

Extract from a letter written by Hon. John R. Woods of Alton, Illinois, to William H. Bailhache, Editor of the Illinois State Journal of Springfield, Illinois.

Copy.

I am very glad you visited Washington, and witnessed the installation of our noble President. It must have been a proud day for every true patriot, and especially for those genuine Illinois Republicans who saw the glorious spectacle. I know very well that human greatness diminishes as we approach it, but it seems to me that Uncle Abe is an exception to the rule - there seems to be so much "come out" to him, and every time it is better and better. His Inaugural is the most profound state paper ever written. Like the sacred scriptures themselves, the more you read, the more carefully you criticise it, the more beautiful it appears and the more forcibly its profound wisdom strikes you. Evidently it was the work of inspiration - I believe so at least. The more I look at the circumstances through which Mr. Lincoln has been brought, the more firmly does the conviction become fixed in my own mind, that he is one of those rare men whom God holds in reserve for momentous and important purposes and occasions. I am rather pleased than other wise with my appointment, but would like it better, if I was better qualified for the duties belonging to it. Gov. Wood was not present, but my other associates, I regard as being very valuable men, and I shall feel myself safe in following where they lead. Let me hear from you soon.

Ever yours,

Jno. R. Woods.

*Copied from letter sent by Mrs Mary B. Cowley*