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Columbus, Ga. July 9, 96.

Miss. Ida M. Tarbell,

My dear Miss:-

Yours of 7th is very interesting. I did not see Mr Herndon during the latter part of his life, as then lived in Georgia. It may be that when dilapidated by age and his habits of life, that the photo printed may have been of resemblance; but I was very intimate with him in Illinois for twelve years after Lincoln left Springfield, and up to that time, it would not be any where near faithful. He was younger than Ll Lincoln, and in 1860 and before, as partner, should swow as an active alert, nervous, bright man of 45 or 50 years old, and not as a retired worn out lawyer, living on a sububan farm, as the photo probably does. To you o only, I will say, Herndon was a man adicted to gettig on "prolonged sprees." Have seen him at Petersburg on sprees lasting for weeks, although his friends constantly tried to sober him up, and it was often uncertain if he would show up in a pending case in the morning, as his apetite was uncontrolable. I remember as of yesterday, as illustrating, that I Was one night late in a restaurant, cooking some oysters in a chafing dish, as was the style then, when Herndon come in, full, and set down across the table from me, and called for oysters for a stew. The pan with the oysters in it was set on the chafin dish before him, and the alcohol lamp under it lighted, and the usual pitcher of milk set beside. Herndon moved the milk away, and reached for the salt cellar and dumped the whole contents into the oysters: then off with the top of the tin pepper box, and in that

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went, followed by the whole contents of the mustard pot, the liquor of the home grown red pepper sauce bottle, and finaly all the vinegar in the cruet. He stirred all together, boiled up, and then calling for pickles, which there and in those days meant pickles, he swollowed down the whole, without crackers with relish, and was about to duplicate, when I persuaded him to go with me to the Hotel, and finaly put him to bed. This is only one of many instances of his frequent condition for many years; though he would often go for months and even years between recurrences, while one of the firm. You can see that a man growing old after many such experiences, would likely have stomach troubles of the worst kind, as he had, and that a photo then taken would rather represent the wreck of what once was than the man himself. An earlier photo alone will show Lincoln's law partner.

That what I wrote you as to Charles S. Zane is correct: that he studied law in Lincoln & Herndons' office, back room up stairs, east side "square," Springfield: that about 1858 the firm became Lincoln, Herndon & Zane: that it was the name in 1860, and later: that about the close of war, or a little later, Zane was Judge of Circuit Court, Sangamon Circuit: that early in 70s District Appelate Courts were created; I rather think about size of congressional, and that Zane was a Judge of this court for Sangamon District for some time, and probably up to the time he was appointed, probably by G Grant, Judge of U. S. Circuit Court in one of the Territories--these facts I remember as distinctly as I do parting with Zane in June 1856, at Commencement Mc Kendre College, Lebanon, Ill., he entering Junior classical, and I graduating, both traveling up to Springfield together, when we finaly closed our College life. Springfield was the Banking and commercial outlet for Petersburg, and I was in Springfield on business, socialy, politicaly, &c, every two or three weeks up to and during the war, of course, often meeting Zane. The Tribune and other such Almanacs will likely give data as to U. S., and possibly, District Judge. I have not the slightest doubt but that my cousin, Edward W. Payne, Vice President State National Bank,

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Springfield, who is a bright, enterprising, citizen, born there, would with pleasure give you the data as to what I have written, as well as find a good photo of Herndon. Mr Joseph Wallace, who is also my cousin, is the recognised Sangamon County historian, and was a lawyer contemporary with Lincoln, Herndon & Zane, and spends much time in local antiquities and the like. It would probably be just to his wishes to give you the same. T. W. S. Kidd,-- A. W. French,--William L. Gross, and others can tell all about the events of the 50s there.

In the College catalogue to day I looked up "C. S. Zane. CL/ - Pleasant Plains, Ill" Sophmore 1855 & 56: Freshman 1854 & 55, His brother, J. S. Zane, Preparitory 1854 & 55, but not attending in next year? I am sure they were farmers sons at Pleasant Plains, Sangamon CO. and that their parents were in quite medium circumstances. Pleasant Plains was not a town, but a Post Office on the Beardstown stage road. Near it was Peter Cartwright's farm, who was the typical Methodist pioneer rough and ready preacher of that period. Peter Akers, also a Methodist preacher, but a very learned man, was Prest. of Mc Kendre, and left it in 1856, to go into the field. His name was as well known in those days as Cartwright's. I think these two preachers caused Zane's parents to send him to Lebanon, to be under Akers. Religion had a good deal more influence in such matters then than now, as the literal hereafters were influential with believers, and it was cardinal in those parts that one denomination should fight another, Union meetings and efforts were never dreamed of, and to patronise another demomination was giving comfort to the enemy. There was less love between the leaders of different churches than there was between them and the sinners. I have often heard sermons devoted entirely to abusing another church, where the language was exhausted for terms of denunciation. Such tenets as these caused Zane's Methodist parents to send him to Mc Kendre.

As you will have to take Zane into the firm, and you say you never have heard of him, I have written at random from memory as to what memory gives

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If it prevents you from making an error of omission for some one hereafter to call attention to, and starts you out so you can give the facts, then have done as intended in writing you. Law was Mr. Lincoln's business, and his partners factors. He had no property of any value, except his little home. He worked at law for a living, and depended on it for support. Almos everybody of intelligenc and many that were not, were polititions, as incidental; lawyers always. Umtil the memorable 1858 campaign, Lincoln did not make a specialty of politics, but of law. After that date his position was about the reverse, though in 1860, as I was enroute for Charleston Convention, he told me he was candidate " for Vice Bresident on the Seward ticket. When you are writing about Lincoln as a lawyer previous to this time, you are dealing with him as he was exactly, and your present subject is the man before 1858.

I had the pleasure to day to find I owned your photo in Illustrated American. Am pleased to have it, and have only to say: I congratulate you:

Yours truly.

John Hice

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