

OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF PASSAIC.

O. I. WOODLEY,
Superintendent

Wm. A. Bell
PASSAIC, N. J. Oct. 28th, 1907

Mr. J. N. Trainer,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Trainer:-

I have been reading the American Magazine regularly during the past year. I have found it most helpful of the magazines I have read. The articles by Mr. Grayson alone are well worth the price of the magazine, so you see my profits are large.

It has been on my mind for sometime to send to Miss Tarbell two instances in the life of Mr. Lincoln. One given by a gentleman who lived across the road from Mr. Lincoln, and one from Ex-Governor Barto from Minnesota. I think I will give them now as I feel sure there will be no intrusion.

While crossing Lake Michigan several years ago, I conversed with a gentleman who formerly lived directly across the road from Mr. Lincoln. Some months after Mr. Lincoln had given up the Government position as Post-Master, a gentleman called at the house of this neighbor to make some inquiries concerning Mr. Lincoln. After making the inquiries, the visitor stated that he was a Government Official, and had come to settle with the Ex-Post-Master, and asked the neighbor if her thought a settlement could be made. The Official was informed that a settlement could undoubtedly be made.

Shortly after the visitor had entered Mr. Lincoln's

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house, a vigorous knock was heard at the back door. Upon answering the call, Mr. Lincoln found there his neighbor who briefly told him the purpose of the visit and offered to advance money if it was needed to make a settlement with the Government Official.

Mr. Lincoln thanked him, but said matters were in proper shape and that he could make a settlement.

After the Official had left Mr. Lincoln's house, the neighbor met him to ascertain his success. The Official stated that when he informed Mr. Lincoln of his errand, he walked across the room, took down a note-book, opened it and found there a statement of his account with the Government, ^{which} and showed there ~~amount~~ due. On the same page was the exact amount of money which had been kept there ever since the closing of the office - ready for the day of settlement.

The neighbor expressed his pleasure, and took delight in telling the Official that it was typical of the man.

In conversation some years ago with Ex-Governor Barto of Minnesota, he told me of an experience of Mr. Lincoln. It was a hot summer's day, and Mr. Lincoln was dressed in his famous summer suit, a long rain coat, below which was showing a scant amount of stocking above his shoes. It was in a court room where Lincoln was a defendant in an important case. Mr. Barto told me this story with the thought of showing how Lincoln got at the heart of things, and how he could see the vital point in a question.

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The prosecutor opened his case, and stated his points to the number of ten. When Mr. Lincoln arose to open for the defense, he counted nine of the points, which the prosecutor had presented, which seemed to them to be the most important ones. Mr. Lincoln, after counting these, stated that he would make his defense on the remaining point, and did it so effectively that he won the case, notwithstanding the fact that he was opposed by three able lawyers.

These may be of no value, and yet they are first hand impressions of men who were in entire sympathy with Mr. Lincoln's work.

Yours cordially,

O. I. Woodley