

LINCOLN'S LETTER TO MRS. BIXBY

By ABRAHAM LINCOLN
November 21, 1864

Executive Mansion,
Washington, November 21,
1864.

Mrs. Bixby, Boston,
Massachusetts:

Dear Madam: I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile



you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,
Abraham Lincoln.

Mrs. BIXBY, the recipient of the following letter from President LINCOLN, is a poor widow living in the Eleventh Ward of Boston. Her sixth son, who was severely wounded in a recent battle, is now lying in the Readville Hospital:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, }
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DEAR MADAM:—I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully.

A. LINCOLN.
To Mrs. BIXBY, Boston, Mass.