Lincoln's Departure—Interview with Mr.E.F.Leonard of Peoria,Ill.

Mr.E.F.Leonard of Peoria,now President of the Toledo,Peoria & Western Railway,was a resident of Springfield in 1861 and accompanied the Lincoln train as far as Indianapolis. In an interview August 2,1898,Mr.Leonard said:

"The gathering at the station was not large compared to the crowd that would assemble on a similar occasion now. It was made up almost entirely of Mr.Lincoln's personal friends. Many were very much affected by the parting. Mr.Lincoln shook hands with a large number in the depot. I remember well seeing Mr.Jesse K.Dubois and Mr. Ebenezer Peck in conversation with him. They were among his closest advisers. Mr.Lincoln's address was delivered just before the train started. His farewell was scarcely uttered when the train moved off. The address produced a most profound impression.

"The train which left Springfield was a special,consisting of three cars—an ordinary baggage car and two common day coaches. The rear car was dedicated to Mr.Lincoln and the persons whom he asked to come in and talk with him. There was no general sitting in that car. I think during the entire day Mr.Lincoln had but two or three persons with him. Sometimes he was pretty nearly alone. I do not remember that he entered the other car once on the way to Indianapolis. I have the impression that he was working on the draft of his speeches to be delivered along the route. I have no doubt these were matters of discussion with the gentlemen whom he summoned to him—particularly Mr.Peck,Mr.Judd and Mr.Dubois.

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