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WASHINGTON,  
D. C.

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Librarian Columbian University Library,  
Columbia University, New York City.

My dear Sir,

In a recent number of the "American Advertiser"  
there was an article on a volume of manuscript letters by the  
presidents of the United States, said to be in your Library.  
Among those quoted was the following:

Executive Mansion,  
Washington, May 9, 1864.

Mrs. Sarah B. Meconkey (West Chester, Pa):

Madam- Our mutual friend, Judge Lewis, tells me you do me the  
honor to inquire for my personal welfare. I have been very an-  
xious for some days in regard to our armies in the field, but  
am considerably cheered, just now, by favorable news from them. I  
am sure that you will join me in the hope for their further suc-  
cess; while yourself, <sup>and</sup> other good mothers, wives, sisters, and  
daughters, do all you and they can, to relieve and comfort the  
gallant soldiers who compose them. Yours truly  
A. Lincoln."

I am just now preparing for publication a "Life of Ab-  
raham Lincoln". I shall publish in an Appendix a considerable  
number of letters, telegrams and speeches which are not in the  
"Complete Works" edited by Nicolay and Hay. Of course I am an-  
xious to add as much new material as possible to my list. I find  
that the letter quoted above is not in the "Complete Works." May  
I ask if you are willing that I should print it in my work, and  
if so, will you not be good enough to have the copy I send com-  
pared with the original? If I use it, I want it of course accu-