Dear Henry,

This town is a very beautiful place. We and mother went to two theaters the other night. Grandmother has a nice little room to herself. We have two little pitchers on a washstand. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father. We have two little towels on a top of both pitchers. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father.

We have two little beds in the room. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father.

We have two little washbasins. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father. The weather is very fine here in this town. Wash this Exhibition on Wednesday before last.

Your Truly,

William Lincoln
William Wallace Lincoln

Letter to Henry Remanns

June, 1859

“It is my pleasure that my children are free, happy and unrestrained by parental tyranny. Love is the chain whereby to bind a child to its parents.” This theory of child rearing advocated and practiced by Abraham and Mary Lincoln often dismayed their neighbors and associates. Robert, the eldest and the only child to survive his parents, became a sober, quiet man who tried to avoid the glare of publicity. William Wallace and Thomas (Tad), however, were high-spirited boys, bright, mischievous, and undisciplined.

In 1859, when Willie was nine years old, he accompanied his father on a business trip to Chicago. Willie wrote home to his friend Henry Remanns in Springfield describing their room at the Tremont House and the excitement of the big city. Willie, the son most like Lincoln in looks and personality, died at the White House in February, 1862. His death pushed Mary Lincoln closer to a mental breakdown and left Tad dependent on the companionship of his father. Willie’s casket was returned to Illinois aboard Abraham Lincoln’s funeral train and buried with his father in Springfield.

Gift of the Friends of the Library
Dear Henry,

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We have two little beds in the room. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father. We have two little wash basins. The smallest one for me, the largest one for father. The weather is very

Yours Truly,

[Signature]