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Letter, Vinnie Ream to Mrs. Nealy, January 26, 1870

Vinnie Reams

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Lamen sudio - 78-Via ai san Basilio Rome Jan 26th 1840 My Drad Mas the your very kind and graceful. letter reached me promptly in my Stalian home, where as you Hay I am surrounded by scenes full of classic memory- runs rul with prisy-romance and traque history - On every side the mecks of Stately grandeus - the crunkling monuments of fallen conquerors. the story of dead Empires_ Among them all my heart turns fondly to our brantiful America fish and bright and splendid in her youthful

to this country of the Past I could not have realized without actual presence here, where the climbing iny and crumbling walks - the very wind among the cypresses, all till the Inoverfile history of a Nation humbled in the dust. It was with great pleasure! read your Kind words - I thank you for the generous symplathy you fleet for me In my brautiful I study of art. I truste to bring back In the me to my Matin band

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auch work as my friends will voulde be delighted with the horgiess I am making with the divicolo statue, lande it has been most gratifying to me, that the model which I made in America has been highly approved of by such men as Mrs Story and Mr Healy - Mey are my near neighbors, and my good Junds - Ma Haly's Studio I's in the dame building with mine, and he could not or kinder to me, Than

he is - I am going to make it back with me to America I shall be greatly pleased to hear from you often, and hope you will mot forget the varies which you have promised Such a trilfate from you, will be very highly appreciated by me - Write to me of yourself. and your surrounddings and in freturn I may be fable to write to you of home of the Conniel of tomalking inter-esting. I will tell you in my next more of my studio

Studio - 45-Ilia di San Basilio

and works The model for the dincola Statue - the bust of metar Dore, and the likeness of father Agacinthe seems to allhait a I great deal of attentions - Shave also in my etudio a bust L'Vars une Fremout which ! Imade in Tasis, and a likeness I the great rerman painter Kaulblach, which & modeled in his studio in minich-1 have a very large photograph of Mrs. Sincoln, surrounded Hy a weath of Roman Cypress, and the large American Hag, bless E: 1 Jestooned over

it, and I have two hende glay crossed over the Doie bust, and the picture which he presented to me to you cans have some idea of how my Isludio looke - I have four Kind filiends here on every tide also Jusion of exquite flowers, and " these was are awakined by a siver Italian serenade-the serenades brought here, and stationed under and window, by some Americans, almost always - My good Parents are neat comfort and happiness to me a me-Inclose you a fers leaves gathered The Coliseurf, and will collect some her places of interest, to take tog mo his family, and also to the membro Lyour our household -I will hope to hear from your boon, and that way happines may be your.

Studio- 45 Via di San Basilio Rome- Jan 26th 1870

My Dear Mrs Nealy

Your very kind and graceful letter reached me promptly in my Italian home, where as you say I am surrounded by a scenes full of classic memory- ruins rich with poesy, romance and tragic history. On every side the wrecks of stately grandeur- the crumbling monuments of fallen conquerors- thestory of dead empires- Among them all, my heart turns fondly to our beautiful America- fresh and bright and splendid in her youthful lovliness. So great a contrast to this Country of the Past, I could not have realized without actual presence here, where the climbing ivy and crumbling wall- the very wind among the cypresses, all tell the mournful history of a Nation humbled in the dust.

It was with great pleasure I read your kind words-I thank you for the generous sympathy you feel for me in my beautiful study of art. I trust to bring back with me to my Native Land such work as my friends will be proud of- I am sure you would be delighted with the progress I am making with the Lincoln statue, and it has been most gratifying to me, that the model which I made in America has been highly approved of, by such men as Mr. Story and Mr. Healy- They are my near neighbors, and my good friends- Mr Healy's studio is in the same building with mine, and he could not be kinder to me, than he is-I am going to make a bust of him, and bring it back with me to America-I shall be greatly pleased to hear from you often, and

hope you will not forget the verses which you have promised-Such a tribute from you, will be very highly appreciated by me- Write to me of yourself, and your surroundings, and in return I may be able to write to you of Rome- of the Council- of something interesting- I will tell you in my next more of my studio and works- The model for the Lincoln Statue- the bust of Gustave Dore, and the likeness of Father Hyacinthe, seem to attract a great deal of attention- I have also in my studio a bust of Mrs Genl Fremont which I made in Paris, and a likeness of the great German painter Kaulbach, which I modeled in his studio in Munich- I have a very large photograph of Mr. Lincoln, surrounded by a wreath of Roman cypress, and the large American Flag, (bless it !) festooned over it, and I have two French flags crossed over the Dore bust, and the picture which he presented to me- so you can have some idea of how my studio looks- I have found kind friends here on every side who keep my rooms supplied with a profusion of exquisite flowers, and very frequently on star light nights like these, we are awakened by a sweet Italian serenade- the serenaders brought here, and stationed under our window, by some Americans, almost always-My good Parents are a great comfort and happiness to me, and I am so thankful to have them with me-

I enclose you a few leaves gathered in the Coliscum, and will collect some from places of interest, to take to you when I return-

Please present me very kindly to Mr Orth and his family, and also to the members of your own household-

I will hope to hear from you soon, and that every happiness may be yours- With great regard-

Vinnie Ream