Form Mrs Ellen Hardin Walworth.

Edwardsv ille, 22nd April, 1880.

In the supplement to the Globe Democrat of this date there is an article copied from the Cincinnati Enquirer in reference to Mr. Lincoln which I think is calculated to do great injustice to the memories of John J. Hardin and Edward D. Baker. It charges that they conspired to defeat Lincoln by unworthy means, such as inducing delegates instructed for him in the Congressional Convention to disobey, and vote for Baker. The writer is evidently misinformed in respect to a very material fact. He classes Hardin as a Democrat. Hardin was one of the most unflinching and unfaltering Whigs that ever drew the breath of life. He was a mirror of chivalry and so was Baker. Lincoln had boundless respect for, and confidence in, them both. He knew they would sacrifice themselves rather than do an act that could savor in the slightest degree of meanness or dishonor. Those men Lincoln, Hardin and Baker were bosom friends, to my certain knowledge, and Lincoln wrote the sentiments of his heart when he penned the words "Surely Baker would not do the like. As well might Hardin ask one to vote for him in the Convention." He felt that they could be actuated by nothing but the most honorable sentiments towards him. For although they were rivals, they were all three men of the most punctilious honor, and devoted friends. I knew them in-

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intimately, and can say confidently that there never was a particle of envy on the part of one towards the other. The rivalry between them was of the most honorable and friendly character, and when they were killed, as was Hardin in Mexico, and Baker at Balls Bluff, Lincoln felt that in thedeath of each he had lost a dear and true friend. They were all three elected from the Springfield district to Congress, showing the confidence of the Whigs in them. The writer of the article is also mistaken in supposing that Mr. Lincoln regards his election to Congress at that time, as the turning point in his career. At the session of the Legislature of 1856--7 the Democrats were for the first time left in the minority, and the Ante Nebraska party composed principally of old Whigs, concluded that then was their chance to elect Lincoln to the U. S. Senate. Many of us had not voted, as Lincoln did for Fremont, but for Filmore. Such however was our regard for Lincoln we were almost unanimously in his favor. A caucus was held of all the Nebraska men but five, and Lincoln got every vote of the Caucus. We supposed the absentees would vote with us and we felt confident that we should elect Lincoln, on the first ballot. When the ballot wastaken we found to our utter amazement that Judd of Cook, Cook, La Salle Palmer, of Macoupin and Allen, and Baker of Madison voted for Lyman Trumbull, who had just been elected by the ante Nebraska men to Congress from the Belleville district, and had not yet taken his seat. The Whigs in the district had voted for Trumbull to a man. I was deputed to ascer-

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tain what was the trouble with these five men, and was cooly informed that their consciences would not permit them to vote for a man of Whig antecedents. In the meantime several ballots had been taken, Shields getting the Democrats, Lincoln the votes of the Caucus, and Trumbull the votes of the conscientious. We had known all along that some of our men, who had been elected on the Nebraska ticket, would after they had satisfied their consciences, bolt and vote for Matteson. Shields was run as a blind. We did not know when the consciences of our three men would be satisfied, and we had to unite speedily to defeat Matteson. I told Mr. Lincoln and our side the result of my inquiries, and asked him what he thought ought to be done. He said- by all means we ought to vote for Trumbull- as that was the only way to defeat Matteson. We did so with many misgivings and Trumbull was elected. The Mountain went to Mahomet. Trumbull was rotated from a seat in the house to a seat in the Senate. Lincoln who had built up the party and whose followers composed nine tenths of it, was left out in the cold, because he would not follow the rule or ruin policy. What influence Trumbull exercised in this matter, I do not know, but I never heard of his advising his five friends to vote for Lincoln. I accompanied Lincoln that evening to his house, and I never saw him so dejected. He said the fates seemed to be against him, and he thought he would never strive for office again. He could bear defeat inflicted by his enemies with a pretty good grace, but it was hard to be wounded in the house of his friends. Up to this

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time Lincoln had not reached his turning point. He said to me while riding together from Edwardsville to Greenville in 1858, that he had but one complaint to make against Douglas in their discussions, and that was, Douglas arrogated superiority over him on account of his national reputation. Said he, "If our positions were changed, I would not do that." He believed he had not then attained a National reputation. His debate with Douglas and the consideration accorded him after his Coopers Institute Speech in N. Y. City, I think first inspired him with the idea that he was above the average of mankind. He never was a vain man but always had a good share of confidence in the correctness of his own opinions and was never unwilling or reluctant to champion the cause he espoused. He was always in the hands of his friends in that regard, and never sought or declined the position. As early as 1834-5 he was put forward as the spokesman of the Whig party, and he never disappointed them or fell below their expectations.

A. Gillespie.

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