O'Fallon, Illinois, Feby. 28th 1911.

Phillips Publishing Company,
New York.

Gentlemen:- I have explained matter somewhat in my long letter. The duty I mentioned was this: My father requested the family to keep his Lincoln interview paper and his Lincoln prayers to go in his history. But I will be expected to see to getting out that history, and now my health is failing so fast that perhaps I will never be able to get it out, and that the Lincoln interview paper & prayer with Lincoln's explanation of the little book may go unpublished. Therefore I have concluded to publish the Lincoln matter now. There will be the 10 page legal cap paper of my father containing the Lincoln prayer, and the family (I and some other descendants of Rev. James Lemen, Jr.), will prepare a paper of about 2 pages for the American Magazine telling all about what Lincoln explained his little so-called infidel book. Some large papers are willing to pay a fair price for this matter, but we think it better to have some leading magazine handle or publish it. Would you like it for the American Magazine? I am so busy with some writing that I cannot get it ready before next September. Would you like it for a reasonable price? or if not, would you sell it to some other magazine for me at such price as I, (you & I), may agree upon, and you collect the money and keep 25 per cent. for your trouble?

I send you a few published letters from Douglas, Lincoln & Peck, to my father, that will help explain matters.

Very truly yours

Joseph B. Lemen

O'Fallon, Ill.
R. R. #2

At leisure look over all this matter and then write me.-

— L —

(over)

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P. S. Copies of printed letters to my father from Congressman Snyder, Gov. Reynolds and Elijah P. Lovejoy are also included. Lovejoy's letter is said to be the last I have known the Pro-slavery mob killed him at Alton, Ill. for his anti-slavery writings in his press. My father loaned him the funds to get his last press which the mob threw in the river.

The critics say the publication of the matter I propose to send you will end the controversy about Lincoln being an infidel, and the American magazine, from its name is the one to print them, as nearly every American in a society millions will be glad to see Lincoln set right. I recall Ida Tarbell's article in the "American" some years ago about Lincoln and "Billy," which was very good, but the matter I propose sending is vastly more important.

I also have the facts for another interesting magazine article after the Lincoln matter is published.

Thomas Jefferson and my grandfather, Rev. James Lemen, Sr. were ardent friends, Lemen by kind and practical logic, when a young man in Va., induced scores of masters to free their slaves, this so impressed Jefferson that he offered his slaves their freedom, but they would not leave him. Lemen's work induced Jefferson to send him, as his confidential agent, to the Natchez district to secure it for freedom, and he & Lemen arranged the terms at Annapolis, Md. on Dec. 2nd, 1784.

and in 1786, after Jefferson had gone to France as minister, his agent gave Lemen his funds and he came to Illinois. In a letter to Lemen's family, which has been preserved, Jefferson says he (Lemen) was the first man in Va. that suggested that Va. should give the territory to the U. S. and that Congress dedicate it to freedom, which was finally done by the ordinance of 1787. That is, Jefferson says Lemen was the real author of that grand idea, and Douglas said the real history of that (the ordinance) had never yet been written, and that our family ought to write it. This will be done next autumn and perhaps the "American" would like to publish it. Read and consider all matter I may send carefully. I-

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Prayer of Rev James Lemen, jr.

Our Father in Heaven, we approach the Throne of Mercy and Grace with hearts bowed down with grief because our Nations ruler and Thy chosen servant, Abraham Lincoln, has fallen and a great life has gone out, not in the battle of honorable warfare but to gratify the idle vagaries and the heartless vengeance of a pitiless monster and brutal assassin. But in the depths of our grief we yet thank Thee for the gift of Abraham Lincoln, under whose leadership, by Thy guidance and blessing, the nation has again reached the port of peace and a haven of rest; and we praise Thee again for a reunited country under one flag. Bless the memory and great work of Abraham Lincoln and may their benign influence widen and deepen with the on flowing centuries. Bless our erring brethren of the South who have grounded their arms and submitted to the National laws and in obedience to Lincolns decree have abandoned slavery. Build up the waste and ruin and desolation of war. Grant that the rivers of blood which have flown from the brave hearts of both the North and South and that perished in the conflict may be sanctified as a warning to our countrymen for wisdom, patience and forbearance, and that precious blood may seal a peace that shall endure forever. We thank Thee for the freedom of the slave. Plant anew in the hearts of our Southern brethren a loyal love for the Union and flag. Bring hope and peace and prosperity to every heart and every home in our broad land. Remember all here in Thine presence. Guard, guide and keep us and finally save us in a world without end for Christs sake. Amen.

The above is Rev James Lemens prayer which he made after Lincolns death. It is copied from the "Lemen Family History, but the history does not give Lincolns prayer nor James Lemens paper containing his prayer and Lincolns mentioned elsewhere.

L. B. Lemen

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Rev. James Lemen, jr, my father, born
at New Design, Monroe Co., in 1787,
was the second child born of American
parents in Illinois.

Carefully consider every statement in these
Papers before your final decision. The critics
all say the "American" should have the
proposed articles or Papers

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