

December 9, 1926

Hon. John E. Iglehart
Evanston, Ind.

My dear Judge Iglehart:

Thank you for sending me this latest pamphlet of the Indiana Historical Society, "The Environment of Abraham Lincoln in Indiana." It is a genuine contribution to the subject.

It places and gives an importance to the subject which it seems to me never to have had before. I think it will force future biographers to concede that there were big and inspiring influences exerted directly or indirectly on Lincoln in the period that he lived in Indiana.

Up to now there seems to have been an unwillingness to concede that anything elevating touched him. The whole emphasis has been on the sordid and vulgar which, as nearly as I can make out, is incident to life everywhere. Wealth certainly never conquers it - sometimes seems to accentuate it. Academic education does not prevent it - simply gives it new forms. Nothing but character, high notions of life, really overcome sordidness and vulgarity. Is this not true? There was abundance of character and high notions of life in the atmosphere of Southwestern Indiana when young Lincoln lived there, and you cannot make me believe that he did not respond to what was in the air.

But I didn't mean, dear Judge Iglehart, to deliver an oration. What I have written really sounds like it, but you will forgive me, knowing my interest in the subject. Again let me thank you for this admirable pamphlet.

Sincerely yours