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Among Mr Lincoln's warmest friends was
numbered Hon John. S. Wilson, who occupied
the position of Land Commissioner of the Illinois
Central Railroad, just previous to the war. Mr
Wilson had served one term, at least, with Mr Lin-
coln as a member of the Illinois Legislature
and had learned to love him. Soon after
the inauguration in 1861 Mr Wilson began to hear
that Lincoln as President continued to tell stories
on every occasion many of which were scarcely
such as could be approved of in good society
These rumors filled Mr Wilson with horror and
he came to Washington determined to reform his
old friend. On visiting the White House he was
cordially received but lost no time in stating his
mission which he proceeded to discharge in the
most forcible language. To the writer Mr Wilson
stated the result of his visit said he "I gave
Mr Lincoln a terrible scolding. I told him that
any man who would tell such stories as he
was telling was unfitted to fill the high position
of President" "How did he take it?" I asked.
"He got mad" was the reply. "He even went so far
as to tell me that were it not for the high
position he occupied he would not allow me to
talk to him in that way or if I did he would

