

A VALUABLE WRITING.

After the official canvass of the votes, a committee of the two Houses of Congress was appointed to notify Mr. Lincoln of his second election as President of the United States. The committee consisted of the Hon. Lyman Trumbull of Illinois on the part of the Senate, and Hon. Messrs. James F. Wilson, of Iowa, and John F. Dawson, of Pennsylvania. Waiting upon him at the Executive Mansion, the committee by its chairman notified him of his election to a second term. Mr. Lincoln, in anticipation of this official visit, had his acceptance written by his own hand, and filling a little more than half a page of old-fashioned letter paper, ready for the occasion. He read it as follows:

Having served four years in the depths of a great and yet unended national peril, I can view this call to a second term in nowise more flattering to myself than as an expression of the public judgment that I may better finish a difficult work, in which I have labored from the first, than could any one less severely schooled to the task. In this view, and with assured reliance on that Almighty Ruler who has so graciously sustained us thus far, and with increased gratitude to the generous people for their continued confidence, I accept the renewed trust with its yet onerous and perplexing duties and responsibilities.

When the official ceremony was over Mr. Wilson said: "With your permission, Mr. President, I would be glad to keep that page of manuscript." "You are very welcome to it," replied Mr. Lincoln, handing it to Mr. Wilson. This official paper, which was Mr. Lincoln's formal acceptance of his second term as President of the United States, was retained by Senator Wilson until his death, and is now in the possession of his family at Fairfield. They kindly permitted it to be kept for several months on exhibition in the Historical Department at the Capitol, consenting also that it should be photographed and reproduced in facsimile in these pages. The Department is in possession of another very valuable page written by Mr. Lincoln, aside from eight fine letters and many signatures, but this is doubtless the most precious manuscript in Iowa, and it would bring the most money at a sale by auction in the city of New York. In the original document, of which this is an exact facsimile, the seven explanatory lines at the bottom of the page were written by Senator Wilson.

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