For weeks the little pioneer town of New Salem and all the Sangamon County around had been parched by drought and heat. ~~In~~ The August prairie so fresh- had lost all greenness and lay stubbly yellowed & dirty ~~[illegible]~~ under ~~the~~ a torrid sun & ~~the~~ [illegible] cloud- under. Fever had followed in the wake of drought and there were few of the scattered homes on the ~~bottom~~ [illegible] near the town lay – or along the river which flowed ~~followed~~ at ~~the~~ its feet ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ which it had not entered. One home in particular had suffered – that of James Rutledge. It was a large family 9 children ~~one~~ & the heart & light the ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] face beautiful – ~~Annie~~ [illegible] a girl, of 22 who for years now had been her mother's chief ~~aide~~ lieutenant

Aug 25 1835
Jan 7 1813
22

2

~~Lea Hass had the~~ family in the present crisis

whatever ~~the~~ burden the jury so } She had been. Sentiment in a pioneer ~~comm~~ settlement ~~becoming~~ calls out ~~all~~ the full sympathy - unremitting ~~all the~~ self sacrifice of neighbors. They ~~stay~~ give their strength - & nursing ~~all~~ as long as nursing ~~may~~ be needed & if the dog [illegible] when care ~~is no~~ fails & ~~the~~ death later enter ~~in~~ victim, they build the coffin, dig the grave ~~[illegible]~~ and then they pass on to another bed side.

weep & pray by the Ann North

At the Rutledge's ~~one in~~ one friend in particular had ~~devoted himself~~ } stood by - A. L.

His devotion came } ~~more in He had a particular~~ He had ~~a particular~~ not only ~~not~~ ~~[illegible] did~~ out ~~for~~ sympathy for the Rutledge family ~~[illegible]~~ his friends since he had first joined the community but because of ~~his better~~ anxiety for Ann. The fear that the burden she was carrying would be too much - that she her-self ~~would~~ ~~in her turn~~ never might in time claim her & that - she would be too worn to resist - the attack. That he could not bear - dare not think of. Ann ~~was the~~ & he were betrothed - in another year hoped to be married. His happiness in her, his ~~In August the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ was something beyond anything he had ever dreamed ~~to~~ come to him ~~[illegible]~~

~~was duty all he cared to [illegible] listen her care - even to neglecting his own studies - or that she gave little time to the child & time which were eying to each her own times;~~

"His fears were ~~not~~ soon realized. ~~Ann felt the fever~~ ~~Ann was forced to give up to these~~ Ann was stricken

To lose ~~the~~ her the thought
was unthinkable.

4

But this unthinkable sorrow was close at hand and when it came it left ~~the man who~~ ~~left the bereft of all romance~~, ended the only romance of A. L.'s life.

It was not strange that he reeled under the blow. Up to this time ~~[illegible]~~ bland Ann Rutledge had found ease ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ there had been little joy in A. L.'s life but hard and sordid privation. He had ~~known~~ [illegible] nothing of the ~~joy~~ advantages ~~the~~ the gentler joys, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~tendency of~~ ~~[illegible]~~ never dreamed of a relation which could ~~[illegible]~~ ~~nothing had any part~~ a gleam in daily living - ~~given~~ give ~~[illegible]~~ far various things & plans

Emerson II p. 325

Grace a glimmer of romance"

And now ~~all~~ the dreams she had awakened - all hope of ~~the~~ their fulfillment

5 –

Gone –

Years later he was to write to a young friend bereaved by the death of ~~yesta~~ her father. "In this sad world of ours sorrow comes to all; and to the young it comes with bittered agony, because it takes them unawares". He had been taken unawares.

