June 11, 1923

Mrs. Georgia L. Osborne,
Ass't Secretary, Illinois State Historical Society,
Springfield, Ill.

My dear Mrs. Osborne:

Have you ever examined the Journal of the Illinois House of Representatives to see if Lincoln really did make there the oft quoted remarks on Prohibition? You know what they are - a paragraph beginning, "Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance - it is a species of intemperance within itself, etc." A recent writer in the New York World says that they can be found in the Journal of the House of Representatives on page 136, under date of December 19, 1840.

As I understand it, a bill had been brought in to regulate tavern and grocery licenses. There was some discussion on the bill, amendments made to it, and during this discussion this writer claims that the minutes show that Lincoln made a speech in which the paragraph referred to above occurs. If your office has never run this down, is there not some one there that could do it for me?

I feel pretty sure that McCann Davis investigated this thing for me when I was at work on my Life of Lincoln but did not find the paragraph in question, but I seem to have mislaid his letter. As a matter of fact, when I left McClure's Magazine there was a great deal of the Lincoln correspondence in their files, which has recently been destroyed - much to my regret. I shall appreciate it greatly if you will attend to this for me.

Sincerely yours,

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