ISAAC MARKENS INTERVIEW 9/15/22

Impression of feebleness and age. Very deaf, can get nothing to him except by writing. He has all his glee, however, over trapping Lincoln fakers. Is after Cornelius Coles of California, formerly a member of Congress, I believe, who recently has been saying that he (Coles) heard Lincoln give the Gettysburg speech, and that when he got on his feet he didn't know what he was going to say and had nothing repared. This is an interview that I have not seen. Markens has made an exhaustive study of the Gettysburg speech, which he cannot publish.

Makes a shrewd observation about Mrs. Andrew's story, that Lincoln was the last person to have been depressed by a supposed failure in his speech, that such were his cares that he had no time to dwell on a supposed failure.

The man can be included among my Lovers of Lincoln. He tells me that his family often say, "What would father have done if he had not had Lincoln?" He is cynical, apparently, about all the rest of the world, but he accepts every fibre of Lincoln as honest and clean.

He has had a long correspondence with Robert Lincoln, though Robert finally stopped answering his letters, as I should think he might have. He is the kind that if you give him one letter he expects ten. He thinks Robert doesn't know much about his father. Is greatly interested in what will become of the correspondence in Robert's hands, seems to be convinced that things that might be of great importance or change public opinion about men and acts will be suppressed - evidently thinks the worst of most people. Hints at a quarrel between Helen Nicolay and Mrs. Wordsworth over the original of the Gettysburg speech which, he says, is in the Congressional Library now.

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