

RATON, NEW MEXICO, Feb 10 1896

My Dear Sir:

I herewith send Be the picture of Miss  
Ann Dickinson, taken when in her prime - in  
1861, with a sketch of an incident in connection  
with her at Mr Lincoln - that Be might put into shape  
some time, - if Be think it of sufficient interest.

During the winter of 1861 & 62, she lectured  
in the Hall of Congress, to <sup>such</sup> an audience - that  
probably never sit to either man or woman  
before or since, & probably the only time when  
the House of Representatives was ever allowed to be  
used - when an admission fee was charged  
at the door.

She had for an audience  
President Lincoln & all his Cabinet, All the  
Members of the U.S. Supreme Court, All  
the Members of the U.S. Senate & the House  
of Representatives, All the Army & Navy Officers  
in & around Washington, General McClellan  
& his Staff in brilliant & hollydy uniforms, She  
was introduced by Vice President Hannibal  
Hamlin.

It was at a time when there  
<sup>existed</sup> much impatience with the President for not  
issuing ~~any~~ emancipation proclamation, & at  
the slow movements of McClellan, when

the one to Richmond any was the loudest,  
 Miss Dickenson was at her best, she denounced  
 the slowness of the army movements & the  
 management of the ~~army~~ <sup>war</sup> generally, but she made  
 the most savage attack on Mr Lincoln personally  
 with <sup>in</sup> her most sarcastic & invective vein.  
 She had quite a following of sympathizers in  
 the audience - who applauded her utterances  
 but here & there could be heard in all  
 parts of the House, "that's too rough, How can  
 the President stand <sup>it</sup>" she ought to stop  
 that, its intol<sup>er</sup>able, <sup>etc.</sup> But her eloquence  
 & command of language captivated  
 every body. notwithstanding they all could  
 not endorse her sentiments, especially  
 her sentiments towards Mr Lincoln, she was  
 cheered constantly & enthusiastically, but at  
 no time during the lecture - as when at the  
 close - Mr Lincoln rushed up into the speaking  
 stand caught ~~both~~ her hands in his  
 and said Miss Dickenson, <sup>loud enough for all to hear</sup> that is the best  
 speech I ever heard from either man  
 or woman, & I endorse all she has  
 said.

Truly Yours Joseph W. Dwyer