

163
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FIFTY-NINTH CONGRESS, U.S.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Washington, D.C. July 21 1866

Dear Sir,

The more I examine the portrait of Mr. Lincoln, (which you were so kind as to present for the adornment of the Speaker's Room,) the more I am struck with its excellence both as a likeness and a work of art.

Our beloved but murdered President, it always seemed to me, had what may be called a flexible face, reflecting on its surface the deep feelings he so often struggled within him. I could tell at a glance, when I met him, whether he had

received bad news, & whether all
was calm within. This flexibility of feature
causes the slight difference observable
in the many excellent portraits of him
before the public. You have caught his
expression when he was calm but grave,
and the most casual observer can see
that it is the face of one whose heart
was full of kindness, even when his will
was stern & inflexible in obeying the
demands of Duty. The picture reminds
me of him as he looked the evening before
the Inauguration Ball of 1865, when the
Rebel Armies were still in the field, & he
spoke so sadly of the long years & bloody
sacrifices of the War, & yet so hopefully of the
success he was ~~so~~ certain Providence had in
store for us. You can imagine therefore how
highly I appreciate & value it.

Yrs very truly
Wm. C. Marshall Esq. *Sharp & Co. Copy*