Springfield Ill.
March 9th 1895

My dear Miss Tarbell.

Your letter of Feb 20th has remained unanswered this length of time simply because I had so little strength, and have had so many "back sets". As to your question "did Mr Lincoln fail to appear, when the invitations were out, the guests invited, and the supper ready for the Wedding?" I will say emphatically "No".

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There may have been a little shadow of foundation for Mr Herndons lively imagination to play upon, in that the year previous to the marriage, and when Mr Lincoln and My Cousin Mary expected soon to be married, that Mr Lincoln was taken with one of those fearful, overwhelming periods of depression, which induced his friends to persuade him to leave Springfield - This he did for a time, but I am satisfied he was loyal and true to Mary Even though at times he may have doubted whether he was responding as fully as a manly generous & natured should, to such affection as he knew my Cousin was ready to bestow on him. And this because it had not the overmastering depth of an early love. This Every body here knows, therefore I do not feel as if I were betraying dear friends. +

But I will tell you of a time when the marriage was deferred twenty four hours, and it was very funny. As Mr Lincoln's mind had been some

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what overclouded. Mr & Mrs Edwards (brother in law and sister of Mrs Lincoln) naturally felt that might be an obstacle to a happy marriage, and rather discouraged any further thought of it, but the young people knew their own minds. One Morning bright and early my cousin came down, in her excited, impetuous way, and said to my Father, "Uncle you must go up and tell my sister that Mr Lincoln and I are to be married this evening", and to me, get on your bonnet and go with me to get my gloves, shoes, &c, and then to Mr Edwards." When we reached there, we found some

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excitement over a wedding, bring
Spring upon them so suddenly.
However, my Father, in his lovely
Pacific way, "poured oil upon the
waters", and we thought every thing
was "Ship Shape", when Ned
Edwards laughingly said, "how
fortunately you selected this
evening; for the Episcopal Swing
Soc is to meet here, and my
Supper is all ordered".
But that comfortable little
arrangement would not hold,
as Many declared "She would
not make a spectacle for
Gossiping ladies to gaze upon,
and talk about", there had

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already been too much talk about her. Then my Father was dispatched to tell Mr Lincoln "that the wedding must be deferred until the next evening." Clergyman, attendants and intimate friends were notified, and on Friday evening, in the midst of a small circle of friends, with the elements doing their worst in the way of rain, this singular courtship culminated in marriage - This I know to be literally true, as I was one of her bridesmaids, Miss Jayne afterwards Mrs Lyman Trumbull, and Miss Rodney, being the others. This is for your own private delectation dear Miss Tarbell - The former part the contradiction of the story about Mr Lincoln absenting himself you may use if you wish.

I cannot account for Herndon's evident desire to wrong Mrs Lincoln in every possible way, except his recognition of the fact, that he was excluded, by the very ordinary condition of life, from mingling with the society of Springfield which he was so desirous of entering.

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