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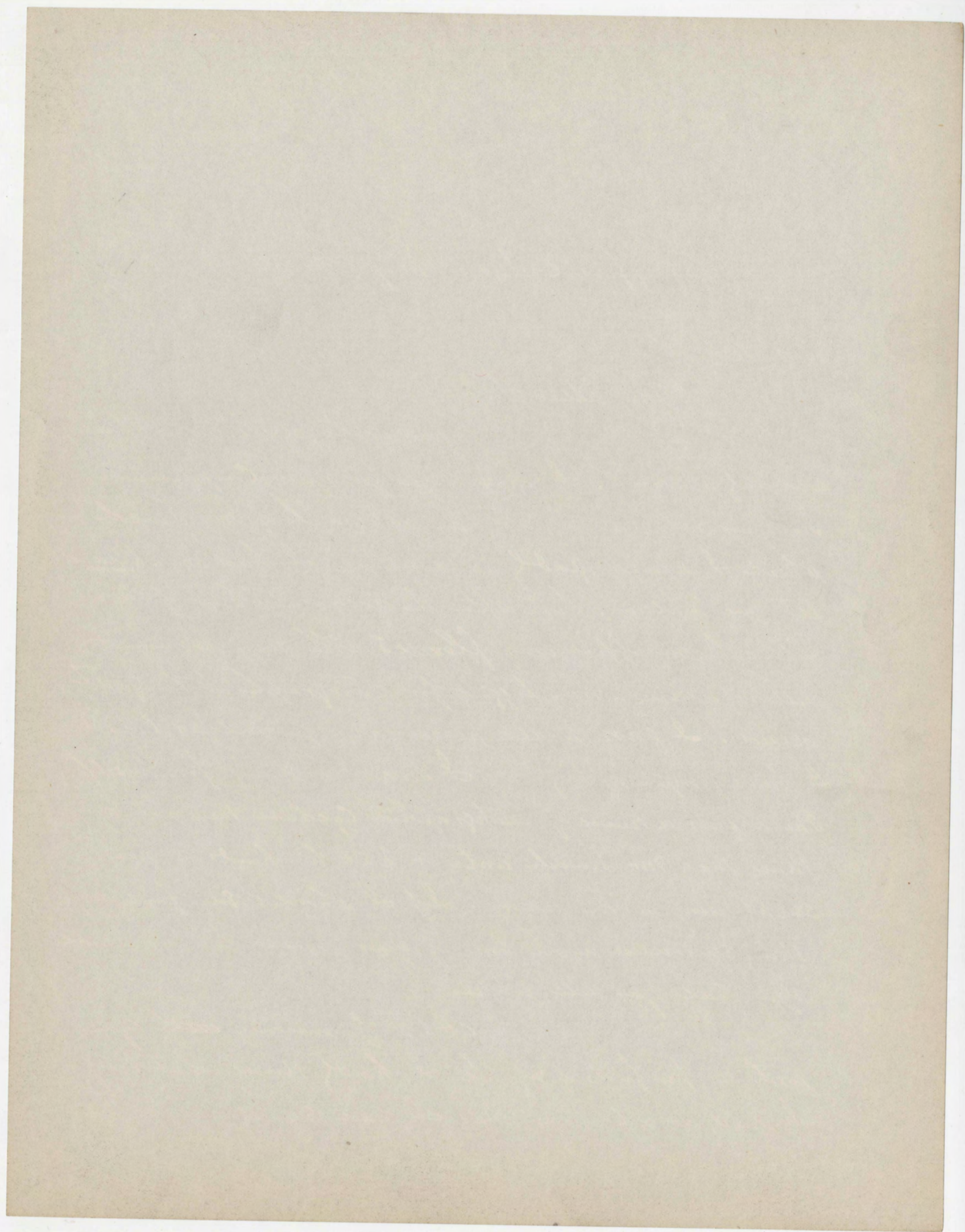
Springfield Ill. Feby 8th '90

Mr Wilson -

My dear Sir:

Your note, dated the 1st inst, was duly received. I thank you for your Compliments. In your note you request an autograph of Mr. Lincoln which I would gladly send you, if I had one. Please let me explain. Soon after the assassination of Mr. Lincoln my office was flooded with men - women & letters asking - nay, begging for autographs of the great dead. I gave to all persons, as requested, as long as I had anything to give. I saved nothing for myself. There was a kind of autographic Cyclone then and every thing that Mr. Lincoln wrote or put his hands on was swept away in the storm. If I should ever find anything of value in the line of your request let me assure you that you will get it.

As to furnishing ~~with~~ you with a few facts of my life I hardly know what to say. I really do not know that I have ever done or said



anything worthy of note. In the matter of my life of Lincoln
I tried to tell the truth and to be impartial; and that is
all that I claim for the book. I will promise you
that as soon as I get time and see some friends I will
send you some simple facts of my life. My friends know
me better than I know myself and possibly this is the
Case ^{with} us all.

Your Friend
W. H. Steward

P.S.

I read your remarks on Gov. Dix with great pleasure

W

