

From letter of Mr. John C. Dodge, 511 11th St. N.W. Wash-
ington, D. C., Feb. 24th, 1899.

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I was very familiar with the movements of Mr. Lincoln during that period and at one time when the conspiracy was discovered to seize the President and run him across the lines over into Virginia and possibly assassinate him I was sent to Mr. Lincoln from Col. Baker with the story I had heard of the plot. Looking me full in the face and putting his hand on my shoulder he said in a dry way "My young man, do you really believe there is any one who seriously contemplates any such a thing?" Then suddenly going to his desk he seized a piece of paper and wrote on it to Secretary Stanton:

"Hear what this man says." I went over to the old War Dept. building, and handed the note to — H. Watson, if I remember rightly, or possibly to Mr. Dana, who gave it to Mr. Stanton. I was called into the private room of the Secretary of War and we were seated if I remember rightly on an old-fashioned sofa, covered with hair-cloth. We were not long seated before Mr. Lincoln came in laughing and immediately began telling the Secretary a story in regard to his own experiences in early life. He never mentioned the fact of this mission he sent me on until reminded by Mr. Stanton, when in a pleasant way and as I well remember, with a smile on his face he had me repeat all I had learned.