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VALLEY NEWS
W. H. SOMERS,
EDITOR

CAJON VALLEY



El Cajon, Calif. Nov. 30, 1895.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

35 Lafayette Place, N.Y.

J. McClure Magazine.

Dear Miss Tarbell,

Your very kind letter ^{of Nov. 21st} was rec^d some days ago.

As you did not mention the Linsch pictures, mailed on same day my letter was posted, I infer that it did not come to hand. In case you did not receive it, please let me know, and I will mail you another copy if you care to have it.

I mentioned having had the photograph copyrighted, but I did not mean thereby to convey the idea that I made any claim upon it now. I had quite a number printed to distribute amongst amongst the old soldiers at a reunion held at the place where I formerly lived, and since then have donated them from time to time ^{to friends} ~~had~~ abandoned the claim secured by the copyright. Of course you are at liberty to use the picture in any way you see proper.

I note what you say about additional reminiscences of Mr. Lincoln.

I have but little to add to what I have already sent you.

However there was one important characteristic about Mr. Lincoln that his biographers have mostly overlooked, but ^{I think, should} which, be given greatest prominence. I refer to his temperance habits. I am glad therefore of the opportunity, now afforded by you, of contributing my testimony to the fact that he was a most consistent temperance man - not only was he temperate in his habits, but his voice and influence were always on the side of temperance.

I am aware that this statement will run counter to the opinion of some of his warm admirers; but facts are worth more than opinions. I was a close observer of the habits of the members of the bar at the period I speak of, and am quite sure that Mr. Lincoln did not ^{indulge} ~~partake~~ in intoxicants. I was often present when the lawyers assembled at the hotel on their arrival to attend Court, never had opportunity ^{to observe their habits in this respect} with them in their room, when they got together for friendly visit, and liquor was used, on occasion, in moderation, but Mr. Lincoln always abstained. It was a generally recognized fact, amongst all, that he did not drink; and no one thought of inviting him to join them in a social glass.

I will mention another fact, also, that you may wish to incorporate in your biography.

In preparing to argue a case before a jury, he seldom made written notes of the points to be presented, but on the contrary spoke from memory. I have frequently noticed him, while opposing counsel was addressing the jury, ^{to} pace slowly, back and forth in an area at the rear end of the court room, listening to what he said - Notes so taken, and stored away in a wonderfully retentive memory, ~~which~~ combined with keen wit and logic, made him a power before a jury.

The above is all of any importance I can recall, but the facts, clothed in your language, will, ^{I think} be of value to you.

My brother informs me that he has not received the promised letter in regard to his MSS. on the life of Lincoln. He would be glad to review it for you - I think he has some interesting notes, as Mr. Lincoln was his warm friend, and frequently rendered him assistance in his law practice.

His address, I believe, you have - It is, however, J. W. Lomen, San Diego, Calif.

Very Truly yrs.

W. H. Lomen

P.S. Thanks for placing my name on free list for magazine.