

April 14th 1843

Friend Morris

I have heard it insinuated that Baker has been attempting to get you or Miles or both of you to violate the instructions of the meeting that appointed you to go for him. I have insisted and still insist that this can not be true. Surely the par would not do the like. As well might Hardin ask me to vote for him in the convention.

Again, it is said there will be an attempt to get up instructions in your county requiring you to go for Baker. This is all wrong again. Upon the same rule, why might I not fly from the decision against me in Sangamon and get up instructions to their whigs in the county, that took no part. And yet I would as soon put my head in the fire as to attempt it. I would feel myself strongly dishonored by it.

Besides, if any one should get the nomination by such extraordinary means, all harmony in the district would inevitably be lost. Honest whigs (and very nearly all of them are honest) will not quietly abide such a nomination. I repeat, such an attempt on Baker's part can not be true. Write me at Springfield, how the matter is. Dont show or speak of this letter.

As ever yours
A. Lincoln

Transcription:

April 14, 1843.

Friend Morris:

I have heard it insinuated that Baker has been attempting to get you or Miles or both of you to violate the instructions of the meeting that appointed you to go for him. I have insisted and still insist that this cannot be true. Surely Baker would not do the like. As well might Hardin ask me to vote for him in the convention.

Again, it is said there will be an attempt to get up instructions in your county requiring you to go for Baker. This is all wrong again. Upon the same rule, why might I not fly from the decision against me in Sangamon and get up instructions to their delegation to go for me. There are at least twelve hundred whigs in the county, that took no part. And yet I would as soon put my head in the fire as to attempt it. I would feel myself strongly dishonored by it.

Besides, if any one should get the nomination by such extraordinary means, all harmony in the district would inevitably be lost. Honest whigs (and very nearly all of them are honest) will not quietly abide such enormities. I repeat, such an attempt on Baker's part can not be true. Write me at Springfield, how the matter is. Dont show or speak of this letter.

As ever yours
A. LINCOLN

ANNALS OF IOWA

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THIRD SERIES

THE LINCOLN MASS OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

BY EDGAR R. HARLAN

Herewith we reproduce in facsimile all original letters from the hand of Abraham Lincoln known to be owned by the State of Iowa. They all came by gift to the Historical Department from those addressed or from their heirs. No comment, other than the explanatory notes we make, is needed. For everyone who is versed in Iowa history knows all to whom Lincoln wrote these letters. All others who are expert in Lincoln lore seek only the thoughts of Lincoln. These letters are authenticated by the script of the Lincoln hand.

It is interesting to note that by both land and water routes peoples had come into and gone from the area including the mouths of the Illinois and the Missouri rivers throughout untold generations prior to white men's arrival. These paths leading to and from the Cumberland Gap and the Alleghenies and beyond, beginning like rivulets, then rose almost to flooded outlets from reservoirs of civilized society. Flowing by gravity along these ancient channels to their confluences, they finally commingle in the social lowlands of the Lincoln region. From the stuff for civilization they carried in suspension there slowly precipitated that solid character and consistency of purpose of a people for which the entire area is now historically known. As this mass rose and leveled back along the affluents of the Mississippi it formed a people of common level and uniform consistency, with neither strata nor fault of structure.

We feel that these letters support the proposition seldom exhaustively discussed if ever stated by accepted authority, that Lincoln was not different unless in height and breadth from those who composed society about him. The earliest of these letters reveals him clearly. It also reveals his correspondent no less

clearly. Lincoln drained through his quill and across the page into the mind of his correspondent, part of his own character. Had that letter been received by a weak hand and read only by a negative mind, it would yet have revealed Lincoln's purpose, process of thought and method of expression. His strength and style would have been as fully shown. But that letter reached its destination; bore into another's strong mind a part of Lincoln's, making of the matter mutual thought and moving two minds to act, and to act as one. And so it is with all the letters we have here set out.

Each letter is not only self-proved, but is addressed to a person who at the time of its receipt or afterward, was a citizen of Iowa. So Lincoln influenced, was influenced by and mutually performed or refrained from performing in association with these Iowa men. By other evidence, of course, immeasurably more was done by Lincoln and Iowa men in consequence of other contacts, direct or indirect. That helps one to see that there was no interval in time or space between the people of the settlements and between those of the states in the upper Mississippi Valley on and earlier than Lincoln's death April 15, 1865. There had been both constancy and consistency of Anglo-Saxon blood flowing into that area coursing through the heart of the English common law throughout the time after the English acquired the eastern, and the United States the western portion from the French. Society, as we conceive it, solidly established itself, filled that social vacuum with people such as Lincoln—a mass that might now or later be thought of as the Lincoln Mass.

