

January 31, 1929

Dr. Emil Ludwig
Ascona
Switzerland

My dear Dr. Ludwig:

You must not take my failure to write you about the parts of your manuscripts that I have had the satisfaction of reading as indicating a lack of interest. The truth is they came to me just as I was preparing for six weeks of conferences in a Western college. I was very much absorbed with my preparations and very busy with the carrying on of the work.

I managed to read the manuscripts, not as carefully as I should have liked, still, I hope that some of my suggestions may be of use to you. I meant to write as soon as I returned to New York but for a month now have been down with the influenza and neglecting everything. I am coming out of it, and one of the first things I want to do is to tell you how deeply I have been interested in your treatment of Lincoln.

You come to him as an artist, a student of genius, a profound psychologist, and you make out of him something which so far rings entirely true to me. I have been impressed with the way the simplicity of the man and his life reflects itself in the style of your narrative. You found the key.]

The third part of the book has just reached me, and I am hoping to read it in a week or so, and after I have finished it, to write you personally how I feel about it, as a narrative. Any possible slips in statement that I may hit upon, I will pass on to the publisher. After this I hope that I shall have a little more time to give to the work.

With all good wishes, and with the kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Ludwig, believe me

Sincerely yours