

no smartness (16 1/2)
~~no smartness~~ - returning, much in what he

wrote - it was always his - a clear, carefully

turned phase, distinctively personal - shaped purely

to say what he wanted to say - to convey ideas or

arouse emotion, not to show how well he could

handle a jargon. Nobody, indeed, ever indulged

less in professional or literary cant. His Eng-

lish was like his ideas - his own - and both were

founded on his instinct for the truth and his

patient effort to realize it in his conclusions,

and his expressions. The result of this painstaking

was a mental machine of unusual strength and

exactness, one which turned out judgments which

were durable, workmanlike, trustworthy. expressed

in language that a child could understand.

The result of this training ~~are~~ 16-2
~~was~~ that his ~~enlighten~~ are
full of quietly expressed wisdom.

Some of his wisest reflections are directed
to his own profession. People discussed much in
his day as ^{2 understand} they continue to do, whether it was pos-
sible in the practice of the law for a man to do
as he would be done by. We know Lincoln was
troubled by the proposition, but he worked it out
finally, and in this way:- Discourage litigation,
he wrote. As a peace-maker the lawyer has a
superior opportunity to be a good man. There
will still be business enough.

It was in the war that his philosophy came
out strongest. Rarely a letter or speech in the

period that is not marked by some quaint and effective

two putting of a welcome truth,

10-2

Result ten of hardy

living output - Darwin

with certain things

Speech - di -

Letter to little

know - should be

cluded -

~~Future~~

venture to read one

to emphasize the point

He who would know I

should read the letter

16-3

(10)

His letters to his generals
were among the best things he
ever wrote -

Take the admirable letter he wrote Hooker
in January of 1863, when he appointed him to the
command of the Army of the Potomac:

General: I have placed you at the head of
✓ the Army of the Potomac. Of course I have done
this upon what appear to me to be sufficient reasons,
and yet I think it best for you to know that
there are some things in regard to which I am not
quite satisfied with you. I believe you to be a
brave and skilful soldier, which of course I like.
I also believe you to not mix politics with your
profession, in which you are right. You have confidence
in yourself, which is a valuable if not an

16-11

(11)

indispensable quality. You are ambitious, which, within reasonable bounds, does good rather than harm; but I think that during General Burnside's command of the army you have taken counsel of your ambition and thwarted him as much as you could, in which you did a great wrong to the country and to a most meritorious and honorable brother officer. I have heard, in such a way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the army and the government needed a dictator. Of course it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain successes can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship. The government will support you to the utmost of its ability, which is neither more nor less than it has done and will do for all commanders. I much fear that the spirit which you have aided to infuse into the army, of criticising their com-

16-5

(12)

mander and withholding confidence from him, will now turn upon you. I shall assist you as far as I can to put it down. Neither you nor Napoleon, if he were alive again, could get any good out of an army while such a spirit prevails in it; and now ~~beware~~ of rashness. Beware of rashness, but with energy and sleepless vigilance go forward and give us victories.

Quite as striking as the admirable common-
sense of this letter is its sense of character.

Hooker's

Lincoln understood men, their capacity, their limitations, what could be expected of them and what could not. It was one of his greatest elements of strength in the war. He generally saw nearly what he was going to get, and realized what