The touchstone of a man's fiber is sorrow. Will he bear it? – Can he bear it? More than one friend of A. L. in the months following (A. R.'s) death asked himself the question ~~some as he~~ ~~was himself~~ by nursing as well as ~~by the death of some month wasted~~ ~~weeks been stealing ... sunshine~~ & ~~while the~~ ~~this~~ friend ~~was~~ absorbing ~~brooding~~ – om as he saw the (1) man apathetic brooding – (heard (3) him at that – he could not bear the thought of rain & snow on her grave) wandered (2) him, going again & again to the distant grave

tt le
A

neglecting all the interests which he had
filled his days – the first effect of which
engross the matter – his studying – that can
reading

A-3 4

yard where Anne lay. But there
friends near, wise ~~wit~~ & ~~true~~ of many kinds
were an understanding pair
who had befriended him from his
~~start~~ first coming to New Salem –
whose home had always been
open to him – Bowling Green & they now
took him in – ~~nursed the B~~ ~~Bowling~~ Greens
~~Between Bowling~~
~~And~~ – Nursed ~~him~~ the fever ~~the~~
which had unsettled him for weeks
& which he had neglected in early
fortune. and best of all ~~Uncle Billy~~!? ~~both~~ & ~~both~~
~~2 they~~ gave him that natural unquestioning
companionship which to those who ~~is~~
suffer is ~~the~~ a balm of Gilead – Our
"He must fight it himself – Don't
mind him." "Let him alone." ~~[illegible]~~

seeming but kindly ~~tru~~ ~~treatmen~~ treatment
did its work. ~~As the~~ fever passed and
~~&~~ sleep began to flow again through his
body, his mind rallied. He thought
less of his misery & more of the kind-
ness & needs of those about him

unnoticing

Such was their simple - and profound - understanding of the needs of a sick soul[x].

"He's picking up" they said to each other "& he needed ~~that~~ the rest - A month gone & he was going his old rounds again. Pale - emaciated - not himself ~~but no longer heedless - no longer blind~~ to be sure but again attending to his duties as postmaster of ~~New~~ Salem again out with his compass & chain & was following ~~the~~ his work of as a deputy surveyor ~~of Sangamon County~~ - again riding or walking each to fetch from Springfield the ~~law~~ books he was studying preparatory to beginning the practice of law the next year and then there were ~~His reading was broadened~~ ~~excitement~~, the excitements and the struggles of politics - He was now a member of the Illinois Legislature & in December left New Salem for the winter session at the state legislature - Vandalia. The change to scene

X

7

was a bore. He at once threw himself into the whole of things - important and stirring questions - the ~~state~~ - ~~& bank~~ Bank of the U.S. - internal ~~state~~ improvements - the public lands - railroads & canals ~~canals~~ - the Conven ~~convention~~ system - the removal of the capital to a more convenient & central part of the state - nothing with all his might = he kept his person to himself, deadened it - & when election day he went back to New Salem he was sick of matters - and while it may so for New Salem was a dreary spot to return to - the town was dying. Its hopes of being ~~the metropolis of the county~~ a prosperous centre gone. In May Lincoln lost his job as postmaster the office being discontinued - one by one he saw his old neighbors moving away - many of them to the town ~~site~~ - ~~which~~ site Petersburg which economically enough he himself had surveyed & platted. Still there was politics – there was the law reading his chain & compass. He was busy enough – perhaps busier than ever but he was still in his friends' minds not himself. He was in his early moods too often beset by ~~it~~ what they called "the hypo" – fits of dark melancholia which "even" unnerved ~~them~~ him – ~~A~~ He did not dare carry a pocket knife he told a friend once lest in one of ~~these~~ spells & blacks he take his own life.

It was the women who noted him particularly – One of them a woman of ~~[illegible]~~ education – ~~[illegible]~~ observing & ~~[illegible]~~ reflection ~~than~~ ~~& reflection~~ – one who had been A.R.'s confidant & always his friend – said to herself "he's grown ~~growing~~ up." Years later she was to state her belief that A.R.'s death L. began to be a man.

