Saturday, Nov. 6, 1897.

Went to Carl Schurz for first interview. Am shown to his library up two flights; large room with many books, table covered with open letters. He greets me cordially, tells me he is much obliged for coming and puts me into his smoking chair, he sits by window, asks me how I am, where I spent summer, etc. Says he still is a little tired after the campaign, of which he talks for a good many minutes. He says he thought of going to Europe this fall, but does not want to go for people will ask him too many questions; that he cannot endure to see his English friends who were saying that ~~xxxx

He tells me he is writing his reminiscences, does not know just what he wants to give me; asks me whom I have seen, tells me to see Horace White. As I am familiar with the story of notifying Mr. Lincoln of his nomination, he proceeds . Says he was appointed Minister to Spain but did not want to go because war was imminent; that he went to Washington, saw Mr. Lincoln and told him he thought that bodies of cavalry could be formed in and around New York of old Germans who had been trained in the Old Country as cavalrymen. Mr. Lincoln thought this a good idea and told him to see Cameron. Cameron approved and sent him to Scott; Scott said not worth while, the war will not last long, beside cavalry would be of no use in this country, and Schurz went back to Lincoln who told him to go ahead and form his cavalry; he came here, formed five or six companies, then he received a message from

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Seward saying that he must go to Spain. He went in the spring of '61, soon made up his mind that the Government was wrong in pretending to European nations that the war was one for the Union alone, that we could never hold Europe by diplomacy, that we must show them that our struggle was in fact an anti-slavery struggle; no European nation would dare to oppose the North when anti-slavery was made the issue by the Government. He wrote this to Seward, a dispatch quoted fully by Mr. Rhodes, Vol. III. He received nothing from Seward but an acknowledgment of the receipt. He then wrote to Mr. Lincoln that he wanted to come to Washington and represent the situation in Europe to him personally, asked for leave of absence. And Mr. Lincoln replied to him to come ; he went and must have reached America sometime in (look this up). He says Mr. Lincoln received him at White House in a room upstairs where portrait of Jackson hangs; they sat down and were talking when Seward stuck his head in at the door. Lincoln said, "Go away, Seward, I am busy now with this gentleman." Schurz laid the whole matter before Lincoln Lincoln said, # "I believe you are right; we must make it an anti-slavery struggle, but the country is not up to that yet. What can ~~you~~ we do to

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bring them in line? The country must be educated to the emancipation idea." Mr. Schurz said, "I will go to New York and talk with some of my friends there and we will organize a meeting at which we will advance this idea." Mr. Lincoln said, "That's it; that is the thing. You must make a speech and when you have got it outlined--and here he laughed and said, "Oh, I know how you fellows do those things," referring to Mr. Schurz careful method of preparation in contrast to his own lack of method. "You bring the speech to me and I will see what you are going to say." Mr. Schurz came to New York and organized the Emancipation Club (look this up in the newspapers) and on March 6 they held a Cooper Union meeting at which Mr. Schurz delivered his speech on "Emancipation as a Peacemaker." Before delivering it he took it to Lincoln who read it and said, "That is exactly the thing to say, and remember, you may hear from me on the same day." That very day on March 6, Mr. Schurz says he issued his message to Congress offering to buy the slaves of the border states. The meeting was a great success. Mr. Schurz said that at the end there was a kind of feeling in the crowd which impels an audience to end off by singing "Old Hundred." Mr. Schurz

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then went into the army. I tried to draw him out a little in regard to the letter published in Nicolay & Hay, not mentioning it directly. He sees finally that I evidently know about it, for he laughs a kind of little embarrassed laugh and says "They were malicious enough to publish a letter in which he raked me over the coals." As he says this one can see his affection for Mr. Lincoln, the very "raked over the coals" seems to have inspired a certain tenderness for Lincoln. Same thing I have noticed in several other cases, notably that of Hunter. He says, "We always feared that Lincoln was not going quite fast enough and we younger men tried to push him on. In '64 Lincoln sent for him to come to Washington; this was when there was a good deal of opposition to his renomination. They rode out in the evening to the Soldiers' Home and sat down together in the twilight on a big sofa. He said Lincoln began to talk to him in a kind of monologue, telling him how many of his measures had been frustrated, how many things had been done which he did not approve, how many people pushed him and

