

November 24, 1915.

My Mr. Hinnerley:-

I am glad that you are interested in Mr. Rankin's manuscript and that you are willing to print it in the Forum. You ask something more about him. He is one of my Lincoln acquaintances. I found him only a few years ago when he sent me for reading some recollections of Lincoln which I felt had very unusual qualities. This manuscript much revised and with a good deal of waste material in it is sent to be published by Appleton's I believe. Mr. Rankin was in Lincoln's law office in Springfield just before he was nominated to the Presidency. He became a successful business man. Thirty-eight years ago, or thereabouts he came home from business one night and was stricken with an illness which has never left him. He has lived in one room suffering the most intolerable torment a great deal of the time through all these years. The extraordinary part to me is that he has never been conquered by his suffering. He has carried on his business and greatly enlarged it, has run his family, has kept in touch with the affairs of the world, has traveled everywhere on paper, read enormously. You see it is altogether an unusual personality and an amazing will. He is one of the most ethereal creatures I

ever saw and yet intensely practical. What I am saying here you could not publish, that is, as I have said it. The facts in it I think you could publish though I should want Mr. Rankin to consent. I am writing him today saying that you would like to publish his paper in the Forum. I do not know whether he has any thought of compensation or not. The question never came up here when we were considering the possibility of its publication in the American. As to the little note, I think it was a joint production of Mr. Phillips and myself if I remember correctly. Possibly it better be signed The Editor. I will write you again as soon as I hear from Mr. Rankin.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Mitchell Kinnerley,
32 West 58th Street,
New York City.

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