

Copy of the letter signed Paul M. ^Angle (or Angel I cannot read the signature .)

Mr. Markens apparently read everything he could find on Lincoln and talked with everyone who claimed to have known him . He evidently made notes of his most interesting gleanings and threw them together in this MS. without much system and without subjecting them to critical analysis . The result is a body of material of little value .

Much which may have been new when first written has been superseded in the last two or three years . Thus Section One , the Gettysburg Address is made a back number by Barton's " Lincoln at Gettysburg " recently published by Bobbs-Merrill . Lloyd Lewis ' " Myths After Lincoln " antiquates Marken's Section Three . The Assassination, Bixby Letter is old stuff since the publication of Barton's " A Beautiful Blunder . "

Moreover too much of the MS. is made up of quotations from readily accessible books . " Sayings not Popularly Familiar " is almost all to be found in the anthology included in " The Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln . " Lincoln's Military Knowledge " is largely a rehash of two recent books by English military critics both of which have enjoyed a fairly extensive circulation . Most of ^{the} sections " Lincoln's Relations with his Cabinet " , and " Sundry Influences in his Life " , may be found in any life of Lincoln .

I can explain what I mean by absence of ^{al} ~~criticism~~ analysis by one or two examples picked at random . Take section eleven [In this Markens tells that Lincoln received his first strong idea of making something of himself from Aaron Grigsby etc. ^{KUR}] This is without any foundation in fact . The Bryant story is exaggerated far beyond Bryants own account as printed in his prose works . The McCormick story is all bunk . Lincoln represented Manny, McCormick's opponent in this trial . Or take section 18 , [" Lincoln as Politician "] The first paragraph [Lincoln supporting Jackson for democratic nominee] is contradicted by Lincoln's own statement that he supported Henry Clay .

Lincoln's own statement amply supported by other testimony, contradicts the second statement [He was creating the Republican party]

Another paragraph [relating to Lincoln's choice of ^{Douglas} ~~Rockwell~~ for cabinet office which fell through because of Douglas' death] is pure bunk. Lincoln's cabinet was formed months prior to the death of Douglas. The paragraph [about Lincoln preparing his debate with Douglas at Atlanta] is worthless because a minute check of Lincoln's movements shows that he could not have spent a night in Atlanta between August 12 when he opened his campaign and August 27 the date of the "reeport debate".

The letters of Robert Lincoln constitute the only element of value in this MS. . Even here the value is apparent rather than real for Robert Lincoln, as Markens himself wrote me not long before his death, was surprisingly ignorant of the facts of his father's life. However since he was very reluctant to write about his father an interesting magazine article might be made from his letters, but that is all.

(I have had to insert the references as he gave sections and pages by number I.L.R.)
you need not return this