10

There was another woman — an old friend of his who said to herself Lincoln must marry — be a home that alone will cure him. She had a wife for him — her own sister Mary Owens — a healthy jolly girl ~~and~~ one day when Lincoln came to see ~~her~~ [illegible] she said after leaving "I am going down to Ky. If I bring ~~my sister~~ Mary back will you marry her?" A challenge — what could he say but yes. But as he wrote a friend ~~in Ky~~ much later "Between you & me I was confoundedly well pleased with the idea"

Mrs Abell by name

— pleased at the idea! Had he forgotten A-R — Does one ever forget first romance? ~~He~~ had not forgotten it — but he had buried it ~~[illegible]~~ — a healthy nat'l way — pleased — and gone about his work like a man. But a man needs a ~~wife~~ — a family — a home. ~~Had~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~part of the pioneer~~ Man owes it to the pioneer community of which he is a part

Who ~~had~~ ② years earlier had visited in New Salem - whom L. of course remembered.

11

¶ pleased at the idea! Had he forgotten (A.R.). Does one ever forget an idyllic love? or lose it? It becomes part of the being. This girl's love ~~had~~ lost ~~out of me unworthy unknown~~ ~~the vitalizing of delightful music~~ (though lost ~~it was~~ ~~and~~) had made a man of Rundle. Now a man needs make - a family a ~~[illegible]~~ home. Not for himself alone if he is a pioneer. ~~He~~ ~~he~~ they ~~we~~ owe it to the community ~~he~~ the country he is helping build - no one realized ~~[illegible]~~ this better than L. These ~~[illegible]~~ family made pioneering possible - ~~[illegible]~~ alone held men to their calms. ¶ Now since ~~He~~ he had made no world renunciation of life ~~[illegible]~~ ~~as~~ tempted as he may have been in the ~~[illegible]~~ early days of his life. He had accepted it as he ~~wanted~~ knew ~~[illegible]~~ that (he needed - ~~[illegible]~~ however) a man's companionship - ~~woman~~ care - In this he was very much a man ~~of many women would make him~~

~~His friends~~
How about this Mary Owens who might soon
be there in New Salem? Was she the one
he needed?

~~The parasols~~
And ~~take turn in Mary Owens a possible~~
supr. - ~~at~~ How about Mary Owens?
See 12

12

~~a home he wanted but not a~~ wife. 2

~~[illegible]~~ Whatever of raillery and ~~[illegible]~~ there had been in his shell [illegible] there was at first a spice, it disappeared from his mind ~~at~~ in the weeks after she left ~~for~~ New Salem for her Kentucky visit. He became more & more uneasy about the conversation. What had he done? He had promised ~~[illegible]~~ to marry Mary Owens if she came back with her sister. Would it mean

20

that she ~~would~~ regarded him as a suitor = was willing to consider him as a husband. It ~~s~~ scared him a little. Still if M.O. would make him a home he was willing to make her his wife he concluded.

He remembered her - all New Salem did for she was such a one

see 3 A [illegible]. 13.

three years ago, if he would agree to become her brother-in-law. "I of course accepted the proposal," wrote Lincoln to a confident later "for you know I could not have done otherwise had I really been averse to it; but privately between you and me I was most confoundly well pleased with the project."

And well he might have been if he were looking for a wife ~~for Mary Owens was such~~ A a one as ~~the~~ a pioneer settlement ~~of New Salem~~ did not often see - a woman ~~within~~ a year his senior 28 ~~of his own age~~, buxom, fresh of face, blue-eyed, gay, intelligent, well educated, reported wealthy and looking wealthy to the simple New Salemites. "~~She had~~" the finest trimmings, I ever saw", one of them has declared. Why should Lincoln have not been pleased to see her again - to think of her as a possible wife? ~~been willing to keep his promise~~ #

