

December 4, 1936

Dear Mr. Angle:

Do forgive my delay in reading the Preface to your edition of Whitney's "Life on the Circuit with Lincoln." It reached me at a moment when I was over-crowded and it is only today that I have had a chance to go over it.

To begin with let me say how glad I am that there is to be a new edition of the book. I shall be glad enough to have it. I had a first edition, autographed by Whitney, at the time I was trying to drive him to filling out his notes of the Bloomington speech, but it has gone the way of so many lent books - I have lost all trace of it. It will be good to have it at hand again. *one*

I find your Préface valuable, a very fair presentation of what the man was and a fair estimate of the book, that is, as I remember man and book. It is a good many years now since I have given any attention to him other than now and then to re-hash the story of how I came to look him up in the first place and how I worked to persuade him to re-construct from the notes which he showed me, of the speech as near as he could come to it.

You say that I found it "satisfactory." I think it would be truer to say that I found it "worth publishing." I am sure I should have been unwilling to publish it without the full explanatory notes of how I came to go after Whitney in the first place and of how we tried out the result of his work on a number of men who had heard the speech-with results pro and con, as you know. That is, those explanatory notes gave a base for judgment I think. They showed clearly that neither Whitney nor the

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magazine, and certainly not I, who negotiated the matter were claiming that it was anything more than a belated effort to re-construct the notes the man had made at the time of which for one reason or another he had never gotten around to filling out.

I think you are rendering the Lincoln public a real service in this case as you have in so many others. It is a consolation to have a watch dog, like yourself, at the door in Springfield.

Thanking you for letting me see the Preface and assuring you that I shall look eagerly for the book, believe me

Very sincerely yours

P.S. I wish you would autograph a carbon copy of the Preface and let me have it to put with my notes on the Lost Speech. I am getting my few Lincoln books and notes into shape to give to my College - Allegheny - and I like to pick up interesting items of this sort. I shall appreciate it if you are willing to do this.

Mr. Paul M. Angle
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