

Mrs. Lincoln

Sister Sarah
Joseph C. Lavey's
wife

Cambridge Feb. 23 1865.
Sam's birth day.

Dear sister Livie,

I know you will be
live me when I tell you I was de-
lighted to receive your kind letter. I
did hope you would write & tell me
of your safe return home. I was glad
you enjoyed your visit at Washington.
I also ^{you} added much to the enjoyment
of your friends there. Your brother
Joseph wanted to see another friend
& sent on for Caro. I was sorry she
did not go on with you. She will
probably reach Washington to night.
Mary & Sam. thought they could not
go. They are all well at Boston as
far as I know. Little Frank has
been with me two weeks. Yesterday
was quite a day in sedate & very
proper Cambridge. A glorious sun
arose - warm & delightful - the ring of
bells & booming of cannon with
quite a military display was followed
by an oration at Old Cambridge by
Hon. R. H. Dana on the life & services
of Hon. Edward Everett. It was

an interesting occasion I will be
long remembered. You will rec-
all the 22^d was my Mother's
birth day. She was born 1764.

A week ago to night we had
a good jubilee meeting. I sat
before the platform covered with
whites & blacks - the elite of Cam-
bridge were there I listened to the
remarks of the colored men with
great interest. Wendell Phillips who
is always eloquent was the prin-
ciple speaker. It is a happy time
for the colored people. How could I help
repeating inwardly, wonderful!
wonderful! God has wrought this
mighty change of feeling - not man.

I was glad to hear you found
all your children well on your return.
Austin went home with you. We are
very much obliged for the Photographs.
All think they are fine looking
young men. Austin's black eyes
are much admired, especially
when I tell the story of his smart-
ness to the rebels. Is he going
back to W. Caro' was fearing
she should not see him. What do
you hear from Hattie at Vicksburg?

Is Lizzie still there? How is
sister Eunice & all the dear family?
I am pained John's Margaret is
so out of health. Please write me
John's address. I owe him a letter.
The two Johns at Washington, it seems
"joined teams to give Joseph fits" John
wrote me Joseph was far advanced
in poetic lunacy. A letter in-
formed me of your visit to Mrs.
Lincoln - how did you like her?
Strangers are not often pleased with
her. Mr Lincoln does all a man
can do & should have the honor.

I think with you Lizzie, you brother
is capable of great good in almost any
sphere. I cannot begin to tell you
all I have suffered in this separation
of the family. It is such a disad-
vantage to the children. I cannot
but lament the day Joseph gave up
preaching. But what can I do or
say? I can only pray.

Emma has just come in & sends
much love. Anna is out but I know
will send hers to you & all cousins.
He is well. Love to yr. entire circle & do
write again to yr. affec^{to} sister Sarah.

Maggie Simpson

Washington March 7th 1865.

My dear Friend,

I was much pleased to receive your letter - for I took as evidence of the kindly impression left on your mind by your sojourn with us - I need not speak of the friendly feelings you excited in our hearts and the many regrets that followed your departure - we all speak of you now, as one whom we should so much like to see again. We hear strange reports about you - you might have told us all about it - however I suppose the dénouement is at hand so that we shall soon know all! I will not begin at once to congratulate you - Your son is so impetuous in his race with Cupid that he will quite excel you, if you are not prompt - We have the opportunity of letting close allerra-

tion now, for Florence is staying here a few days to attend the Inauguration Ball - and we cannot fail to see the significant glances, pleasant misunderstandings going on - They went to the Pres. Church on Sunday evening & when they returned, they were asked by some whether they had been to prayer meeting, others asked had they been to a love feast! - The pageant of the Ball came off last night and the whole house went except Mrs. Randall - I suppose you already know that Caro is here with us on a short visit - So she too, in pink & Lallalou & white flowers formed one of our party. Florence wore white muslin and pink sashes.

The arrangements of the Ball were most ample & elegant, perfect order preserved and there was a fine

company and fine supper - so the hours
passed merrily until four o'clk. when
we ceased our Cereel & came home to
sleep. Florence and Cao must have
had pleasant dreams for they lingered
in the arms of the sleepy God until
towards twelve! They seem happy together
have gone now to do some shopping for
another festive occasion. Your Brother
& Heptens come in often and are al-
ways pleasant. John says he has
not forgotten you & will be happy to
make your house his head quarters
if he comes West at any time.

I most sincerely hope that your
friend Mr. H. has improved in
health under your genial care and
also that Lizzie is conscientiously sent
back to school.

It might interest you to know that
Mrs. B. & Mrs. C. attended the Ball in
costly more antique of Loender line at

as we are informed the modest sum
(all expenses included) of nearly \$350. —
Mother's health is improved but she still
clings to the cosy fireside — she sends
kindest love — Mrs. W. sends Super-
abundant love & C. also and desires
me the pill bite soon about her
visit. — at present she & Mrs. W. are
leisurely smoking cigarettes for their
colds — but they declare they do not love
Thomas and Jerry!

The rest of the ladies do not know
of my writing but I have a cate Harriet
to send their love always —

My kindest remembrances to your
son Austin — truly glad to hear of the
important & noble decision he has
made may he have Superior grace!

Always glad to hear from you
Yours Affectionately
M. K. Simpson.