1834
1809
27

B ~~But~~ when he learned a few weeks later that ~~Mary Owens~~ the girl had returned with her sister he was startled, a jumped to the conclusion that the two were taking him at his word, that she had come to marry him! He did not like it he formed Reflecting on his perdicament he found a ray of hope. Possibly Mrs Abell his remark had never ~~been~~ repeated, in that case he was still free. He would withold judgment until he saw her. That happened a few days later and the distaste he had felt at the news that she was in the community was intensified by her coming ~~appearance~~. She was not as attractive as he remembered her - was too stout, had lost her teeth - looked weather beaten ~~had aged. No wonder she was taking him at the word given her sister.~~ Well, he would keep ~~it.~~ his word He had always made a point of holding to a promise, he would hold ~~have~~ to this one - if Mary Owens regarded it as such. But how was he to find out?

But ~~he~~ ~~in~~ his inexperience & awkwardness
in dealing with women made him
~~jumpy~~ hesitant, doubtful and

see ~~A~~ B. M.

He seems not to have had the courage or adroitness to find out how seriously M. O. was taking him. He could neither force or drop the issue. He simply hung around, making himself her attendant - at all the country-side gatherings, doing everything ~~that~~ which he supposed was expected of a suitor - excepting the courting! There was certainly no word of that from him. From Mary Owens, much more experienced than he in love-making, there was coquetry, tantalizing words which puzzled him - did she mean that she expected to be his wife - well, Suppose he thought ~~he would think~~ of her as his wife, remember & only her fine qualities of mind, her interest in affairs, her love of good books, her jolly humor, her liking for people, her fresh enjoyment of life. forgot her disappointing appearance. He tried ~~It was all true~~ but somehow it left him unstirred. For him had no ~~there was, he told himself, no~~ allurement ~~in~~ no charm Mary Owens, but if she expected him to marry her he would do it.

It evidently did not occur to him that Mary Owens might be appraising him rather than trying to force an avowal. She certainly was too clever a woman not to realize that he was still reluctant and half-hearted whether he had taken ~~made~~ his promise to her sister seriously or not. She appreciated his fine qualities, his manliness, kindness, loyalty, she saw he was making his way in the community, was a coming man, not a hopeless partner ~~failure~~ even for a girl whose father was as she said "a gentleman of considerable means", if she found herself caring for him.

Could she care for him? That was what she on her side was asking herself while her sister devotedly attached to Lincoln was urged her to make up her mind to marry him, evidently persuaded that Mary could do it if she would.

See 15A

15

(11)

B B to 18 Revise

X

~~But~~ Now Mary Owens was a sensible if flirtatious woman and she had no desire to marry a man who did not love her or one who did not instinctively pay her all those attentions which she had been reared to believe a man owed a woman. Lincoln disappointed her by his awkwardness, his absentmindedness, his ~~unfamiliarity and~~ indisposition to gallantry. She tells a story in one of her letters of a happening we may consider typical.

"There was a company of us going to Uncle Billy Greene's. Mr. Lincoln was riding with me, and we had a very bad branch to cross. The other gentlemen were very officious in seeing that their partners got safely over. We were behind, he riding on, never looking back to see how I got along. When I rode up beside him, I remarked, 'You are a nice fellow! I suppose you did not care whether my neck was broken or not.' He laughingly replied (I suppose by way of compliment), that he knew I was plenty smart to take care of myself."

He had not learned - he never did learn-that no woman was ever born who did not prefer from a man she is thinking of marrying solicitude for her welfare, proof, that he had her safety and happiness on his mind, to any possible tribute he ~~can~~ could pay her intellect.

see 18 A

A ~~His~~ The half-hearted suit was cut short in December, when the winter session of the State Assembly, to which ~~he~~ Lincoln had been re-elected the previous summer, opened. Quite promptly after reaching Vandalia, the State Capitol, he wrote Mary Owens, a rather moody letter, principally politics but with a bid for sympathy. He had been sick ever since he left her. He dreaded writing her and having the mortification of looking in the post office for an answer and not finding it as had once happened, since he knew her, - his spirits were so low that he would rather be any place in the world, he couldn't endure the thought of staying there ten weeks as was expected of him. "Write back as soon as you get this", he pled, "and if possible say something that will please me for really I have not been pleased since I left you", which would seem to indicate that the young man was more interested in "Friend Mary", as he called her than he thought.

