Putnam, Conn., Nov 25, 1914

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Here is a copy of a brief note of Mr. Lincoln to Secretary Welles without date, but not without interest.

I can not find it in any Edition of his published Works. It relates to two disobedient, refractory boys who ran away from home and enlisted in the U. S. Navy, and their parents appealed to Mr. Lincoln for their release:

"Secretary Welles,-

"The United States don't need the "services of boys who disobey their parents. Let both "Snyder and Ratcliffe be discharged.

A. Lincoln."

With sincere regards,

Very truly yours,

Gilbert A. Tracy.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.