New Orleans. Apr. 8, 1858.

Abraham Lincoln, Esq.
Springfield.

Dear Sir,

At the suggestion of a mutual friend whom I have known and revered many years—Rev. James Smith, D.D—I address you.

My object is, on behalf of orphan children, to inquire concerning the present condition of a tract of about 1000 acres more or less—I am not certain as to the amount of land—which lies in your county some years ago belonged to Mr. Abram A. Halsey & Mr. E. Lane, the former of Mississippi now deceased—the latter, I think, now of Oxford, Ohio. My object is to learn especially whether any title remains in Mr. Halsey's children? I have written to Mr. Lane, but need no
reply I fear he may deem it an annoyance if I do so again.
I think they owned it jointly, but am not quite certain of it. My impression is that it was situated to the
South East of your county seat; but of this I am by no means sure.
They owned it or about the year 1835 to 1840, & I have heard something
of their intention to donate it to the Amer. Bd. Cours. for Foreign Missions.
Whether this was ever done by Mr. Hal- 
sey I do not know. His children one
of whom is in India, get nothing from
their father, he having died abroad &
insolvent; this always a most excel-
 lent & pious man, and very much
needed anything that may be justly theirs.
From what Dr. Smith tells me of you
Sir, I feel that you are just the per-
son to whom they can apply with the
best assurance of having their title
fairly examined & truly stated to them.
Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience if you deem it proper meantime to incur any moderate expense in ascertaining the facts about which I inquire. I will cheerfully remit to you for that purpose, as well as for your professional services.

Enclose you a circular of a firm with which I was until last winter connected in the business of which I now retain alone.

All the references at foot, know me personally.

With great respect I am Sir,
Yours very truly

J. S. Copes.
A Lincoln, Esq.
ally at law
Springfield
Illinois
I must
See Jesse A. Pickree soon
this letter that in 1909