In spite of the opening gloom of the session things soon brightened up for Lincoln. Mary Owen/yielded to his plea, and did write him occassionally throughout the term. He found friends - among them a woman, the wife of a colleague in the Assembly, O. H. Browning. The Brownings and Lincoln lived in the same house and he and Mrs. Browning were soon on easy and rather confidential terms - a friendship which lasted his life through. But chiefly his spirits were restored by the place he soon found himself taking in the Sangamon County delegation - a delegation famous in Illinois State annals - the Long Nine, no one of them under six feet in height! The Long Nine had set their hearts on taking the seat of government from Vandalia to Springfield and spent the session in the fight. Lincoln, who had had but one previous term in the Assembly and in that term had done little more than get his bearings, threw himself into the struggle with gusto and a skill which surprised ~~the~~ his colleagues and soon made him the leader of the group. The Long Nine won and Mary Owens/heard men on all sides saying that Lincoln was a "born leader" - heard of banquets where he was toasted as "nature's nobleman". Quite a different person in the public's eye, this young man who came back to New Salem in March 1837 from the one who had left the December before.

He did not return to stay. He had been admitted to the bar and in April put all his worldly goods into a pair of saddle bags and rode over to Springfield, sixteen miles away, where me meant to establish himself permanently.

18

In a farewell visit he and Mary Owens talked about her joining him there, but he could not decide whether she was in earnest or not, and was not deeply enough in love to insist on knowing. Chr 1(5)

A The uncertainty greatly disturbed ~~him~~ Lincoln. What did the girl want? He was lonesome in the new town. He knew he would be happier if she was with him. He must settle the matter. "What you have said to me may have been in jest, or I may have misunderstood it." He wrote her, in his first letter after their parting. "For my part I have already decided what I have said I will most positively abide by, provided you wish it," which was as if he said, AB(VI) "I will marry you if you want me, but I can easily get on without you." But here are the para after: — see Sandburg p 221 A

~~He counselled her sagely, fearful lest he seem too anxious: "My opinion is you better not do it, you have not been accustomed to hardship, and it may be more severe than you imagine."~~

~~Now that he was in Springfield he was realizing as never before how poor a man he was and would be for a long time, compared with most of the men with whom he was associating on equal political and professional terms. He saw clearly he could not give a wife a home, the comforts these men gave their wives. How would Mary take that? "I am afraid you would not be satisfied", he told her. "There is a great deal of flourishing about in carriages here, which it would be your doom to see without sharing it. You would have to be poor without the means of hiding your property. Do you believe you could bear that patiently?"~~

(III)

The letter brought no satisfactory reply. Mary Owens was probably enjoying the irresolute courting too much to end it by the

(1)

(II Moving to Springfield did not settle his mind as he may have expected a half-[illegible]

He could not keep Mary ~~her~~ out of mind but he ~~could~~ did not take her into ~~to~~ his heart. ~~Was it~~ [illegible] questioning ~~he~~ To marry when he did not care? ~~wound~~ ~~would he not better break his promise~~ Was it unlike giving up his freedom for trial — exchanging it for the irksome wholesome gay companionship he was certain deep in his mind, made it —

(III)

See 15 ★.B

(2) ~~He~~ ~~now~~ began ~~ingra~~ ~~to~~ a letter but it ~~they~~ differed from ~~one~~ It was no sermon ~~like that~~ He began an after- thing it up it was the kind he sent — ~~it is~~ ~~to~~ [illegible] (V)

(Quite Sanborn p 224)

It began with a rather dreary picture of his life in Springfield — "dull business life" called it.

