In the winter of 1849-50 a german gentleman from Philadelphia came to Springfield and after some labor succeeded in collecting a class of about a dozen gentlemen for the study of the german language. The class when organized included Messrs Lincoln & Herndon, Dr Bell, Dr Lund and others whose names I can not recall. The meetings were held semi-weekly in Lincoln & Herndons office. Instruction was given mainly by a little book of phrases which had been compiled and printed by our teacher for the use of scholars in his academy in Philadelphia. The teacher was not a complete master of english and his attempt to explain german words which sounded like english words with a quite different meaning produced some merriment and sometimes had to be illuminated by a blunt string from

Mr Lincoln. The school continued through most of the winter but I think that none of us mastered the language

A. H.