Madison, New Jersey:
Nov. 3rd 1896.

Dear Mr. McClure:

I beg leave to make a brief commentary upon the account of the first nomination of Abraham Lincoln. A sufficiently full statement as to some features of it is contained in my larger Life of Lincoln (Scribners, Howard & Hulbert) Pp. 174-176.

Miss Tarbell is correct in the main. On P. 46, however, she states that "the press followed a concerted play that had been carefully laid out by the Republican State Committee in the office of the Chicago Tribune." This is not correct. Whatever the Committee did or did not do, no knowledge of it came to the country press in any part of the State. It is true that the Central Illinois Gazette came out first. I was then its sole editor, and part proprietor,

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although another, Dr. Scruggs, was nominally an editor, he never touching a line. The "Coming out" leader was my own, without suggestion from anybody. I sent copies to nearly every paper in the State and to a large number of journals all over the country. Hundreds of them reprinted the "editorial," in whole or in part, and scores followed in the line of approval.

The movement was not in any way engineered, by anybody. It was altogether spontaneous.

It is too late for Mr. Medill or any other man, myself included, to claim credit for the moderate insight required. My movement was first in action, that is all. Personally, it led to my

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subsequent official and personal
relations with Mr. Lincoln.

In putting your admirable
materials into book form, would it
not be well to revise this page?
It is, it seems to me, worth while.

Yours truly
J. O. Bedard

Mr. McNeill was not known in our
neighborhood as a Lincoln man, but
was believed to be working for Seward.
The Tribune did not come out for Lincoln
until it was carried along by the tide,
as its own files amply testify.

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