Then followed a discussion of their relations ~~which it was~~ as well calculated to settle that matter for any spirited woman. It was almost as if he wrote (V)

on ★.B.(VI)

~~#~~ 19

resolute word of which she was capable. Possibly she did not yet quite know her own mind. Her sister continued to urge ~~was urging~~ her to marry Lincoln, the man had probably a future. In many things they were congenial spirits, but she more & more was realizing as she was to write later, that he was ~~she found him~~ "deficient in those little links, which make up the chain of woman's happiness. His training had been different from mine." And so she hesitated, while he unwilling to settle the matter once for all in the way he seems to have thought he wanted it settled, that is by his own honorable release, continued his luke warm ~~[illegible]~~ wooing.

Finally desperate he decided to write a letter, which would force a decision from Mary Owens.

> "You must know that I cannot see you or think of you with entire indifference; and yet it may be that you are mistaken in regard to what my real feelings towards you are. If I knew you were not, I should not trouble you with this letter. Perhaps any other man would know enough without further information, but I consider it my peculiar right to plead ignorance and your bounden duty to allow my plea.
>
> "I want in all cases to do right; and most particularly so in all cases with women. I want, at this particular time, more than anything else, to do right with you, and if I knew it would be doing right, as I rather suspect it would, to let you alone, I would do it. And for the purpose of making the matter as plain as possible, I now say, that you can now drop the subject, dismiss your thoughts (if you ever had any) from me forever, and leave this letter unanswered, without calling forth one accusing murmur from me. And I will even go farther, and say, that if it will add anything to your comfort or peace of mind to do so, it is my sincere wish that you should. Do not understand by this that I wish to cut your acquaintance. I mean no such thing. What I do wish is that our further acquaintance shall depend upon yourself. If such further acquaintance would contribute nothing to your happiness, I am sure it would not to mine. If you feel yourself in any degree bound to me, I am now willing to release you, provided you wish it; while, on the other hand, I am willing and even anxious to bind you faster if I can be convinced that it will in any considerable degree add to your happiness. This, indeed, is the whole question with me.

Nothing would make me more miserable, nothing more happy, than to know you were so.

"In what I have now said, I think I cannot be misunderstood; and to make myself understood is the sole object of this letter."

It was rather cruel in Mary Owens not to have ended this perplexity then and there but the woman had pride and humor. She may have thought he needed a lesson in love-making, to be taught that a man must at least have the courage to say directly, will you marry me? Say it with ardor, conviction and not with the chilling assurance that it is her happiness alone he seeks - that his own is only indirectly in question. At all events she kept him dangling on her hook until he did come out with a direct proposal, and to it she gave a prompt answer. "No." ¶ Lincoln was amzed - surely she did not mean it. He repeated the question - "No" - she told him again, and so finally after a year and a half of apathetic love-making Lincoln awoke to the humiliating realization that he had been deceiving himself in thinking that Mary Owens happiness depended on marrying him, that his noble determination to do the right thing cost him what it might savored strongly of vanity and must painful of all that, now he had lost her he was really not a little in love with her!

[illegible]

There was rare breadth in Abraham Lincoln's humor; he could see his own follies. Sore as he was after Mary Owens' decision It ~~was~~ was not many months before he was he ~~still could~~ laughing at himself. The story was too good to go untold ~~and so sitting down~~ he reeled off for ~~his friends, Mrs. Browning~~ her a long and farcical account of what had been happening to him, since he last

(1)

① Moreover he needed a confessional. ~~a confidant~~ needed to share his humiliation —
There was no one in Springfield in whom
he could confide — but there was his friend
Mr Browning — & so finally

~~After the end of a year~~
~~he ~~was not~~ only any man ever been apt to feel that~~
~~inclined as far as~~
~~he had been badly treated — that she had~~
~~been amusing herself with his un-sen-~~
~~sure — his awkward hesitations, his~~
~~ignorance of the ways of men & women,~~
~~he recovered his balance in a few weeks &~~
~~could laugh at himself — At the end of~~
~~a year the whole affair he could look at~~
~~the affair after all humiliation it seemed so~~
~~funny to him that —~~

