers. You have caught from my story something which I thought I was not adequately presenting, and that is the splendid vision, loyalty and strength of our pioneer mothers.

Your suggestion of a statue to pioneer womanhood is a noble one, and I wish it could be realized. Just now I am so deep into this Lincoln narrative, the printers on my heels, that I have not the leisure for considering carefully a matter as important as that. It is not a thing to be hurriedly thrown out. It might be possible to get one of our great women's periodicals behind it.

If a statue were to be made it should be made by a woman sculptor - our greatest woman sculptor. We ought not to be content in this matter with anything that would be less than the greatest that we can achieve - an American sculptor, too, - possibly Anna Hiatt.

Let me think about it, and if you have any further thoughts on the matter I shall be glad if you will send them to me.

Very sincerely yours,