A few days previous to the battles of the Wilderness & Spotsylvania Court House President Lincoln telegraphed to Gen. Grant at the front that he desired his presence in Washington. He came and after an exchange of opinions as to future operations the meeting was at an end. When bidding the General good by the President placed his hand on his shoulder & in a voice somewhat saddened by emotion said: "General Spare the boys." How well he knew Grant's tactics!

While I was Engaged with Tad in the library & Mr Robt Lincoln was playing the Piano the President & while passing through it from his Office, was asked by him (Mr R.L.) if there was any news from the front. To which the President replied. "Oh! Yes Stanton has just notified me that many of the boys on the other side are coming into our Lines in great need of food & Clothing & Wishing to know if they he should issue orders for their wants being supplied. I have instructed him to do so."

The "Free Church of Scotland" at one of their annual "Assemblies" passed a long and exhaustive anti slavery Resolution on the for transmission to the President. A few minutes after he had received it the late then Commissioner of Agriculture, a great favorite of his, Entered. He told him to sit down until

Portrait of Mr Lincoln

he had read the "Free Church" resolution. The Commissioner who was a rude & conceited man, feeling I presumed anxious to inform the President the object of his call, exclaimed "Not worth reading Mr President - Not worth reading." "Not worth reading did you say? Why it is the strongest & most convincing argument against Slavery I ever read." I forget whether this "Free Church of Scotland" paper was received by him before or after his Emancipation manifesto.

After waiting for Jadi's appearance at School time, & which I had too often to do. I concluded that he had was playing truant & put on my hat and was just emerging from the Library when I met the President. After a kindly recognition he asked "Is Jad at his old tricks?" I answered "Yes Mr President." "Now Mr Williamson you just take your usual seat & I'll send one of the others in search of the Jad." He did so & in a short time Jadi voice was heard the tone of which indicated that he was an unwilling Captive. Just as the Usher with his prisoner on his back was nearing the Library Entrance the President hid behind the door & as the Captor & the Captive entered the President locked the door & handed me the

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

Key. Tad when he saw his father exclaimed "I make believe! You won't cheat me again." The Ushers had told him that the President had something for him which would please him: Hence the cry of "Make believe". The lessons proceeded but Tad was too excited & irritated at the trick played on him. He was tongue tied. I strongly urged Mrs Lincoln in 1864 to have his frenum linguae cut & a simple operation. but she imagined that he might possibly bleed to death & would not therefore give her consent. The President was agreeable desirous however that the operation should be performed. It never was. Tad died in Chicago of heart dropsy.

to be benefited by his lessons

William Wallace Lincoln who died of typhoid fever in 1862 after a few days illness was a boy of much promise. His studies to him were a pleasure. His eagerness to acquire information was phenominal. In disposition he was retiring, affectionate and sympathetic. He hated "slang" & rudeness of language & deportment. While chatting with him after the conclusion of his lessons, which I frequently did, he said "Mr. Williamson I was sorry I would not permit the President Hamlin to visit him." "Why I asked." "Because he does not dress like a

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

Gentleman. He clothes look dusty & brown & his shirt dirty. "He is a relation to my papa. Should make him dress better."

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