

*Cunningham & Boggs.*

Urbana, Ill., June 1, 1896. 189

My Dear Miss TARBELL::

After an absence of four weeks in attendance as a delegate at the M. E. General Conference at Cleveland, I find upon my return your letter of the 13th of May, which I regret could not have been sooner answered.

During most of the time intervening between the time that Mr. Lincoln began practice and the date of his retirement from it in 1860, there were few railroads in the state and the means of communication with the places where the Supreme Court was held was only by private conveyance. This fact deterred many lawyers from following their cases to that court and gave the lawyers at the capitol the advantage. That fact together with the standing held by Mr. L. at the bar, accounts for the large proportion of cases tried by him in the Supreme Court. Whoever says that Mr. Lincoln was held in low estimate as a lawyer, is mistaken. I think he was no ordinary lawyer, and the high order of clientage held by him corroborates my estimate. Things have very much changed since his day. Did he live now and hold no larger or more profitable business than he then held then, a low estimate might well be made of his standing. But we must judge it by the times in which he practiced and not by times as they are now, as some would do.

Twentyxcasexxax

Five cases a year in the Supreme Court would be an extraordinary number for a first class lawyer at this date.

Yours,

