

I reached Putnam at one o'clock, November 10th/16 Mr. Tracy met me and took me to the Putnam Inn for dinner. He lives two and a half miles from town in a typical New England house, built in 1780, long sloping roof, tremendous fire places. One of them has around it a Franklin hood, something I never saw before.

I find that his Lincoln interest is a natural evolution of a collector's instinct. He taught school near Putnam in his youth. He is now about 85. He says he remembers back to '58. Among his pupils was one that had a collection of autographs. This started him. He selected his subjects largely from the authors in the old sixth reader, says that he got his repertoire out of that. The first of these, as I remember it, was a Bishop Potter who lived in Philadelphia, and who had various selections in the Sixth Reader. This school teaching was done a mile from where he lives now.

In 1863 he became a clerk in Washington Here he seems to have applied his autograph hunting diligently; tells of going to Whitman and asking for his autograph, and being refused rather bluntly. A few days later he wrote Whitman asking him if a certain book of his had been published and where he, Tracy, could get it. Of course Whitman replied, a short correspondence ensued, and Tracy had his autograph. He seems to have been indefatigable in this work He did not like Whitman; will not have a book of his; says he was gross; quotes Mrs. Acker. — Allen was in Washington in a department in his time. Mrs. Acker wrote "Rock Me to Sleep, Mother", and various other things. She and Tracy corresponded for

years. He has a memorial lot in the cemetery near Putnam where he has erected a monument to Mrs. Acker. He has also put up a stone to Theodore Tilton, whom he admired enormously, and with whom he corresponded until Tilton's death. He now corresponds with the woman who was Tilton's companion during part or all of his life in Paris, and who is still living there. He has many of Mrs. Acker's manuscripts, also of Tilton's.

He seems not to have done any serious Lincoln collecting until Tandy began to collect new letters for the Gettysburg edition. He came to New York to tell Tandy that he had a Lincoln autograph letter. From that on he has done little ^{if anything} else.

Admirable collection of books, many pamphlets, clippings and notes. The most interesting that I saw was a typewritten copy of the correspondence between Lamon and Robert Lincoln in 1826 when Robert Lincoln was Secretary of War. Lamon wanted the Denver Post Office. Lincoln objected. Lamon wrote him asking him if this was so that he had objected on personal grounds, recalling to Lincoln his father's friendship for Lincoln. Robert Lincoln wrote a very curt response, saying it was so. Lamon wrote a lengthy verbose note,. Of course the objection was founded, on Lamon's reference, so he thinks to the marriage of the grandparents. See ~~page~~ paragraph 1, page 10. Lamon declares the marriage letters and marriage bond forgeries. He says that he thinks the grandparents were married, but that somebody who wanted to injure Lincoln's memory forged these documents in order to prove that the first child, Lincoln's oldest sister, was born only about four and a half months after the marriage.

Compare marriage letter and copy of Lincoln's family record in first volume of Hernden.

Tracy remembers John Hay, says he never did anything more than to exchange glances with him in the morning when Hay came out of the White House, a gallant looking young fellow with a cigar in his mouth and a newspaper in his hand. Tracy was then on his way to his desk.