Cincinnati, Feb. 27, 1864.

Joseph H. Barrett Esq.
Dear Sir,

I wish you would give me your views privately and fully on presidential matters.

Are you confident that Lincoln is all right? Is there any question about his proving true in the present crisis, before us? How do you explain his retaining around him such men as Blair, and his favoring Conservatives generally, outside allowing free men like Roosevets to be sacrificed by Hallack. I have been both amazed and alarmed by many things Mr. Lincoln has done, but much by what he has permitted. We have not committed ourselves, we are not going to commit ourselves first and then upon the presidential
question, but if forced to choose, mine between Chase and Lincoln I
should take the latter. Still London
compsels me to admit. I have serious mships about Mr. Lincoln,
and there is one out of the association
of the President, and of things he
has heretofore, rather than from
any direct acts of his own. The
tenets with which he holds are to
McKellum and the Compromise with
which he tolerates Blair, are also ex-
amples of the features in his AD-
ministration to which I refer. This
also the trouble with the people. The
Masses desire to reelect Mr.
Lincoln, but they are afraid there
is a weakness somewhere that may
kneel us when the game is
is to be over. If he could only
clean up the front his opponent
would disappear as expeditiously
as the wind. I am yours above

three hints, as I write you in
confidence as an old personal
friend who whose friendship
I rely. Hoping you will find
this true to favor me with an
early reply.

Yours,

Richard Smith