

Dr. Wendell Hall,
May 2, 1865.

Lincoln

Cincinnati May 2^d 1865

Hon. L. A. Barrett

My Dear Sir

Often recall to the very pleasant and instructive visit we made to President Lincoln together in 1863, & for which I am under so much obligation to you. Since his death I appreciate it still more highly. That visit was one long to be remembered by me as a bright spot in life, & the pleasant recollection of which can never be forgotten; I would not have them obliterated for any earthly enjoyment. I cannot do justice by language in portraying my high appreciation of the great & good man. If I ever could have doubted the greatness & goodness of Abraham Lincoln that visit dispelled every vestige of apprehension that he was not the right man.

in the Presidential Chair,
on the 8 of April (the day before Lee's
surrender) as I was going to the hospital
at City Point I met the carriage
containing the President, Mr Johnson, Mr
Sumner & Mrs Lincoln who were returning
from the hospital, where Mrs Lincoln had
been spending the day with the sick &
wounded. On arriving there the Medical
Director informed me that the President said
he came to see the boys who had fought the
battles of the Country, & particularly the battle
which resulted in the evacuation of the
Rebel Capital. He wanted to talk to them
by the hand as it would probably be the last
opportunity of meeting them. His will
was good to see them in Washington on their
return from the war home again, but it
would be impossible to see so many of them
again; he therefore devoted the day to
shaking ^{hands with} over six thousand soldiers fresh
from the bloody fields of battle, and giv-

ing such words of encouragement
as the circumstances suggested from
time to time. It was like the visit
of a father to his children and was ap-
preciated in the same kindly spirit by the
soldiers. They loved to talk of his kind-
ness and unaffected manner, & to dwell
upon the various incidents of this visit
as a green spot in the soldier's hard life.
At one point in his visit he observed
an axe which he picked up & examined &
made some pleasant remark that he was
once considered to be a good Chopper. He
was invited to try his hand upon a log of
wood lying near from which he made
the chips fly in primitive style. The boys
seemed to worship him & the visit of the
President to City Point hospital will be
long remembered by many a soldier who
was only too happy in its enjoyment. The
description of this visit made a strong
impression on my mind & as you are

treasuring up the interesting inci-
dents of this great man's life I thought
I would make this brief hasty sketch
for you. It is quite probable you may
have seen a fuller account of this matter
than I have given you.

I cannot thank you too heartily for
the pleasure your kindness gave me in
furnishing me the opportunity to that visit
to our immortal President.

I suppose you have heard of the
assassination of our friend Mr. Wright
which took place on or about the 18th of
Feb'y in Arizona within two hundred
yards of Fort Buchanan, by the cowardly
Apaches. He had nearly completed his
survey, & in a few days expected to return
home & perfect his Santa Rita enterprise.

I feel his death very much. I have
known him long & intimately. He
was one of the best of men. Every one
loved & relied on him. I do not know
how this may affect our enterprise.
It will not probably do so materially in
the end, but must delay matters somewhat.

I am your truly,

Wm. W. Smith

Specimen of
Mr. Wright's