

I. LINCOLN'S APPLICATION FOR A RAILWAY-PASS.

Springfield, Feb 13. 1854

R. P. Morgan, Esq

Dear Sir

Say, Tom to John "Here's your
old potten wheelbarrow" "I've broke it, usin' out"
"I wish you wou'd mend it, case I shall want
to borrow it this "afternoon".

Acting on this as a precedent,
I say "Here's your old "chalked hat" "I wish you
wou'd take it, and send me a new one; case
I shall want to use it the first of March".

Yours truly
A. Lincoln

FACSIMILE (SOMEWHAT REDUCED IN SCALE) OF THE ORIGINAL LETTER IN THE POSSESSION OF MRS. NELSON ABBOTT.

A LETTER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHICAGO AND ALTON RAILROAD.

In a brief account of the history of the above letter, Mrs. S. Marion Douglass of Mansfield, Ohio, writes that the late Nelson Abbott told her that as a boy of seventeen, in 1863, he was employed in the general offices of the Chicago and Alton Railroad Company, at Bloomington, Illinois. One day his duties took him to the company's warehouse, where, in a box of old papers, he found this Lincoln letter, which had been written seven years earlier to Mr. R. P. Morgan, the president of the company. Mrs. Douglass reminds us that "a pass is known to railroad men as 'a chalked hat,'" and she infers that Lincoln was at the time a member of the Illinois legislature, and thereby, according to custom, was favored with a pass. On this point the late John G. Nicolay (Lincoln's private secretary, and, with Colonel John Hay, author of the Lincoln "Life") wrote: "Mr. Lincoln was not a member of the legislature in 1856. He had been elected in 1854, but resigned before it met in January, 1855, and was not afterward a member. It is probable that he was an attorney of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, and received his passes on that score. The letter has never been printed, to my knowledge."—EDITOR.

