

LINCOLN

Allan Nevins speaks in his "Frémont" and in conversation at Cornell (March 16, 1928) about Lincoln's testiness. It is a point for "Day by Day."

What had he been doing during the day or evening on which he received Jessie Frémont? Where was Mary Lincoln? Did he have any fear of a scene from her? Had he had any contacts that day with any of the Blairs that would particularly irritate him over the whole muddled business?

Nevins tells me that the Frémonts told him that Lincoln said to her with great irritation, "This is not a ward for the 'dirty nigger', it's a war to save the Union." He asked me if I thought Lincoln used that expression.

I told him emphatically, No, that it contradicts all that we have of Lincoln's own words. I don't think the reports of the Lincoln and Douglas debate show or that anywhere in his speeches or reported conversation, he makes a contemptuous reference to the negro. I don't think he ever used the word Nigger.

Nevins said that he put this up to Beveridge, and that Beveridge says that he thought that Lincoln might very well have said it - emphasises my feeling that Beveridge would never understand Lincoln.

Du Vivier saw Barrett in Chicago. Barrett has read the Beveridge MS, and says it is another life of Lincoln - no distinctive contribution. He emphasized, too, to DuVivier what he regards as the importance of Sandburg. DuVivier is particularly impressed by the copy of the Lincoln and Douglas speeches which Lincoln made up for the printer - the neatness, the painstaking. He also speaks of the vast amount of longhand work that Lincoln did - notes for speeches, notes for lawsuits. He says that Angell of the Illinois Centennial Association, tells him that there are

quantities of Lincoln legal papers in the court-houses of the Circuit. It seems that Angell with a friend made a search for these things. I suppose they intend to have them photostated, or may have done so.

DuVivier senses the artist in Lincoln - his careful hand writing, so individual, is the writing of a person who takes pleasure in putting down the words simply for the looks of the words. It is something like Jac's evident feeling about his hand writing, a kind of artistic expression. Interesting point.