~~19~~ 21

saw her a year before at the close of the Assembly. He knew there was little or no likelihood of Mrs. Browning ever hearing of the episode from the outside, for Mary Owens had gone back to Kentucky and the Brownings had no connection with New Salem, so he let himself go in a droll story of his own stupidities in the affair, drawing in the course of it a carbature of Mary Owen's appearance which would have been unforgiveable if he had named her or if he had not been treating the experience in burlesque. ~~In spite of his~~ Then he went on to tell how he in spite of his dislike of her looks he determined to consider her his wife.

"This done" he wrote

See Sandbn - p 228

He most emphatically had!

But Lincoln's affair with Mary Owens was but an episode in his emotional life — an awkward half comedy, half ludicrous episode. ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ one may laugh at his self deception as he did himself, but one can but honor this painful effort to ~~discuss~~ be honorable — to ~~[illegible]~~ discharge to the full any obligation N. 4 he may have thought he had assumed. ~~[illegible]~~ Few men — or women — reviewing the episodes scattered on their way to a final mating can ~~[illegible]~~ match their determination "in all things to stick to my word" — his ~~fear~~ effort to weigh the chances of ~~the~~ the woman ~~Mary~~ her contentment & happiness if she should marry him. Usually we reckon at what we want ~~of~~ consider ~~little~~ ~~[illegible] but the chances of~~

~~Most men & women on their way to a final mating~~

considering but ~~little~~, ~~the chance~~ of ideal- we can hope to ~~make another~~ satisfy another. Taking that for granted the pre-occupation with our own desire.

The episode ~~is~~ is during, unpleasant, forgotten, became d- bears all the marks ~~[illegible]~~ ~~in~~ of ~~the condition~~ ~~[illegible]~~ of ~~spa dulled~~ ex of emotion ~~left still~~ still dulled and unresponsive ~~from~~ by the death of A. R. A great sorrow leaves behind it ~~one~~ the ~~happiness within a cold~~ heart an empty & ~~[illegible]~~ cold, incapable of ~~an~~ numb insensible imagination. ~~sickened numb~~ Interest fanned as his was awakened ~~are~~ is not an affair of the heart but an affair of the intellect of calculation, ~~ratiocination~~ reasoning ~~reasoning~~ speculation. ~~This~~ Sensitive curious a sensibility of many women is a ~~the best~~ ~~one of the most~~ ~~quite~~ convincing ~~[illegible]~~ proof of the profundity of his grief rather than as some would have evidence that he ~~is~~ never loved her.

~~Certainly the validity of the romance is not weakened as is argued by the fact that a year ~~and a half~~ after Ann's death Lincoln ~~made~~ began his half-hearted advances to Mary Owens. This story, both pathetic and ludicrous, in which he plays so awkward a part, rather corroborates, to one who knows much of the ways of human hearts, the hold that Ann Rutledge had taken upon his affections.~~

It no more undermines the romance than the argument ~~also employed~~ that he could not have loved the girl because seven years after her death he married Mary Todd, and gave her ~~to her death~~ a loyal affection - a weak and ignorant argument surely.

A virile man, honoring women, wanting a home, a family, needing them if ever a man did, it would have been unnatural, impossible to one of his reasonable nature, to let his whole life be thwarted by the memory of an earlier love ~~however idealistic~~. Ann Rutledge was a memory. She had brought him a vision of what human love could be in ~~its~~ sweetness, ~~its~~ sympathy, ~~its~~ purity. Her death had left him a sadder but not a weaker man. It was a grief which went into the making of the future man as all real experiences go into the making of human beings.

¶ The popular heart is right, when it ~~instinctively~~ clings to this romance, rejoices that this man of so many agonies, so many disillusionments should have ~~had~~ felt for even a day, a ~~breath~~ wind of sweetest hope blowing across his heart. OVER

See [illegible]