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crowded him ~~xxx~~ without having tried to understand his motives. He told these things in a weary tone and the tears came into his eyes. "I cried, too," said Mr. Schurz, and the tears were in his eyes as he told me this. Mr. Schurz says there was a peculiar intimacy between them, that although he wasa much younger man Lincoln had a real affection for him. (This might ~~be added~~ [illegible] to by Schurz activities in the Northwest). (Lincoln had the faculty of making every man in whom he believed feel his confidence and affection. Compare this with Edward Everett Hale's notes on Charles Sumner.) Mr. Schurz wanted to go into the campaign in '64; Lincoln would not advise him to, told him that before doing so he would lose his place in the army, and that even the President could not reinstate him. Schurz felt, however, that he should help on the campaign and so left on his own responsibility, making a speech in Phila. He never was reinstated in the army, but went on certain commissions for the War Department. just before the close of the war was at City Point, saw Mr. Lincoln there. Mr. Lincoln wanted him to stay; said Lincoln was very affectionate and tender with him, but his duties called him back to Washington. He told Mr. Lincoln and Lincoln said, "Well, you can go back with Mary." He said he was alone with Mrs. Lincoln for twenty-four hours and never passed such a time. He tells me a frightful incident. The day Lincoln left Springfield

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for Washington he was at the hotel; his friends were waiting below to escort him to the train; they had to wait many minutes, the reason was that Mrs. Lincoln was lying on the floor in their room upstairs, screaming and beating the floor with her hands and feet, because Mr. Lincoln would not promise to appoint to valuable positions here in New York a man who had promised her a diamond necklace if she would secure the appointment for him, and he says it was commonly believed that she soldnwar secrets for large sums of money. This he thinks the greatest tragedy of Mr. Lincoln's existence.

Speaking of Seward and his performances after his appointment he says, "Seward did very strange things; don't you think it inexplicable?" Remembers the letter he wrote to Mr. Lincoln, his attitude toward European governments, etc. Speaks of Chase as being a very superior man, who never got thoroughly in touch with Lincoln; tells of an incidents in Columbus, O. Before the Republican Convention of 1860 Chase entertained him ; he made his speech there. Mr. Schurz says, "I was too young to understand the sensitiveness of a man with Presidential ambitions at that time, and when Mr. Chase began to talk to me about his chances in the Convention, I said, 'My position is just this, Mr. Chase: I think of the Convention is bold enough it will nominate Seward; if not bold enough it will not nominate you.'"

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He asks me about Mr. Dana's reminiscences. I tell him the story of Mr. Dana's retirement from the Tribune and some matters that are to appear in the reminiscences. He expresses himself as being utterly puzzled by Mr. Dana's malicious attitude toward humanity; says that the New York Sun has been his chief reason for believing in a personal devil; tells me that the meanest thing Mr. Dana ever did was in regard to Sam Bowles. Towards the end of Bowles life he describes Bowles as being the sunniest and most lovable of men; he called on Mr. Dana at his office; they had a long talk; the next day the Sun came out with a heading "Sam Bowles has Softening of the Brain." He says he has understood that Bowles cried like a child when he saw this. Says Dana would attack him in the Sun violently, then would meet him ata sinner party and would say "How do you do, my dear old friend?" George William Curtis told him that the night after Mr. Dana had made the severest attack he ever made on him he met him at a dinner party and

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came up and said, "How do you do, George," and he expected me to call him Charles.

Mr. Schurz shows me copy of Douglas Debates on which is written, "To the Hon. Carl Schurz, from A. Lincoln," given him in '60 by Mr. Lincoln----------tells me he thinks the "lost speech" is a good reproduction though it lacks Mr. Lincoln's quaint phraseology.

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