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Miss Ida M. Tarbell
919 15th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

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I have been requested to make a brief statement of President Lincoln's relations with the State Journal, published at Springfield, Illinois, covering the period between his nomination for President and his inauguration on March 4th, 1861. Having been the general manager of the Journal during that time, and being constantly on duty, I am able to assert unreservedly that Mr. Lincoln was on the most familiar terms at the Journal office at the date referred to. This was true at all times from July 1855, when I became general manager and half owner of the paper, up to the day of his departure for Washington, to assume his high office. Indeed, it was while he was in the Journal editorial rooms, reading telegraphic press reports of the proceedings of the National Convention at Chicago, that the private message announcing his nomination was received by him, and read aloud to the large number of friends and admirers who had gathered around him on that exciting and eventful occasion.

In relation to the printing of the draft of his first Inaugural address, my recollection is very clear that his manner was as far from formality and affectation as could have been observed had he been ordering

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the printing of a legal document. He merely asked me one day early in January, 1861, if I coned print his address in a certain style without its contents becoming known, and upon being assured that I coned do so, he remarked that he mned give me the manuscript in a few days. Not long after this he placed the momentous paper in my hands. I had the work done at once, under my personal supervision in a private room in the Journal building, by a trusted employé, sworn to secrecy. When it was finished I returned the manuscript to Mr Lincoln, together with the twenty printed copies ordered, one of which he himself gave to me, and it has been retained in my possession ever since. I may remark in passing that the manuscript was all in his own handwriting, and was almost entirely free from alterations or interlineations. He did not ask to see a proof, reposing entire confidence in my careful supervision. Neither the original draft nor the printed sheets were ever out of my immediate custody for an instant during the time occupied in the printing, and I doubt whether any of the score or more of typos employed in the Journal office had even the slightest suspicion that this important State paper was then being put in type under the same roof with them. Be this as it may, the secret was well kept, although the newspapers employed every con-

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ceivable means to obtain a hint of its tenor, and the whole country was in a state of feverish anxiety to learn what the policy of the new President was to be.

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William Henry Railbacke

San Diego, California.

January 14th 1898.

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