FOREST H. SWEET
46 GREEN STREET
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

AMERICAN HISTORICAL MATERIAL
AUTOGRAPHS, BOOKS AND PRINTS
BOUGHT AND SOLD

Feb. 8, 1934.

Dear Humberstone:

I'm tied up cataloguing a big autograph collection so I send you a copy of the Colfax letter, which please return unless you buy the letter.

It is one of the best letters I ever had and if reading it wont tempt you to buy it, nothing I could say would.

Fred Black ought to know if George Ashmun left any account of this interview. If not — and I have'nt found any — it is the more interesting. On this subject Colfax lectured all around the country but that was years afterward.

Sincerely yours
F H Sweet

The stuff by express arrived in good shape, clearing up the slate to date.

FOREST H. SWEET
46 GREEN STREET
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

AMERICAN HISTORICAL MATERIAL
AUTOGRAPHS, BOOKS AND PRINTS
BOUGHT AND SOLD

after the assassination of Lincoln, his old friend Isaac N. Arnold of Chicago, began a life of Lincoln which was published in 1866, one year after Lincoln's death.

Schuyler Colfax was from 1863-69 Speaker of the House of Representatives and of course intimate with Lincoln, during the period before the assassination.

The last day of Lincoln's life, Colfax was with him in the morning and again in the evening just before the Lincolns left for Ford's Theatre.

This letter is Colfax's copy, all in his hand and signed, of what he wrote Arnold about his last interview with Lincoln.

I find no record of the letter sent Arnold of which this is Colfax's retained copy so it may have been lost. Arnold does not mention it in his book, either Edition. I believe this is all Colfax kept, especially since on back he has written "Copy letter to Hon I N Arnold" which he probably would not have done, in case he had written the superscripture of a letter as part of his original draft. Colfax's corrections indicate he composed this with care, as though for publication.

FOREST H. SWEET
46 GREEN STREET
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

AMERICAN HISTORICAL MATERIAL
AUTOGRAPHS, BOOKS AND PRINTS
BOUGHT AND SOLD

copy of draft of letter of Schuyler Colfax to Isaac [illegible] N. Arnold.

"Then", said he, "we can be magnanimous to all the rest, and have peace and quiet in the whole land".

I cannot describe to you the earnestness of his manner, the Emphatic manner in which he spoke of his determination to secure Liberty and Justice for all with full protection to the humblest, and to re establish on a sure foundation the irreversible unity of the Republic after all the sacrifices made for its preservation. And I never admired nor appreciated him as much as during this striking interview. He asked me to go to the Theatre with him that night, adding "Gen'l Grant promised to go but has gone North to visit his wife, and I suppose I must go, that the people shall not be disappointed." I told him I expected to return home the next morning and had to see two Cabinet Ministers on business that afternoon and evening. He then

asked me to come up in the evening at 1/2 past 7, for an half hour's talk with himself and Mrs. Lincoln before they went.

Mr. Lincoln walked into the parlor of the White House that evening, almost at the minute named, and greeted Mr. Ashmun of Mass. who had stepped in to see him on business, with his usual cordiality. Mrs. Lincoln followed him a few moments later. A general conversation of about 40 minutes ensued, of which the most striking feature was that in his business talk with Mr. A. [Ashmun] he made a remark with which the latter did not seem pleased, when Mr. Lincoln at once said "I did not mean to be understood that way and if I have offended you or wounded your feelings I apologize and take it all back."

At last the clock pointed to 10 minutes after 8. Mr. Lincoln rose and said "Mary I suppose it's time to go, though I would rather stay;" and after a few words as to the play to be performed "Our American

FOREST H. SWEET
46 GREEN STREET
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

AMERICAN HISTORICAL MATERIAL
AUTOGRAPHS, BOOKS AND PRINTS
BOUGHT AND SOLD

Cousin", Mr. Ashmun offered his arm to Mrs. Lincoln, and I walked by the side of the President, who was still talking, to the outside door of the White House. Arrived there he turned and said to Mr. Ashmun "I gave Colfax this morning a message to the miners whom he will meet on his trip and I will tell you the points in it, to see if you don't concur with me". He then repeated rapidly an exact abstract of his speech to the miners which he had given me in the morning, showing how strongly these points were fixed in his mind, and then referring to his promise in the morning to let me know at San Francisco his final conclusion as to the time for an extra session if one was to be convened,

(over)

he grasped my hand, said. "Pleasant journey to you. I'll telegraph you at San Francisco. Good bye" And that was his last good bye on earth!

Yours very truly
Schuyler Colfax

a. l. s., draft, corrected, 2 pp. 4to $225.00