

(Copy)

San Diego, Cal., Nov. 18, 1897.

J. McCan Davis, Esq.,
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Oct. 29 was received and laid aside on account of business engagements.

You are correctly informed as to the fact that Mr. Lincoln visited the State Journal office often during the campaign of 1860, as well as during the campaigns of 1856 and 1858. I was general manager of the paper, and Edward L. Baker had charge of the editorial department. We were both on familiar terms with Mr. Lincoln and were well acquainted with his views; but the paper did not profess to be his organ. The State Register and other opposition papers charged that Mr. Lincoln wrote the leading political articles, but they had no grounds for making the assertion. It was done for effect.

I sometimes feel inclined to write my recollections of the events of those days, and perhaps will do so when I have leisure for it.

I would be much obliged if you would look over the files of the Journal for a communication written from New York a day or two after Mr. Lincoln's great speech in the Cooper Institute--the speech that gave him the nomination. If my memory is correct, the article gave a graphic description of that great meeting. It was written by my father-in-law, Gen. Mason Brayman, but without signature, except perhaps

"B". If you find it, please employ someone to copy it for me. The mails were slow then, and the article may not have been published for two weeks after the event.

Yours truly,

W.H. Bailhache.