

June 19, 1924

Mr. Ellery Sedgwick,  
8 Arlington St.,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Sedgwick:

When I came back from my college Commencement yesterday, I found your letter of the 13th on my desk - very welcome, too. I know a little - only a little - about Lincoln, but whatever it is is at your disposal.

As to the value of Mr. W. O. Stoddard's recollections, it will all depend upon how much they include of which he has not already told. You know of course that he published a "Life of Lincoln," "Table Talk of Lincoln" and a volume which he called "Inside the White House in War Times." I think, though I am not sure, that there were also several magazine articles, though these may have been incorporated in the published volumes.

It is quite possible, to be sure, that in writing his recollections he may have given a freshness to that material which would fully justify its retelling. I should expect this, for he was a valiant man, a hard worker, and his interest in Lincoln unflagging. When I was working on my Life Of Lincoln I used to consult him at intervals, and he always came back with something clarifying and informative. If the document you have is interesting and is far enough away from his other writings in its presentation, my guess would be that you had something valuable. You may be sure that if you publish it, it will have an eager reader at this address.

It is good of you to suggest that sometime when I am in Boston I stop a day or two with you and Mrs. Sedgwick. It would be a real pleasure. Since William James went I have not had the heart to linger much in Boston. It is a long time since I have seen Mrs. James here though she was always as attractive to me as her husband. They were a wonderful pair.

But you must come to New York sometimes. And if you are not too busy, why not call me up? I would be delighted to have you at lunch or tea or dinner with me.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,