

Mr. Barrett, owner of the following manuscript, writes that "this long-forgotten speech marks a turning point in Lincoln's career," and that "in its brief paragraphs the last echo of the politician is lost in the resonance of the clearer note of Lincoln the statesman." His defeat for the Senatorship "extinguished the last spark of ambition for political preferment but left him firm in his determination to carry on the contest against slavery."

"I have meant to assail the motives of no party or individual and if I have in any instance (of which I am not conscious) departed from my purpose, I regret it.

"I have said that in some respects the contest has been painful to me. Myself and those with whom I act have been constantly accused of a purpose to destroy the Union; and bespattered with every imaginable odious epithet, and some who were friends, as it were, but yet have made themselves most active in this. I have cultivated patience and made no attempt at a retort.

"Ambition has been ascribed to me, God knows how sincerely I prayed from the first that this field of ambition might not be opened. I claim no insensibility to political honors, but today could the Missouri restriction be restored and the whole slavery question replaced on the old ground of toleration by necessity where it exists, with unyielding hostility to the spread of it, on principle, I would in consideration, gladly agree that Judge Douglas should never be out, and I never in, an office so long as we both or either live."

Abraham Lincoln, A New Portrait. By Emanuel Hertz Vol. II
Page 733-734 (New York)