The "Earliest" likeness of Lincoln.

To the Editor of the Tribune:—Without delay

Conveying the authenticity of the picture

Of Abraham Lincoln made public

For the first time in the Tribune's Magazine

For November, one could have wished a more definite and direct

Account of its origin and custody.

If "taken when Lincoln was about 40," it gives us his personal appear-

ance as a member of Congress, for he completed his fortieth year

Less than a month before the close of his

Term, March 3, 1849.

Compared with the photograph which

Company of, taken nine years later, and

Copied from the earlier one on p. 493, the change

With the same details as a "shot

in startling. In some details as in his

presence, it is inexplicable. If in his

possession when Lincoln's papers

were put in the hands of his biographers

Mears, Stone, and Hay, how came

dec.
This "earliest picture" to be neglected? And when its publications would have at once corrected the prevailing impression, although the work, as to its "native orgin," now happens it never to have seen the light until more than thirty years after his death?

Facts are in these days regarded as an essential element of history, and the scholar is now exacting as to evidence these in some theses times. If possible this particular matter ought to be put beyond question by a responsible statement of facts and circumstantial and not left to the cavils of another and perhaps yet more skeptical generation.

Ohio, Dec. 10, 1886.
