

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, April 12, 1863.

A. R. Elder, Esqr.

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter of February 20th on my return from a visit to the Army of the Potomac in Company with Mr. Lincoln's Lady. We spent six days as the guests of Gen. Hooker.

You will see an account of our trip in the slip I send you, and also in the "Sacramento Union". I am now the Guest of the President, but shall leave tomorrow evening no Providence preventing on a visit to Springfield, where I shall only spend a day or two, and return to this place for two or three days before starting for home on the first of May-I may take the Overland stage.

I fully appreciate your feelings in relation to the appointments, but I shall see you so soon after this reaches you that I will defer any expression until we meet face to face.

I have had a great deal of talk with Mr. Lincoln since I have been here and your name has been frequently mentioned in connection with our early history in The Sangamon. Mr. Lincoln is very kindly disposed towards me and so is Mrs. Lincoln. They both urged me to stop with them when I first arrived here, but declined doing so for the reason that I would have been terribly annoyed by those who were anxious to get interviews with Mr. Lincoln. I thought I could stand two or three days, so I accepted their pressing invitation on our return from the Army, last Friday evening, and besides I wanted to have a fair swing at Victor Smith. I think I will have his head in a basket before I leave tomorrow evening but you will get the news by Telegraph long before this will reach you.

I think we are now getting on with the war better than ever before. Gen. Hooker will certainly go to Richmond when he starts, and on to New Orleans if it is necessary, for he has the finest army the sun ever shone upon, commanded by a brave and dashing corps of officers.

I have written my wife a long letter by this mail which I presume she will show you.

My kindest regards to your family and all friends.

Yours truly,

A. G. HENRY.