Lincoln

Black

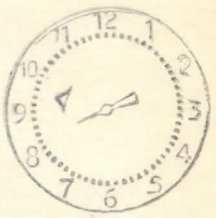
MC

LAW OFFICE
F. HUNTER CREECH
DISTRICT NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FORD MOTOR CO.
DEARBORN

December 11, 1922.

Mr. F. L. Black,
Dearborn Pub. Co.,
Dearborn, Michigan.



DEC 13 1922

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Dear Mr. Black:-

In response to your letter of December 8, in reference to the last writing of Lincoln,

> "No pass is necessary now to authorize any one to go to and return from Petersburg and Richmond. People go and return just as they did before the war,"

I called upon Mr. Oldroyd this afternoon and spent about an hour with him. He showed me the writing, but he has made it a rule not to permit those things being photographed.

The circumstances were as follows: Mr. Ashmund, the Chairman of the Republican Convention at Chicago that nominated Lincoln was in conference with Lincoln, when Mrs. Lincoln sent a messenger named Stackelford in to notify Mr. Lincoln that she was in the carriage ready to go to the theatre. He told Mr. Lincoln and went on out while Mr. Lincoln continued talking with Mr. Ashmund. Mrs. Lincoln sent Stackelford in the second time to advise Mr. Lincoln that it was getting late and for him to hurry up. Lincoln smilingly stated that he guessed he must obey. He wrote out a card, "Admit Mr. Ashmund tomorrow at 9 o'clock," and he and Ashmund walked on out together. He was interrupted by Stackelford who said to him "Mr. Lincoln there are two gentlemen who would like to have a pass to Richmond." He bade Ashmund good-bye and turned back and wrote the note, Stackelford went in and stood by the desk while Lincoln was writing it. After writing it he handed it to Stackelford, saying, in effect, that the

War was over and that there was no longer any need for a pass, that people could pass to and from Richmond just as they could before the War. This impressed Stackelford and he thought what a nice thing it would be to have a writing like that from the President just after the War, so he stuck the writing in his pocket and went out and told the gentlemen that the President stated that the War was over and they would not need a pass, that they could pass to and from just as people did before the War. This satisfied them, so Stackelford kept the last writing of Lincoln.

When Mr. Oldroyd started his collection he heard that Stackelford had this last writing and went to him and tried to buy it. Stackelford would not sell it for any price. But fifteen years after the death of Stackelford and his wife, Mr. Oldroyd did buy it from a sister of Stackelford.

This is about as clearly as I can remember the details as he gave them to me this afternoon. Hope this will serve your purpose, and I am sorry that I cannot get the photograph, but he gave no indication that he would be willing to break his rules. He spoke very appreciatively of the story about his collection that appeared in the Independent last February (?) - some friend of his has placed it in pamphlet form.

If there is anything further I can do about it please let me know.

Yours very truly,

F. Hunter Creech.