It is true that Lincoln was distinguished beyond others of his mass. It was the mere difference of altitude and expanse. Facts and forces that actuated or impelled him worked throughout the mass. Lincoln was a railsplitter, but only one of thousands of them. Lincoln was a lawyer, a surveyor, a legislator, but neither alone, nor conspicuous as such. He was but second in all these to hundreds of his mass. Nor did he claim, or aim at fame through any of them. What he aimed at and what is here claimed for him is that, as shown by these letters and the thousands like them, he was with and of the mass and rose above without rising from it; remained of its grain and fiber; supported and was supported by the common genius and purposes of his mass. That

this mass was of Illinois is clear, but not clearer than that it was not all of Illinois, or that Illinois was not the whole of it. The mass was never cloven by boundaries of counties or states earlier than or during his time, as Lincoln's identity is not split today by the boundaries of nations, languages or cultures.

Circumstances showing the consistency of the mass, recognized in early Iowa, are still apparent. Lincoln and Peter Cartright were briefly in contact as politicians, but Cartright's empire was Methodism, whose paths he trod to the uttermost limits of that expanse, even to camp meeting grounds in Van Buren County, Iowa. The widowed mother of Ann Rutledge took Presbyterian paths. Among her surviving children and among scores of the pioneers of this Lincoln mass of people she spent her last years in the same county. Mrs. Nannie B. Manning, George C. Duffield and others of Keosauqua attended Lincoln's funeral at Springfield, in frontier spirit of neighborly respect.

These letters, as mere utterances of Lincoln, were and remain vital. They established and now prove mutuality of thought and action by Lincoln with those receiving them. To an extent the recipients are shown to have added to the bulk of Lincoln. From a fragment of this Lincoln Mass two hundred years deep and a thousand miles across, our state was formed. The letters imply that whoever studies Lincoln but overlooks the Iowa portion of this Lincoln Mass, has not fully surveyed the Lincoln theme. Whoever knew or knows only Lincoln, yet knew none or few of the persons, processes and events of that whole mass from which Lincoln rose, is an unreliable leader of thought through the history, philosophy, tradition or romance of Abraham Lincoln. Interpretation of these letters will amply indicate that as Iowa was formed of the Lincoln Mass so Lincoln was of Iowa both in symbol and in fact.

Springfield, Ill., Sep. 1. 1859.

Hawkins, Taylor, Esq.

My dear Sir,

Yours of the 3rd is just received.

There is some mistake about my expected attendance of the W. S. Court in your City on the 3rd Tuesday of this month. I have had no thought of being there. It is hard to be poor. I shall go to the well for bread and meat, if I neglect my business in this year as well as last. It would please me much to see the late, and good people, of Kentucky, but for this year it is little less than an impossibility. I am constantly receiving invitations which I am compelled to decline. I was pressing urged to go to Minnesota, and I now have two invitations to go to Ohio. These last are prompted by Douglas' going there, and I am really tempted to make a flying trip to Columbus & Cincinnati.

I do hope you will have no serious trouble in Iowa. What thinks Quincy about it? I have not known how to be mistaken about an election in Iowa. Present my respects to Col. Carter, & my other friends, and believe me

Yours truly,
A. Lincoln

Springfield, Ill., April 21, 1860
Hawkins Taylor, Esq.

My dear Sir:

Yours of the 15th is just received. It surprises me that you have written twice, without receiving an answer. I have ~~been~~ answered all I ever received from you; and certainly one since my return from the East.

Opinions here, as to the prospect of Douglas being nominated, are quite conflicting—some very confident he will, some other that he will not be. I think his nomination possible; but that the chances are against him.

I am glad there is a prospect of your party passing this way to Chicago. Wishing to make your visit here as pleasant as we can, we wish you to notify us as soon as possible, whether you come this way, how many, and when you will arrive.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln

Springfield, Ill. - Aug. 11. 1860
Mr. B. Miner, Esq

Dear Sir

Yours of the 7th with
newspaper slip attached, is received;
and for which I thank you -

Yours truly
A. Lincoln

Executive Mansion.

March 12. 1861

Hon. Postmaster General

My dear Sir

I understand

that the outgoing and incoming
Representatives for the Cleveland
District, unite in recommending
Edwin Cowley for P. M. in that
city; that Senator Wade has
considered the case & declines
to interfere; & that no other P. M.
interferes - Knowing these circum-
stances, if correct, I think Mr.
Cowley better be appointed.

