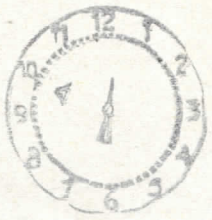
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DEARBORN

JOSEPH BENJAMIN OAKLEAF
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

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May 2nd, 1925.



The Dearborn Publishing Company,

Dearborn, Michigan.

Gentlemen:- Attention: Mr. P. L. Black

I have your favor of the 30th ult., in answer to mine of April 24th and I thank you for the courtesy extended me.

I think I had better enlarge upon you the reason why I am writing you. I have a very large collection of Lincolniana, in fact it is considered the largest in private hands and I have just finished a manuscript of a bibliography of Lincoln literature.

In 1906, Daniel Fish of Minneapolis, published a bibliography of Lincoln literature, which contained 1089 titles; mine will not include those listed in the Fish bibliography, but will include those that Fish missed and those that have been published since that time. I will have 1534 titles, and in addition thereto, a number of titles that are taken care of in foot notes. I have attempted to get everything that is published, and I have been reasonably successful.

I am enclosing herewith a prospectus of the bibliography, which may interest you. The bibliography will be a great deal better than the prospectus will lead you to believe, for the reason it will be on hand made paper and there will be more illustrations than are mentioned in the prospectus. The bibliography will be issued about July 1st.

Now to the matter in hand. I am going to write a one volume Life of Abraham Lincoln that will be ready by the Holidays and I am going to put in a chapter concerning the Booth affair, and as you have made such a thorough investigation, I want to cover matters that you are publishing.

We had a man here who died during the winter who was quite old, who claimed he was the only man who knew where Booth was buried and when he died, the secret died with

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him. Then this Bates book has been commented upon considerably of late and Dr. Barton in his new Life of Lincoln, disposed of the matter in a fashion; then you will re-call to mind, that a woman who claimed to be a niece of Booth who lived in Minneapolis, came out in print and stated that Bates was right - that it wasn't Booth who was killed in the barn. Also a man came out recently in print and stated that the reward that had been offered, had never been paid.

Just what part of your matter I will use, I cannot tell at the present time, but, no doubt, your book will be published before I will have much written of mine, so I shall ask you to bear me in mind and send me a copy of your book, autographed, with bill and I shall be pleased to remit.

I know, as a rule, that the Independent destroys the cuts but I thought these cuts were too valuable to be destroyed. When the time comes, I will ask for such cuts as I may desire.

My book will be a complete Life of Lincoln, and I will have just enough in it so that it will interest the general reader. I will not attempt anything like Barton or Nathaniel W. Stephenson have.

When your book is published, I can then advise you just exactly what cuts I will need. There will be a chapter on the matter that you have gone into, but of course, it will be very much abbreviated.

I thank you for the courtesy extended; and I also compliment you upon the way you have handled the Booth matter; it is a very timely article.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH BENJAMIN OAKLEAF