November 25, 1929

Gen. John Mc.A. Palmer
129 Florida Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Palmer:

I'm very sorry that I have been so long in getting to your proofs. They reached me at a difficult moment, and it was only yesterday that I had free time for them.

I finished my reading with real enthusiasm for your book. It is a real thing. In the first place it is a substantial, historical contribution. You entirely displace Upton as a historian. Your study of Lincoln's situation in the Civil War is altogether the most illuminating that has been done. I never grasped before the true inwardness of his difficulties, and I think you make it clear beyond cavil that if he had had Washington's Citizen Army the story would have been very different.

I do not follow you the whole way and say that there would have been no Civil War, sooner or later I think that was inevitable. But if War had come the North would not have had to hang its head for those long three years.

I found your comparison of Wilson's and Lincoln's Military situation before their respective wars most illuminating.

Altogether, dear General Palmer, you have done a fine piece of historial work, established your case in my judgment. And what an argument for peace!

Thanking you for letting me see these proofs, believe me,

Cordially yours,

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