

just before her last severe illness. That
 she had been writing for you -
 It will be two weeks tomorrow
 since she was buried - a lovely
 obituary notice was given
 in our daily paper - of
 her death - last evening
 I sent down to the office
 hoping to get a copy - that
 I might send the article to
 you - believing you
 would be interested in it -
 But we could
 not get it -
 Mrs. Logan & family are all
 well - Her mother is with her
 death - you have heard -
 her sister - Mrs. Calder died
 two or three months ago -
 I fear my cramped writing
 will be hard to decipher - but
 I am writing hurriedly - & talk many
 questions - with the kind of feelings
 Mrs. J. Edwards

your letter came to me yesterday
 & my interest in it so great. That after reading
 it. I should have replied to it immediately - had
 a threatened sick head ache prevented.

I was so indignant with Mr. Herndon, for
 the falsity of his statement with regard to Mr. Lin-
 coln's marriage - I felt impatience to tell you. That
 all that he says about this wedding - the time for
 which was "fixed for the first day of January" - is all
 a fabrication - He has drawn largely upon his
 imagination - in describing something, which never
 took place.

I know the engagement - between Mr.
 Lincoln & Miss Todd - was interrupted for a time & it

was rumored among her young friends - that Mr Ed-
wards had rather opposed ^{it} - that I cannot speak with
any certainty - but - his visits to Mr Ed's house ceased
& they met at the house of a mutual friend - Mrs Linn
or Francis - whose husband, I think, was the first
editor of the Springfield Journal - & I am sure there
had been no time fixed - for any wedding - that is no
preparations had ever been made - until the day that
Mr Lincoln met Mr Edwards on the street - & told him
that he & Mary were going to be married that evening -
upon inquiry - Mr L said they would be married in the
Episcopal Church - to which Mr Ed - replied - "No, Mary is
my ward - & she must be married at my house -"

He went home to make the announcement to his
wife - to whom it came as a shock - & surprise -

He then came over to my home - to give an invita-
tion - which was in these words - "My wife wants you
all to come to our house this evening" - I enquired -
what is going on? - Then he gave the particulars of
his having met Mr Lincoln &c - adding, I left Elizabeth

enquiring - but Mrs Levering - (their near neighbor) has gone
in to see if she can help her -"

Mrs Edwards told me afterward - what a shock the
news was to her - & how much she had been at Mary's want
of confidence in her. She said - that after she was com-
posed enough to see Mary - & talk with her about it - she
seemed very much disinclined to say any thing of it -
till - when she said "Mary, you have not given me much
time to prepare ^{much of} a wedding entertainment for our friends
~~with a lot~~ I shall have to send to old Slicky - (the only
bakery in town) - for some ginger bread & beer" - jokingly
Mary with an indignant toss of her head - said - "Well
that is good enough for plebeians I suppose" -

This word - it seems - Mr Edwards - in his very
early acquaintance with Mr Lincoln - had used in
giving his opinion of Mr L - & Mary had not forgotten it

If I remember rightly - the wedding guests were
few - not more than thirty - & it seems to me all are
gone - ^{now} - but Mrs Wallace - Mrs Levering - & myself - for
it was - not much more than a family gathering -
only two or three of Mary Todd's young friends were
present - The "entertainment" was simple - but in
beautiful taste - for Mrs Edwards was a notable house-
keeper - but the bride - had neither veil - nor flowers
in her hair - with which to "toy nervously" - ~~and there~~
had been no elaborate toilette - for the bride of the
future president of the United States - nor even a hand

some wedding gown - Was it a gay wedding -

Several weeks since - The Times Herald sent a reporter to Springfield - to gather up items & incidents of Lincoln's life - I called on several persons here - among them Mrs Dr Wallace - Her account - was published in that paper - which I think I yet have - I so I will enclose her version of the affair - She says the wedding was on Sun day - That is a mistake - Anne Todd, a younger sister who married Mr C. W. Smith - had the Sunday marriage - preparations for this work had been made some days previous - but Mr Smith's home was in Carrollton - & at that time the creeks & roads - were in such an untravelable condition, he could not get here, until Sunday morning -

I do not know that I have made things very clear to you - dear Miss Tarbell - only - I know Mr Howard's story - is all untrue - I have often doubted that it was really a love affair - between Mr L. & Mary - but think it was through mutual friends - that the marriage was made up - (in common parlance)

He was deeply in love with Matilda Edwards - a daughter of Mr Cyrus E. & brother of Gov E. - but the father objected - & it was then - (I heard) that he almost lost his reason -

Did you know that Mrs Dr Brown is dead? She died at the home of a favorite niece in Leicestershire - Oh what a loss to her friends - to the church - to the whole community - I have known her nearly fifty years - & as a young girl - daughter - wife - mother - friend - never have I heard one disparaging word of her - Truly - of her it may be said - "None knew her but to love her - None named her but to praise" - I believe the last work she did, was to prepare some papers for you - about Lincoln - Ah! alas, I understood that her son John had died

Copy.

