

Lincoln Collection

January 31, 1927.

Miss Esther C. Cushman,
The Library of Brown University,
Providence, R.I.

My dear Miss Cushman:

I am interested in your letter of January 29th but I cannot give you any certain information as to the origin of the collection of telegrams of which you write. You say that the telegrams that I published in the Appendix of my "Life of Lincoln" have the exact wording in your letters. Those telegrams I took from the official War records in Washington. So far as I know the collection had never been used by any student before it came into my hands. They had not as yet been printed in the official War records. Indeed, I do not know if the volume containing them is yet out though I should think it ought to be. I unearthed them in going through the manuscript records. They were copies carefully and verified, as I remember by J. Leslie Perry, who at that time was in charge of the records, or probably by one of his assistants. These were the telegrams as sent. What you have is probably the manuscript from which the telegrapher worked. They were not needed for the record. It was a choice between destroying them or carrying them and he choose the latter. Very possibly it was Mr. Bates who took them. They could not have been the White House file, for, if so, they would have gone into the Lincoln papers.

I wish I could give you definite information. I should very much like to see the documents and I am hoping that sometime, when I can get to Providence for two or three days, You will let me go over your collection.

Regretting that I cannot be of more service, believe me,

Very sincerely,

IMI BOK.