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For God and Home and Every Land.

NATIONAL

Woman's Christian Temperance Union...

TIME OF PRAYER—Noontide.

METHODS—Preventive, Educational, Evangelistic, Social and Legal.

WATCHWORDS—Agitate—Educate—Organize.

BADGE—A Knot of White Ribbon.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, EVANSTON, ILL., U. S. A. 189

Asheville, N.C. Jan. 4th, 1896.

(Dictated).

Dear Friend:

I am wonderfully "taken" with your story of Lincoln.

Two authentic anecdotes have come to me which I wish to pass on to you: A lawyer in Illinois told one of our White Ribboners who told me that he was once making the rounds of the Circuit Court in a "buggy" in company with Abraham Lincoln, they had just crossed an ominous looking "slough" for the like of which the prairies of Illinois had much ill repute in those days; as they navigated their buggy along the edge of this slough they saw a hog submerged in it so that nothing but its head was left "above ground". When they had driven a short distance Lincoln asked his companion, who held the reins, to "Stop a Minute", and when asked what notion he had in his head now? he answered, I am going back to pull that pig out of the mud" and this he did in spite of the vigorous protest of his lawyer friend.

I think it was the same authority who said that in the early days when Lincoln was about eighteen years of age a Circuit Preacher who was familiarly known as "Old Uncle John Berry" held a temperance meeting in the neighborhood where was Lincoln was and at its close offered the pledge. Whereupon the tall, awkward young man came to the front and put down his name. In later years Mr. Lincoln said that not one of the young men who were his friends and associates would sign and that almost without an exception everyone of them came to ruin through strong drink.

Many years after Mr. Lincoln met "Uncle John Berry" in a court room and recognizing him expressed his thanks and told him that to his influence he attributed the greatest good that had ever come to him in life.

It seems most desirable that Lincoln's temperance record should be clearly brought out. You know he used to speak on the subject and his address was circulated many years ago by temperance people. It is on file at the Oldroyd Museum in Springfield, Ill. I am trying to get for you an address made by Lincoln before the State fair in Wisconsin in the autumn of 1858. I remember that some passages in it strongly impressed me, especially the peroration. My father was President of the State Agricultural Society that invited Lincoln and he had the honor of introducing him on the occasion. I know the speech was reported in the Wisconsin State Journal of that period and I am trying to secure a copy through a friend in the University. If I should do this it will be forwarded to you.

When my brother was a theological student in the University at Evans-
ton (1859-61) ^{says Mrs. Willard} Abraham Lincoln, prominently before the country came to Evans-
ton as a guest of Gen. Julius White (the hero of Pea Ridge Battle). Gen.
White brought Lincoln to the theological dept. where he spoke briefly to
the students, but what impressed them--and I well remember my brother tell-
ing us of it in great glee when he came home at noon--Lincoln invited some
of the students who were walking along with him in the Campus to compete
in jumping over a stile or fence I don't remember which it was. This they
did to the best of their ability and at the close he vaulted over as my
brother said "profiting by his long legs" and set them all into laughter
and applause by his performance. # You know it was Lincoln who on being
asked what he thought was the proper length of a man's legs replied in his
quizzical fashion "I don't think it matters; only they should be long
enough to reach the floor!"

I shall be among the most diligent readers of the Life.

I saw our dear Mrs. Henry when in Chicago a few weeks since; she was lovely in presence and spirit, we talked of you and of many things concern-
ing which I should be glad to speak to you when we meet.

With warm congratulations on your great success, which I always
knew would come and which I resented when you were kept teetotally out of
sight, I am,

Ever yours with every good wish,

Amos A. Willard