

653. Broadway N.Y  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 1865.

My dear Meyer,

It is so long since you and I have written each other that I am in some doubt if you will recognize either the hand, or the signature? -

I have thought of my duty, to you a great many times. - but as you perhaps know I have had a great deal upon my hands during the last year and half, and have had so many business letters to write, that my old friends have been neglected.

I was in Washington six months, I worked so incessantly upon my large canvas, that the result was a sickness after I got the picture on exhibition

which came near ending my  
work in this world. - I was  
attacked with dropsy of the  
chest, about 12 days after  
I opened the picture to the  
public, - was <sup>20</sup> sick, ~~so~~  
that I have not until quite  
recently felt like painting  
in earnest. I am now  
hard at work again, however.

My extensive undertaking  
is likely to turn out well,  
though the picture is full  
of faults. - It has been  
very popular, is now in  
Chicago. - It may get  
around to Syracuse, one  
of these days. -

With the knowledge I  
have acquired, in studying  
and painting it, I feel  
that I could now take

of such a subject, and do  
much better. It was no  
"child's play" I assure you.

I wish you could have  
known Mr Lincoln. - I remember  
you had a great contempt  
for him when I last visited  
you. - but if you could  
have seen him as I did, and  
realized how simple he was  
in his great position, how  
little he was affected by  
what people thought and said,  
how earnest he was to do his  
best for the country, - how  
perfectly true to himself under  
all circumstances, - never  
affecting a dignity he did not  
possess, or assuming to be any  
thing but honestly, plain, common  
sense, "Mr. Lincoln, of Springfield  
Ill." - - I believe if you could

have seen all this, you would  
have come to have a sincere  
respect for him. As Tennyson  
says, "In his simplicity he was  
sublime." — — Now that  
he is gone, — people began to  
appreciate, not only his great  
tenderness of heart and <sup>real</sup> goodness  
of nature, — but his sagacity,  
and wisdom. — —

The exhibition this year  
is crowded with visitors as it  
has never been. — The galleries  
are too narrow, but on the whole  
the building presents a fine  
appearance. — The pictures 20:20,  
— I have spent but little time

there, as yet, — and had no  
time to go through the catalogue  
carefully for you as of old  
but I send you a catalogue  
nevertheless. — Can't you  
come down and see for yourself

We are living in our own house  
296, West 45<sup>th</sup> St, and would  
be very glad to see you and Mrs. Thayer  
at any time. — With respects to Mrs. — B. of old —  
yours, — Frank Carpenter