

The Grace Letter to Lincoln: A Precious Relic from a Pivotal Moment in American History

A Heartfelt Plea to a President

Amidst the chaos and bloodshed of the American Civil War, a young girl named Grace Bedell wrote a simple letter to President Abraham Lincoln. Her words, penned with a child's innocence, carried a plea that would resonate through the annals of history.

Excuse my intrusion,
 April 5, 1864.
 Dear Horace Mann
 Madam,

The petition of persons under eighteen, praying that I would free all slave children, and the heading of which petition it appears you wrote, was handed me a few days since by Senator Sumner. Please tell these little people I am very glad their young hearts are so full of pure and generous sympathy, and that, while I have not the power to grant all they ask, I trust they will remember that God has, and that, as it seems, He will, to do it.

Yours truly
 A. Lincoln



Grace's Letter to Lincoln by Connie Roop

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
 File size : 2337 KB
 Text-to-Speech : Enabled
 Screen Reader : Supported
 Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
 Word Wise : Enabled
 Print length : 60 pages



The Letter's Content

In her letter, dated October 19, 1860, Grace implored Lincoln to "let your whiskers grow" as a way to appeal to potential voters. She believed that his clean-shaven appearance made him seem too "thin" and "unmanly."

Grace's suggestion may seem whimsical, but it reflected the cultural norms of the time. A full beard was seen as a symbol of virility and authority, and Lincoln's eventual decision to grow one may have been influenced by Grace's plea.

The Letter's Impact

Lincoln's response to Grace's letter was equally heartwarming. He thanked her for her advice and promised to "try." Whether or not Grace's suggestion directly swayed Lincoln's beard-growing decision is uncertain, but the exchange between a child and the president of the United States became a cherished moment in American history.

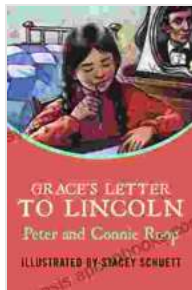
Grace's letter is more than just a historical curiosity. It is a reminder of the power of ordinary people to influence even the most momentous events. It also underscores the importance of compassion and kindness, even in the midst of conflict and division.

The Letter Today

Today, the Grace Letter to Lincoln is preserved as a national relic in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. It is a poignant testament to the indomitable spirit of a young girl who believed in the power of change.

The letter's enduring legacy is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, hope can emerge from the most unexpected places. It is a story that continues to inspire and captivate generations of Americans.

The Grace Letter to Lincoln is a priceless artifact that offers a glimpse into the human side of the American Civil War. It is a reminder of the power of individual voices and the profound impact that seemingly small gestures can have on history. As we grapple with the challenges of our own time, let us draw inspiration from Grace Bedell's spirit of hope and determination.



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