

Private

Springfield, Ill. Oct 19. 1860

Miss. Grace Bedele

My dear little Miss.

Your very agreeable letter
of the 15th is received—

I regret the necessity of saying I
have no daughters— I have three
sons— one seventeen, one nine, and
one seven, years of age— They, with
their Mother, constitute my whole fam-
ily—

As to the whiskers, having never worn
any, do you not think people would
call it a piece of silly affection
if I were to begin it now?

Your very sincere well-wisher
A. Lincoln.

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper]