

November 17, 1925

Mr. William Fortune
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Fortune:

Please do not think that I do not appreciate your cordial letter of October 19. As I wired you on that very day I was out of New York. I was getting the first vacation I have had since that memorable trip in Kentucky and South-western Indiana under your wonderful and generous conduct. I am now back, pretty well rested and getting at the matters that await me here on my desk.

I went over the material that you sent me, and it is all very much to my purpose. As I understand from your letter you are willing that I should keep these transcripts. I am sure that when I get to work on them I shall want to consult you - I hope not so as to be a burden.

I see by the program of the South-western Indiana Historical Society that you are to speak at the annual meeting on the 17th. I suppose that what you have to say will be printed in the report of the meeting - I shall look for it with eagerness.

I am going on with my quest of jest books that might at one time or another have fallen into Lincoln's hands. I see from Karl Sandberg's study - a very interesting thing, by the way - that he thinks that Lincoln carried around with him, at least in the early years of his law work, a copy of the English "Joe Miller." There were a good many editions of this "Joe Miller," there are two or three of them to be found here, but whether there is a complete copy I do not know. I have an old American copy published in 1865 which contains a number of stories credited to Lincoln. What I think I shall try to do is to make as complete a collection of jest books of the period as I can. I think Senator Beveridge is right in attaching a great deal of importance to your story of the copy of "King's Jester" or "King's Jests" falling into the hands of Lincoln in South-western Indiana. The important thing, after all, is just what you say. You are right in attaching importance to the pioneer life of the region.

All the points you make as to what should go into such a

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