Yours truly

Abner

NOTE: Letters addressed to Postmaster General were transmitted to John A. Kasson, Assistant Postmaster General, and were by him given to the State of Iowa.

Executive Mansion

March 13. 1861

Hon. P. M. G.

Dear Sir

The bearer of this
Mr. C. J. Hempston, is a
Virginian who wishes to get,
for his son, a small piece
in your Dept. I think
Virginian should be heard,
in such cases.

Lincoln

Executive Mansion,

Washington, April 24, 1862

Hon. Post-Master General

My dear Sir

The members of Congress from the District including Tiffin call on me about the Post-Master at that place. I believe I turned over a despatch to you from some persons there, asking a suspension, so as for them to be heard, or something of the sort. If nothing, or nothing amounting to anything, has been done, I think the suspension might now be suspended, and the Commission go forward.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

Executive Mansion,

Washington, July 31, 1862

Hon Joseph A. Wright

My Dear Sir,

Our mutual
friends R. W. Thompson, and
John P. Usher assure me that
they believe you, more certainly
than any other man, can
carry the Terre Haute District
for the Union cause. Please
try. The effort shall not go
unappreciated, so far as I am
concerned.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln



Executive Mansion,

Washington Aug. 21, 1862.

Hon. Wm. Salcott

My dear Sir

I have determined
to appoint you Collector, &
now have a very special re-
quest to make of you, which
is that you will make no award
upon Mr. Washburn, who is
also my friend of longer
standing than yourself. I
shall ever be obliged if
you can do something for
him of occasion presents.

Yours, truly,

A. Lincoln

AN ACT to regulate the duties of the Clerk of the House of Representatives in preparing for the organization of the House.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, before the first meeting of the next Congress, and of every subsequent Congress, the Clerk of the next preceding House of Representatives shall make a roll of the representatives elect, and place thereon the names of all persons, and of such persons only, whose credentials show that they were regularly elected in accordance with the laws of their States respectively, or the laws of the United States

Approved March 3, 1863.

Executive Mansion
Washington D.C. Oct. 29, 1863.

Hon. James M. Guimes

My dear Sir:

The above act of Congress was passed, as I suppose, for the purpose of shutting out improper applicants for seats in the House of Representatives; and I fear there is some danger that it will be used to shut out proper ones. Iowa, having an entire Union's delegation, will be one of the States, the attempt will be made upon, if upon any.

The Governor doubtless has passed out the Certificates, and they are already in the hands of the members. I suggest that they come on with them; but that, for greater caution, you, and perhaps Mr. Barlow with you, consult with the Governor, and have an additional set made out according to the form on the other half of this sheet; and still another set, if you can, by straggling the law, think of a form that in your judgment, promises additional security, and quietly bring the whole on with you, to be used in case of necessity. Let what you go be kept still

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

Executive Mansion
Washington, July 15. 1864

Hon. Horace Greeley
New-York

I suppose you received my letter
of the 9th I have just received yours of the 13th
and am disappointed by it. I was not expecting you
to pen me a letter, but to bring me a man, or
man. Mr. Hoag goes to you with my answer to yours
of the 13th.

A. Lincoln

128 24
Recd 11.25 am
sent 12/33 @m
By
S. S. Jewell Ex. Man

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 no wise 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 continuous confidence, I accept the renewed trust, with its yet onerous and perplexing duties and responsibilities.

Please communicate this to the two Houses of Congress.

The above is the original manuscript of Abraham Lincoln's acceptance of his second presidential term in his own hand writing, delivered to the Joint Committee of Congress appointed to inform him officially of his election.

The committee consisted of

Senator Lyman Sumner of Ill.

Representative J. Wilson of Iowa, and Rep. John L. Dawson of Penna.

O Captain! my Captain!

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,
 The ship has weathered every rack, the prize we sought
 is won,
 The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
 While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;
 But O heart! heart! heart!
 O the bleeding drops of red,
 Where on the deck my Captain lies,
 Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;
 Rise up - for you the flag is flung - for you the bugle trills,
 For you bouquets and ribboned wreaths - for you the
 shores a-crowding,
 For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;
 Here Captain! dear father!
 This arm beneath your head;
 It is some dream that on the deck,
 You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,
 My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,
 The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,
 From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won,
 Exult O shores and ring O bells!
 But I with mournful tread,
 Walk the deck my Captain lies,
 Fallen cold and dead.

Walt Whitman
 with best wishes prayers & love for the
 people of Iowa — W W

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