Springfield, Oct. 8th, 1895.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Your letter came to me yesterday and my interest in it, so great, that after reading it, I should have replied to it immediately had not a threatened sick head ache prevented.

I was so indignant with Mr. Herndon, for the falsity of his statement with regard to Mr. Lincoln's marriage. ~~I felt~~ *am* impatient to tell you that all that he says about this wedding - the time for which was "fixed for the first day of January" - is all a fabrication. He has drawn largely upon his imagination in describing something, which never took place.

I know the engagement between Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd was interrupted for a time, and it was rumored among her young friends that Mr. Edwards had rather opposed it. (Of that I cannot speak with any certainty, but his visits to Mr. E's house ceased and they met at the house of a mutual friend - Mrs. Simeon Francis - whose husband, I think, was the first editor of the Springfield Journal) ~~and~~ ^{but} I am sure there had been no "time fixed" for any wedding, that is no preparations had ever been made until the day that Mr. Lincoln met Mr. Edwards on the street and told him that he and Mary were going to be married that evening. Upon enquiry Mr. L said they would be married in the Episcopal Church to which Mr. E replied - "No, Mary is my ward - and she must be married at my house."

He went home to make the announcement to his wife to whom it came as a shock - and surprise.

He then came over to my home - to give an invitation - which was in these words - " My wife wants you all to come to our house this evening" - I enquired what is going on? Then he gave the particulars of his having met Mr. Lincoln, etc., adding, I left Elizabeth crying - but Mrs. Lovering (their near neighbor) has gone in to see if she can help her."

Mrs. Edwards told me afterward what a shock the news was to her, and how hurt she had been at Mary's want of confidence in her. She said that after she was composed enough to see Mary and talk with her about it, she seemed very much disinclined to say anything of it, only, when she said "Mary, you have not given me much time to prepare much of a wedding entertainment for our friends. I shall have to send to old Dickey - (the only bakery in town) - for some ginger bread and beer" - jokingly. Mary with an indignant tip of her head, said - "Well that is good enough for plebeians, I suppose."

This word - it seems - Mr. Edwards, in his very early acquaintance with Mr. Lincoln had used in giving his opinion of Mr. L, and Mary had not forgotten it.

If I remember rightly the wedding guests were few, not more than thirty, and it seems to me all are gone now but Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Levering and myself, for it was not much more than a

(3)

family gathering only two or three of Mary Todd's young friends were present. The "entertainment" was simple, but in beautiful taste, (~~for Mrs. Edwards was a notable house-keeper,~~) but the bride had neither veil nor flowers in her hair, with which to "toy nervously". There had been no elaborate trousseau, for the bride of the future president of the United States, nor even a handsome wedding gown, nor was it a gay wedding. X

Several weeks since the Times Herald, sent a reporter to Springfield to gather up items, and incidents of Lincoln's life, and called on several persons here, among them, Mrs. Dr. Wallace. Her account was published in that paper, which I think I yet have, if so, I will enclose her version of the affair. She says the wedding was on Sunday. That is a mistake. Anne Todd, a younger sister who married Mr. C. M. Smith, had the Sunday marriage - preparations for this event, had been made some days previous, but Mr. Smith's home was in Carrolton and at that time the creeks and roads were in such an untravellable condition he could not get here until Sunday morning. I do not know that I have made things very clear to you, dear Miss Tarbell, only, I know Mr. Herndon's story is all untrue. I have often doubted that it was really a love affair between Mr. L and Mart T, but think it was through mutual friends (?) that the marriage was made up (in common parlance).

He was deeply in love with Matilda Edwards, a daughter

of Mr. Cyrus E, brother of Gov. E, but the father objected, and it was then, (I heard) that he almost lost his reason. Did you know that Mrs. Dr. Brown is dead? She died at the home of a favourite niece in Duluth. Oh what a loss to her friends, to the church, to the whole community. I have known her nearly fifty-five years, and as a young girl, daughter, wife, ~~mother~~, friend. Never have I heard one disparaging word of her. Truly of her it may be said - "None knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise." I believe the last work she did was to prepare some papers for you about Lincoln. At least, I understood that her son John had said just before her last severe illness, that she had been writing for you. It will be two weeks to-morrow since she was buried. A lovely obituary notice was given in our daily paper, of two weeks since. Last evening I sent down to the office hoping to get a copy, that I might send the article to you, believing you would be interested in it. But not one could be gotten. Mrs. Logan and family are all well. Her mother is with her. Doubtless you have heard that her sister, Mrs. Calder died two or three months ago. I fear my cramped writing will be hard to decypher, but I have written hurriedly, and with many interruptions.

With the kindest feelings,

(signed) Mrs. B. T. Edwards.