(Correspondence of the N. Y. Evening Post)

An Hour with Mr. Lincoln.

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 14, 1860.

The timid gentlemen who are expecting Mr. Lincoln to issue a pronunciamento after the manner of successful Mexican chiefs, wherein his policy will be declared, for the conciliation of the madmen who are threatening the secession of a few of the States of the South, do not know the President elect. It was my good fortune to talk with him an hour yesterday in relation to this secession movement, and though he made no concealment of the uneasiness which the contemplated treason gives him, he is not a bit alarmed by the aspect of affairs, nor is he at all inclined to yield an inch to the well-intended but mistaken solicitations of his friends. He believes that his success is only a public pretext for what has long been preparing; that his position on all questions of public concern--all which affect the Slavery question nearly or remotely--is so well known that no declaration of his would change treasonable purposes already announced, and that a reiteration of views which are patent to all men who have sought to know them, would be an evidence of timidity which he does not feel, and of which he would have no man suspect him. He is cautious, discreet, and wise in his replies to questions as to what may or will be done. But those who know the steadfastness of purpose and the conscientious firmness which are his distinguishing characteristics, have no doubt that he will adopt that policy, when President, which a proper regard for the whole country dictates, and that he will pursue it firmly, persistently, and, if necessary,

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obdurately, to the end. "I know," said he, "the justness of my intentions and the utter groundlessness of the pretended fears of the men who are filling the country with their clamor. If I go into the Presidency, they will find me as I am on record--nothing less, nothing more. My declarations have been made to the world without reservation. They have been often repeated; and now, self-respect demands of me and of the party that has elected me that when threatened I should be silent." While he holds this language in relation to a public letter, he does not hesitate in his private letters to the South (he has already a large correspondence in that section) and in conversation with his visitors, in answer to proper inquiries, to give any assurances which are consistent with his views heretofore expressed and the party platform on which he stands.

I found Mr. Lincoln, when I called upon him, engaged in reading up anew the history of the attempted nullification in 1832, including the discussions on the celebrated "Force bill," and Gen. Jackson's more celebrated proclamation. I am debarred from saying what comments those documents provoked; but Mr. Lincoln's friends may be assured that, while he has no ambition to be an imitator of that old chief, nature has endowed him with that sagacity, honesty and firmness which made Old Hickory's the most eminently successful and honorable administration known to the republic.

I mentioned that Mr. Lincoln had already quite a large correspondence with the South. There are many of his letters from

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that quarter which the country ought to see. Missives which no decent man could write are abundant; their postmarks reveal the fact that the vocabulary of billingsgate is not confined to the Five Points and Marshal Rynder's office. Unfortunately the earmarks of some of them show that their writers are not devoid of education, if destitute of decency. Letters threatening death, in all its forms, as the penalty of his high position, are more abundant still. They are, of course, mainly anonymous, though a few bear real names. Some are signed in hieroglyphics, said to be known only to the "Sacred Order" or "Southern Brotherhood," which threatens Mr. Lincoln with a sudden and untimely taking-off. A few are ornamented with sketches of executions by the gibbet, assassination by the stiletto, or death by a lightning stroke; and in nearly all the theology of the writers is indicated by rude caricatures of the Devil, ready with his three-pronged fork to receive and pitch into everlasting fire the body of the unfortunate Lincoln, whose offense consists in the belief that human slavery is wrong. He is not, I am glad to say, annoyed by these. Assured that no man who will write anonymous and threatening letters is worthy of being feared, he tosses all such aside, as he says, to illustrate, at some future day, the comical side of his administration.

The rush for office has already commenced. While I was with Mr. Lincoln he handed me a note from a gentleman from an adjoining State who was exceedingly importunate for the promise of a certain place, as a specimen of many which he is daily receiving.

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I may be pardoned for relating what thousands ought to know: "I have made up my mind," said he, "not to be badgered about those places. I have promised nothing, high or low, and will not. By-and-by, when I call somebody to me in the character of an adviser, we will examine the claims to the most responsible posts, and decide what shall be done. As for the rest, I shall have enough to do without reading recommendations for country postmasters; these, and all others of the sort, I will turn over to the heads of departments, and make them responsible for the good conduct of their subordinates." Is not our new President laying the ground-work for a successful administration ? Are not the zealous patriots whose applications are coming here at the rate of fifty a day, wasting their invaluable time ?

One thing more. The Cabinet makers, who are busy with their conjectures, are all at fault--not that they may not have, in all their guessings, hit upon a name or two which will figure in the list of Secretaries; but because the real Cabinet-maker has not in his own mind determined whom he will call to his assistance. He has his own ideas of fitness of things, and of the responsibility he owes to the country and to his party; but these ideas have not been expressed in thechoice of men. Hence, conjecture is at fault. I may mention that the political consistency which would make John Bell, himself deceased, an administrator on his own political estate is not known in these parts. Men do not split rails, and then stick the log together again with putty or Spaulding's glue. The country is fortunate in one thing: Mr.

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Lincoln's nomination was a spontaneous tribute to his fitness and availability. It cost no pledges--no promises; hence, in selecting a Cabinet, the President has the party to choose from; and though he may be embarrassed by the claims of different localities and by the rivalries of aspirants and factions in two of the leading states, nothing but his great devotion to the public good will dictate his choice. If necessary, men and states will be overlooked. The necessity, in obedience to custom, of taking a certain number of Cabinet officers from the Slave States, is the most perplexing part of the matter, as seen by his friends. To whom shall places be tendered ? Who will accept, if asked ? Who, accepting, will concur in the policy to which the republican party is committed ? A month or two may solve this triple problem.

I sat down to write you a word only about the secession movement; but I find I am running into the gossiping habit with which all Springfield correspondents seem to be afflicted. Let me add one thing: Mr. Lincoln's administration will, I venture to predict, be eminently satisfactory ao all reasonable and patriotic men. Whatever the aspect of the secession question when he comes into power, he will speedily solve it. He is the soul of honor and a model of brevity. He will call honest men about him; he will deal fairly and liberally with his opponents; he will approach the slavery question in the spirit which has always animated him in discussing it; he will uproot abuses and banish corruption; he

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will leave none to disbelieve that an upright man who loves his country and his kind is at the head of national affairs. The backwoodsman will be known as a Cincinnatus yet.

Albany.

Note.—The foregoing was reproduced in the "Illinois State Journal" of Nov.24, 1860.—J.McCan Davis.

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