October 6, 1939

Dear Miss Rowley:

This is an entirely confidential warning. I think that it is not impossible that you will be visited soon by an able and enthusiastic lady - Mrs. Anna Onstatt - who has I suppose the largest collection of Charles Wesley material in the country.

She is a great Lincoln ehthusiast and for the last three or four years has been standing over a young artist who has talent, directing the painting of a Lincoln portrait. There is much of interest about the portrait, but it is not the inspired production she imagines. However, in my judgment she would have done much better if she had ~~been~~ let alone. Mrs. Onstatt's contribution has been an indefatigable search for ~~direct~~ properties - all ~~to the~~ good.

Now, she has been going about the country trying to find a purchaser. She has written me two or three times about the possibility of buying it for the Lincoln collection. I have told her that we have no money for anything of that kind, that our purpose was a working collection, dove-tailed into undergraduate work, that I could not recommend it.

Now if she should turn up with her portrait don't let her stampede you. We can spend the money to better purpose. This is my humble opinion. If we ever should buy an oil I should hope it would be something more inspiring than this picture.

But all this is just between you and me - as I say a warning.

I hope you are all well and that the College is opening well. I am so sorry it is quite out of the question for me to be there for the Home Coming.

Affectionately yours

Miss Edith Rowley
Meadville, Pa.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library