

March 23, 1934

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I cannot tell you how pleased I was to receive your recent letter. Of course I remember you. Am I not constantly referring to interesting clippings that you used to send me. Not all of them I am sorry to say have been filed, but all of them have been kept and I turn to them every now and then.

It is a pleasure to know that you found the Herald Tribune article celebrating my years of interest, and that you at eighty-three are still so alive is encouraging. I find that I have my eye on my elders now wondering if I can hold on as courageously and as cheerfully as many of them do. I am glad to add you to my list. It takes character and faith to be cheerful with the handicap of arthritis. That enemy has not so far hunted me down and I am doing all I know how to keep him off.

No, I am not at the moment planning another edition of my two volume Life of Lincoln. A few years ago I did review the life in the light of the great mass of new material that had come out since I did my original work. I published one volume called, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns." Did you ever see that? If not I shall be glad to send it to you.

As to the articles in the Atlantic, I have always believed that it was probable that there was a genuine nucleus in the material on which the articles were based and that had been used to build up certain of the letters. The commotion the publication caused made it impossible to consider the material candidly and dispassionately. I am afraid Mr. Sedgwick made a mistake when he announced so conclusively that it was a discovery. What he should have announced was that here was something which claimed to be a discovery. That would have let him

out and would have given an opportunity to find out if there was anything genuine at the bottom of it, as I suspect there is.

Yes, indeed, I shall be glad of any further clippings that you may care to send me. I am keeping all Lincoln material that comes my way trying to find time and money to put my collection into order to give to my College at Meadville, Pa. - Allegheny. It is a small collection as yet, and what I want to do is to make it a good working collection for students, not merely a show collection.

Thank you for writing me, dear Mr. Rankin. It was a real pleasure to hear from you again.

Cordially yours

Mr. Henry W. Rankin  
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Burlington, Vermont.