LAW OFFICES OF
Nat. C. & J. S. McLean,
Rooms 22 Eagle Block.
P. O. Box 154.

CANTON, OHIO. Dec. 5, 1898.

McClure's Magazine,

New York.

Gentlemen:

I enclose some recollections of Lincoln sent me by my father, Rev. Peter Wallace, D. D., 4100 Lake ave., Chicago. It is not unlikely that you have already obtained most of these anecdotes and events. Most of it is necessarily personal and I thought at first I would leave that out, but hoping that even if you did not use it, it might assist in corroborating other testimony, I send it for what it is worth.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Truly yours,

Louis D. Wallace.

Box 154,
Canton,
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I went to Springfield in the fall of 1833. In the fall of 1834 Lincoln was a candidate for the legislature. The idea of his being elected was hooted at by many. He was then living, I think, at New Salem. Lincoln came to Springfield in 1835. I voted for him in 1834. In the campaign of 1836 between John T. Stewart, Whig, and Stephen A. Douglas, Democrat, Lincoln took the stump for Stewart who won by 72 majority. I know Lincoln intimately from that time until I left Springfield in 1839.

I was a member of a lyceum organized in 1836. In our debates both Lincoln and Douglas often took prominent part and usually opposite sides. I very well recollect when he was stumping for the Legislature hearing him say, "I don't know what they nominated me for , unless to knock the persimmon, I being the longest pole.

When the seat of government was removed from Vandalia to Springfield in 1836, I obtained the contract of taking down the Court House to make a place for the State House. I completed the job in less than one week. Lincoln, with others, was present to receive the job. He said to me, "Peter, if you succeed as well in building houses as you have in tearing this one down, you will make your mark as a builder."

A friend of Lincoln's died. At the funeral Mr. Lincoln was requested by the family to make some remarks. He did so, closing with these words:"I read in a book whose Author never errs, 'Wo unto you when all men shall speak of well of you.' Luke 6, 26. Our friend will escape that wo for he would be the exception had he no enemies."

On another occasion Lincoln with several lawyers was returning home from Tasewell county, where they had been attending Court. There had been a rain and wind storm, and when they came to the river bottom, Lincoln and Judge Hardin, who were a little way behind the others

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were a little behind the others, saw two little birds that had been blown out of their nest, fluttering in the wet. Lincoln dismounted, hitched his horse, gathered up the birds, found their nest and placed them in it; then remounting overtook his ~~arty~~ party at the ford. Judge Hardin had told them what Lincoln had done, and when Lincoln came up one of them asked him, "Abe, did you find the birds' mamma ? He replied, "I am sure of one thing. I brought gladness to that little distressed family and that is more than any of you have done since you left home."

Lincoln was employed by an old farmer to recover a note due him from two young men, minors, who had bought a prairie team. On the trial the fact of their minority was shown. When Lincoln began to address the jury, he began by saying that this was the most important case they had ever been called upon to decide, that it was not a question of the payment of the note but of the future of these two young men, who now stand there with characters unstained. Should the jury give them their verdict, it would leave the stain of dishonesty upon them, which they could not wipe out. In this manner he talked for some time, and atlast, turning to the young men, he said "Boys, pay that note." As soon as he was through, the elder of the two boys rose up and said, "I will pay it," and asked that the jury be discharged.

In 1856 a friend of mine wanted me to see Lincoln and engage him in the prosecution of a divorce suit. After I had stated all the particulars of the case, he said, "Peter, I cannot engage in a suit to part man and wife," and as a reason he added,"If two people make a bargain and it turns out bad, let them stick to it and be careful not to make another one."

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