

The ^{opening} first chapter of the Life of Lincoln, edited by Ida M. Tarbell, which appeared in the Christmas number of your magazine have been most interesting to our household.

The copy of the ambrotype of Mr. Lincoln, taken in 1858, and placed on the first page, brings to mind ~~and~~ an amusing incident which actually occurred.

Early in the year 1858 ten young men living in Iowa formed a club for mutual improvement and amusement. The editor of the weekly paper in their town called attention to their forlornness and in an advertisement solicited correspondence from the young ladies.

Replies came thick and fast, passing through the hands of the secretary of the club, Mr. H—, a fine looking young man of ability. With great discernment Mr. H— selected the best of many well written letters for himself, thus starting a correspondence which continued after he had left the club and taken up his residence in Illinois.

Mr. H—'s correspondent was a Miss F—, who lived in Pennsylvania. After many letters had passed between the two Miss F. urged a visit from the young man, but, failing in this, was fain to suggest an exchange of pictures, to which Mr. H. consented.

It was just at this time that the Lincoln and Douglass campaign was at its height and in October 1858, Mr. Lincoln spoke in the town of Mr. H.'s adoption. Mr. H. called upon Mr. Lincoln, easily persuaded him to visit the place for an ambrotype, and then sent the picture to Miss F. as his own.

This ambrotype, to the best of the writer's recollection was precisely like the one represented on the first page of the Magazine.

"Honest Abe" was never remarkable for his beauty and it is not to be wondered at that within a week Miss F. returned

the picture with the request that the correspondence cease. Mr. H. (?) was evidently not handsome enough for her, but imagine her feelings in later years when the owner of that face entered the highest position in the gift of the American people!

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