1898-01-21

Letter: Samuel Bowles to Ida M. Tarbell, January 21, 1898

Bowles, Samuel

http://hdl.handle.net/10456/27301

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:—  
Replying to your letter of the 20th., I regret to say that I do not possess the photograph from which this old picture of Lincoln was made. The photograph appears to have been lost. The cut which we used in the paper was copied from a lithograph made by the Milton Bradley Co. of this city from the photograph. The Bradley Co. say that they have one copy of the lithograph, which they value highly and wish to keep, but they can have a half tone reproduction of it made for you in this city, if you desire.

I return the newspaper clipping.

Yours truly,

Samuel Bowles
THE HISTORY OF A PICTURE.

EARLY ONE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

Which Might Have Appeared in The Republican Many Years Ago.

There are many things incidentally connected with the history of The Republican that are worth noting in connection with an anniversary like this, which lie a little outside of its record as a daily newspaper. The picture of Abraham Lincoln which appears here is a reduced facsimile of one which was published here in Springfield in the early summer of 1860, shortly after Mr. Lincoln was nominated for president by the republican party, and it was probably the first one issued for campaign purposes. It was reproduced from a photograph which Samuel Bowles, the editor of The Republican, brought back with him from Illinois, after reporting the famous convention for his paper, so that his friends and neighbors would form some idea of how the candidate looked. He could not put it in the paper, for no "cuts" of any description were allowed there in those days, so the picture was merely "handed around" a limited circle. It was regarded as a decided curiosity, as being not only the picture of an obscure man who had suddenly become the object of universal interest, but because it was a large photograph of cabbage, whereas the public were familiar with only the ordinary card pictures.

At that time there were two men in making some of