Miss. Ida M. Tarbell,

Newport, Pa.

My Dear Madame:- Your letter, which came to hand a short time ago, pleases me very much, and in reply I shall be pleased to give you what little information I have regarding President Lincoln at the White House and Soldiers' Home.

I have just interviewed my uncle, Benj. F. Ellis, who was Orderly Sergeant in Capt. Derickson's company K. He remembers some incidents that may be of interest to you, and I shall also relate one from the lips of John N. Waid, a private in the company. First in regard to those related by Mr. Ellis.

It seems that several times during the stay of Company K. at the Soldiers' Home, orders were issued by the War Department to leave the company join the regiment in the field, as there was need of all the men that could be spared. About the last day of October 1862, another order

came and was read to the company. The boys at once began to make preparation for leaving, as this time "marching orders" were imperative. Shortly after the bustle of making ready began in the Camp on the morning of the first of November, "Little Tad," who was a great favorite with the "guard," came down, with tears in his eyes and asked what was up. The men replied "We are going to leave you, Tad; we've got marching orders." "No," replied Tad, you must'nt go." "Yes, but we must," replied the soldier boys, we have received orders from the "War Department to report at the headquarters of our regiment and we cannot disobey." Little Tad, thought a moment and said that he would see that they did not go and ran as fast as his little limbs would carry him towards the house. He related the news to his father who at once penned the following note:—

Executive Mansion, Washington,

November 1, 1862.

"Whom it May Concern;—

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Capt. Derickson, with his company, have been for some time keeping guard at my residence, now at the Soldiers' Retreat. He and his company are very agreeable to me; and while it is deemed proper for any guard to remain, none would be more satisfactory to me than Capt. D. and his company.

A. Lincoln

Lincoln sent "Little Tad" with this to the War Department and presently returned very proudly bring a message from the Secretary, countermanding the order to march.

The above facts are as related to me; there is some confusion as regards the person addressed in Mr. Lincoln's note. It would seem that the note should be addressed to the Secretary of the War Department. You shall probably have to verify this by consulting the records of the department or private individuals. Only the bare outline of facts is here given.

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At another time Robt. Usher, a member of the company received the sad intelligence that his father, (who was a resident of Hartstown) had received fatal injuries by falling from a load of corn-fodder. Robt. went to Capt. Thomas Getchell, who succeeded Capt. Dickson in command of the company, and applied for a furlough. Capt. Getchell, though very much desiring personally to grant his request, said it was contrary to orders not to grant any more furloughs. Mr. Usher went to the President's Mansion and asked to see Mr. Lincoln. After some preliminary questions, he was ushered into the President's presence and related the circumstances, when Mr. Lincoln wrote an order on the back of an envelope and told Usher to carry it to Head-quarters. It was an order for a furlough and Mr. Usher was soon on his way home.

Such in regard to the incident related by Mr. John N. Waid, now of Jamestown, Mercer Co., Pa. I have had this from Mr. Waid himself and being a man of truth and veracity, I have no

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reason to doubt it. The incident occurred at the "White House". It was a dark stormy night. The weather was cold and the sleet and rain was falling. It was a very disagreeable night to be out, but the Lincoln's Guards must remain on duty regardless of the inclemency of the weather. Mr. Haid was doing duty in front of the Mansion, his beat being across the drive-way leading up from the eastern gate. Mr. Lincoln had been out until late, probably at Mr. Seward's private office, and came up the driveway towards the White House. As he came by, he saluted the guard and remarked that it was a very bad night to do duty. Mr. Haid replied that it was but such was the soldier's lot. Mr. Lincoln requested him to come under the porch and remain until the storm was over. Mr. Haid said he should not dare to leave his post of duty until regularly relieved. Mr. Lincoln replied in a half joking way, "But I command you to come under shelter. As President, I am commander-

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in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and I command you to come in out of the storm. Mr. Kaid said that it was useless to further argue the question with the President, who further assured him that he would get him out of any difficulty which should arise for thus leaving his post. Mr. Kaid went into shelter, but was careful to return to his post after the President had gone into the mansion and before his time to be relieved.

Mr. Ellis relates the following: After the death and burial of President Lincoln, when it came time for Mrs. Lincoln to leave the White House, she called for the President's Guard. They were marched to the front of the mansion and formed in line, and Mrs. L. passed along the line, taking each by the hand and saying good bye. The sad ending of the great man, her husband, seemed to change her entire nature, and her heart was burst in twain with grief.

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