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The Ida M. Tarbell Collection of Lincolniana

Correspondence, research materials, writings, etc. about Abraham Lincoln

1861-09-27

Telegram (copy), War Department, September 27, 1861

Anonymous

<http://hdl.handle.net/10456/32514>

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United States Military Telegraph.

RECORD & PENSION OFFICE

JAN 27

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1861

WAR DEPARTMENT

Inc 6

Sent War Dept Washington
Thursday Sep 26th 1861

To

Today is the day of humiliation, prayer and fasting, appointed by our worthy President, so that the united prayers of the nation, bent upon one object might ascend to heaven, imploring that God would assist in putting down the unholy rebellion. Telegraphers not being either very humble or very prayerful and far from being factors remained in their offices. We of the Army corps, whilst the Army was having holiday, more than usually vigilant at our posts. It was past noon. Sam Gilmore (our chief) and myself smoking the inveterate briar pipe (all Army telegraphists are inveterate pipers) were lounging watching for calls. My two colleagues sitting reading papers at their instruments. George (one of our messengers) sitting on

The floor mixing the chemical
compound necessary for a
"Daniels" battery - In fact Mr
President familiarly termed "Old Abe"
with his well worn linen coat ~~and~~
Coat could not originally have cost more
than \$2.00 all in specie - He drew his
long form down and "ducked" himself
into the office - Spying George, he said
"Well sorry mixing the juices eh?"
Then seating himself on a chair he put
on his specs remarking, "Gentleman,
fast day, work as fast as you can,
the proclamation was wise and that
my interpretation of its bearing upon
you" - ~~Then~~ the fluffed and we all
"fluffed" - Then says he "now we will talk
a little to Gov Morton at Indianapolis
I want to give him a lesson in Geography"
"Regarding Green affair I set him all
right off" now I will tell him a little
something about Kentucky" (That Morton
is a good patriot but at times he they
"speechedest" (the very word he used) man I
know of" - Done talking. Done telegraphing
he removed his good honored ^{immensity}
from one little room to a larger one
at the White House

Wm Wilson
Operator No 48