July 12, 1929

Mr. Eugene E. Prussing
1717 Garfield Place
Hollywood, Calif.

My dear Mr. Prussing:

I have just come back to New York and find awaiting me your letter of July 2nd.

As I am off again tomorrow for several days' Chautauqua work, I haven't the leisure to give it the answer it really deserves.

Let me say, in the first place, that I had made a note of your book on the Estate of George Washington, and sooner or later want to add it to my collection. I know, from the "American" article that it is a very interesting piece of work.

Now, as to collaborating with you on a article on Lincoln's Estate. Of course. I will be glad to do it. And when you come on in September we can talk over the details.

One thing that you may be able to do now, which I was not able to do, is to examine the Lincoln account in the Washington bank. They were inclined, I thought, to give me permission; but Robert Lincoln didn't like the idea, and I never pushed the matter with him. I think you could do this. Anything I have I shall be glad to show you.

In estimating the estate, you must remember Mary Lincoln's financial policy. Briefly, it was to run up bills and never pay them until you were obliged to, to hoard and invest your money. That $22,000 which was voted her after Mr. Lincoln's death, I think did go into the Estate. She certainly did not use it to pay the A.T. Stewart bills. Those were paid long afterwards by Mr. Lincoln's friends But all of these matters we can talk when you come on. Let me know, as long as possible ahead of your visit, that I may be sure to be in town.

Thanking you for your letter, believe me

Sincerely yours