JOHN HILL.
MECHANICAL ENGINEER.

COTTON MILL ENGINEERING.
PLANS FOR COTTON MILLS.
STEAM, WATER OR ELECTRIC POWER APPLIED.
MACHINERY PURCHASED.

COLUMBUS, GA. June 29, 1896. 189

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Dear Miss:

Have read with interest your July article on Lincoln. Must say you have portrayed him as a lawyer with remarkable truth, and apear to fully comprehend the man just as he was. All of the characteristics you describe were his and peculiar to himself, a makeup that has and will have no duplicate. The original mind and organization that were his birthright were moulded by the frontier surroundings and influences into a cast that knows no existence now. I knew well very many of the men who had been his early associates, and while they had neither education, cultivation or religion, were yet men of very high type for all of that, and many of the grand featuresin Lincoln that now show so briliantly to the world were born from this parentage and nurtured there. There is no part of his life more interesting and instructive than when he was a lawyer on the Circuit. Your narative reads to me like tales from the home of my childhood. Am delighted to notice that you are to give another chapter on the same subject.

I think I can see that you are about to make a little inacuracy as to Lincoln's Law partnership, and I hasten to caution you. The firm of Lincoln & Herndon commenced and run as you mention, but at or near 1858, the Springfield firm was Lincoln, Herndon & Zane. If my memory serves me, this was the style from about 1858, and to the end, though somehow that I can't just put together, the name of Orendorff makes its apearance in some way, that cannot connect. Am absolutely certain the name above was the firm from after about 1858. I know well T. W. S. Kidd, who could set you right. Mr. Charles S. Zane, the final name, was a schoolmate at Mc Kendree College,

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LebanonIll. with me, and in some things a class mate. I graduated in 1856. Zane was Sophmore, classical, and left that College that year. His home we was Pleasant Plains, Sangamon CO, the home of Peter Cartwright. Peter Akers was President of Mc Kendree College. Soon after Zane left College, he went into Lincoln & Herndon's office to study law, probably in 1856. Not far from 1858, and I think about the time of the great Douglas & Lincoln campaign, in the fall of that year, Zane was taken as a partner, and the sign at the foot of the stairs on Capital Square read Lincoln, Herndon & Zane. Seeing this sign, caused me to ask about it, and meeting Mr. Zane often, as school mates are apt to do, and Society mates, also, in this case, talked often to him as to that and other matters. I think Zane was a partner until Lincoln's death, and remained as one of the successors. Sometime not much later on, Zane was elected Circuit Judge of Sangamon Circuit, and he so re mained until somewhere early in the 70s, the Legislature created an appelate State Court intermediate between the Circuit and the Supreme C Court, and Judge Zane was made one of those Judges?, a place of honor just below Supreme Judge. Later on, posibly during Grant's administration, Zane was appointed a U. S. Circuit judge out in one of the Territories, and was such the last I knew of him . He must now be a man of about 67 years age. He was quite old for a student in 1856, one of the oldest in the College. He was a hard student, giving his whole time to study, was not quick to be learn, and gained what he got by very hard work, but once he mastered a subject, he retained it. In the Lincoln office, he was the office man of the firm, and got up the papers, and looked up the law.

I must criticise the Herndon photo. Have looked at it a number of times but utterly fail to find "Bill" Herndon in it, beyond the outlines. Knew him intimately, run with him, talked, played social games of cards with him, loafed with him nights, and when Court was not in session. He married Ann Miles, at Petersburg, with whom I grew up, was with him much during hie courtship, and afterwards, so that altogether it may be asumed that I knew Herndon. He was also, my Lawyer when I had business. If you ever put

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this in book form, it will be well to get Mr. Kidd, or Joseph Wallace, Att Atty, to furnish a good one. He was a decided brunett, with high cheek bone a peculiar dark crater circle around his eyes, black eyes, and when younger had very black hair, rather thin erect build, and very quick and nervous temperment and methods in all things. He was a very earnest man, a fine sp speaker, and was on one side of nearly every important law case in Menard County for many years. Mr. Lincoln very seldom visited that Court, and Mr. Herndon acted for the firm. Arch Herndon, one of the noted old settlers was his Father. He was a man of mark of his kind, and of the typical pioneer order. Elliott Herndon, also a prominent Lawyer, was Wm. H. Herndon'S Brother. I was personaly acquainted with all of them: All lived at Springfield.

I do not know that this will interest you, but it is a part of Lincolhs history, and some may be if use to you.

Yours truly.

John Hill

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