February 11, 1927.

Mr. W. G. Calderwood,
986 Fifteenth Ave., S.E.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Mr. Calderwood:

I think that the following extract from my book "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns" answers the questions asked in your letter of February 7th:

"For many years there has cropped up at intervals a forged quotation pretending to give his views on prohibition. It is often backed up with what looks like documentary evidence. Mr. Lincoln, it is claimed, said in a speech in the Illinois House of Representatives in December, 1840, when an act to regulate tavern and grocery licenses was under discussion:

'Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason, in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes. A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government was founded.'

But the Journal of the House shows no such remarks. The only recorded connection of Lincoln with the bill was moving that the following amendment be laid on the table.

'That after the passage of this act no person shall be licensed to sell vinous or spirituous liquors in this state, and that any person who violates this act by selling such liquors shall be fined the sum of $1,000. to be recovered before any court having competent jurisdiction.'

This was done by a vote of 75 to 8.

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Years ago I had a careful search made in the House Journal and in the Springfield newspapers of the period for this quotation, but without result. When it cropped up again this year with a cunning use of documentary references, I wrote to the Illinois State Historical Library, asking if any proof of the authenticity of the quotation had been recently discovered; this was my reply:

"We have had hundreds of letters in regard to this from all over the United States, and also from England. This statement cannot be found in any of the public writings or speeches of Lincoln, and I herewith enclose to you the extract from the House Journal of December 19, 1840-41, page 136, entitled 'An Act to amend an Act,' etc.

There were no speeches made on the subject. The files of the Springfield newspapers covering that period have been gone over very carefully time and time again by both the people in favor of prohibition and those against it, and they have failed to find that Mr. Lincoln ever made such a statement, so I do not know where they could go to verify it . . ' "

Very sincerely yours,

IMT BWK.

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