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as to whether to write to him.

I have explained at some length  
the reasons of the meagreness of my  
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the little value of this letter to that  
cause.

With great respect, I am

Very sincerely yours

Robert T. Lincoln

Dr. J. G. Holland  
H  
H

Robert T. Lincoln

Chicago June 6<sup>th</sup> /63-

My dear Sir

Your letter was one of  
some days ago, & I have unfortunately  
mislaid it, so that I have to answer  
it from memory.

As I understand you propose  
it is to write a biography which is  
to be rather personal than political.

With regard to sources of information  
I may be able to point you a little.

One of my Father's old time friends  
is Dr. A. G. Henry, of Washington  
Territory, who is now at Washington  
City, D. C. & who may be addressed in  
Care of Senator Williams <sup>at Washington D.C.</sup>. He was  
very intimate with him after some time  
in 1830-35 & will be glad to help you  
all he can. Another of his friends of

the same period is Joshua F. Speed, of  
Louisville, Kentucky, a gentleman  
for whom willing assistance I  
can also make. Both of these  
gentlemen will be able to direct  
you further, better than I can. My  
Father's life was of a kind which  
gave me but little opportunity to  
learn the details of his early career.  
During my childhood & early youth  
he was almost constantly away  
from home, attending courts or  
making political speeches. In 1839  
when I was sixteen & when he was  
beginning to devote himself more  
to practice in his own neighborhood,  
& when I would have had both the  
inclination & the means to gratify my  
desire to become better acquainted

with the history of his early struggles,  
I went to New Hampshire to  
school & afterwards to Harvard  
College & he became President -  
Therefore any great intimacy between  
us became impossible. I scarcely  
ever had ten minutes quiet talk  
with him during his Presidency, on  
account of his constant devotion to  
business.

All of his private papers are  
in my possession but are in such  
a confused state that they cannot  
now be got at, even if they were of  
such a nature as to warrant present  
publication. I offer of course to the  
papers relating to the Administration.  
I omitted to mention the name  
of William H. Hendon of Springfield Ill.



Chicago June 6<sup>th</sup> / 63-

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Lincoln Collection  
University of Chicago

22

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Lincoln Call  
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ROBERT T. LINCOLN WRITES DR. J. G. HOLLAND  
A FEW WEEKS AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH:

"I SCARCELY EVER HAD TEN MINUTES  
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(JUNE 6TH, 1865.)

