Wt Davis Co/4

Fort Worth Texas Feby 14 1896

Miss Ida M Tarbill
New York Ny.

Dear Madam. The following incident in Mr Lincoln's life I have never seen in print.

The day he received the nomination for President at Chicago in 1860. the people in Springfield Ills were wild with enthusiasm. and a large crowd with a Band. transparencies, and fire works went up to his house in the evening corner of Eight and Jackson to serenade him and upon his appearance called for a speech.

After music by the Band and the shouts of welcome had ceased. Standing in the door he said "Fellow Citizens. and Friends." "The time comes upon every public man. when it is best for him to keep his lips closed. That time has come upon me." and turned around and went into the house. and in no instance do I recollect of his ever speaking an address until he bid his neighbors and friends his

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2/ farewell, standing upon the platform of the car in which he journeyed towards Washington. Not long after that we had a large gathering in the Republican Wigwam of the children from the different Sabbath Schools, numbering some three thousand, one Sabbath afternoon. During the week previous I called upon him and asked him to be present and address the schools, which he partially promised to do, but before the day appointed told me that he disliked to refuse, but upon further consideration thought it best that he should not make any public address, giving as the reason, that his opponents would make capital out of it and might increase the anger of the Southern people who sought every opportunity to make him enemies.

Almost daily, after his nomination he received letters threatening his life, if he was elected President, and attempted to take his seat.

My recollection of his first growth of beard was on a line of his jaws clear around, but not coming up to his mouth as in your picture on page 217.

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3/ This was however in the last months of 1860 soon after receiving the letter from the little girl in New York State. an incident he made known shortly after.

For some time after receiving the threatening letters. he would go from his home some five blocks away, to and from the State House unguarded, and often unaccompanied. until his friends persuaded him to always have some gentlemen with him.

As said before, I have never seen in print his response to the Serenade the night of his nomination at Chicago. I doubt not many of the citizens present. who still live at Springfield will remember the incident.

Make use of it if you choose. I was a resident of S for 25 years and well remember many incidents of his life while living there.

Very Respectfully Yours
Herbert Post

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