

## Abraham Lincoln papers

From Abraham Lincoln to Mary Todd Lincoln<sup>1</sup>, March 4, 1860

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1 Lincoln had been invited to speak at a number of places in New England after his speech at Cooper Institute in New York on February 27, 1860. He was also visiting Robert Lincoln who was a student at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire.

Exeter, N. H. March 4. 1860

Dear Wife:

When I wrote you before I was just starting on a little speech-making tour, taking the boys<sup>2</sup> with me — On Thursday they went with me to Concord, where I spoke in day-light, and back to Manchester where I spoke at night— Friday we came down to Lawrence — the place of the Pemberton Mill tradg tragedy —<sup>3</sup> where we remained four hours awaiting the train back to Exeter— When it came, we went upon it to Exeter where the boys got off, and I went on to Dover and spoke there Friday evening— Saturday I came back to Exeter, reaching here about noon, and finding the boys all right, having caught up with their lessons— Bob had a letter from you saying Willie and Taddy<sup>4</sup> were very sick the Saturday night after I left— Having no despatch from you, and having one from Springfield, of Wednesday, from Mr. Fitzhugh,<sup>5</sup> saying nothing about our family, I trust the dear little fellows are well again—

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2 Robert Lincoln and George Latham, an Exeter student who also came from Springfield, Illinois.

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3 The Pemberton Mill at Lawrence, Massachusetts, had collapsed and burned on January 10, 1860. There were many casualties.

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4 William Wallace Lincoln and Thomas Lincoln, Lincoln's youngest sons.

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5 Harrison G. Fitzhugh was a carpenter and Republican activist in Springfield.

This is Sunday morning; and according to Bob's orders, I am to go to church once to-day— Tomorrow I bid farewell to the boys, go to Hartford, Conn. and speak there in the evening; Tuesday at Menden, and Wednesday at New-Haven — and Thursday at Woonsocket, R. I— Then I start home, and think I will not stop— I may be delayed in New-York City an hour or two— I have been unable to escape this

toil— If I had foreseen it I think I would not have come East at all. The speech at New-York<sup>6</sup>, being within my calculation before I started, went off passably well, and gave me no trouble whatever. The difficulty was to make nine others, before reading audiences, who have already seen all my ideas in print—

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<sup>6</sup> The Cooper Institute speech of February 27, 1860.

If the trains do not lie over Sunday, of which I do not know, I hope to be home to-morrow week—  
Once started I shall come as quick as possible—

Kiss the dear boys for Father—

Affectionately

A. Lincoln