

MRS. LINCOLN.

Her Physicians Pronounce Her Entirely Sane.

[Chicago Times.]

Recently a representative of *The Times*, in quest of scientific facts by means of personal observation, visited the institution of Dr. Patterson at Batavia, and while there was introduced to Mrs. Lincoln by a mutual friend who happened to be there at the same time, not as a newspaper man, but as a gentleman who knew her history and who took a friendly interest in all that pertained to her welfare.

The lady appeared in very good spirits, and her mind was clear and sprightly. After some preliminary conversation she invited the gentleman to her room to obtain a view of the pastoral landscape from that source, and to pursue the interesting conversation already begun. This opportunity, which had thus been presented by circumstances, was improved by the gentleman of the press, to discover the exact condition of her mind, so far as he was able to do so, by drawing her into conversation on all possible topics in which he deemed her to have been interested, either pleasantly or painfully during her life. If there were any weak points in her mind, he was determined to find out what they were. If she were brooding over any circumstance of her sad life, he was bent on finding out what it was. Her visit to London was alluded to, and thoroughly discussed. Little Tad was with her there, and she alluded to the child, now dead, but whose memory is very dear to her, with all the warmth and affection a fond mother might be expected to exhibit. There was not a sign of weakness or any abnormal manifestations of mind visible. She conversed fluently and rationally about her wanderings in England. She narrated her experiences in Germany, dwelling on the subject of her travels with much detail and interest to the end. During all this time she not only exhibited a sound and rational judgment, but gave evidences of the possession of uncommon powers of observation and memory.

Her attention was called to the time when the visitor had met her in Washington, in 1862. The occasion she remembered. Knowing that the death of little Tad and the assassination of Mr. Lincoln were two incidents in her life that were known to have made the most powerful impressions on her mind of any events which had ever occurred to her, these circumstances were adroitly introduced into the conversation. During all this her admirable mind maintained its poise with perfection. Concerning Mr. Lincoln she related anecdotes illustrating his extreme good nature. She conversed about the assassination. No mental weakness, under any possible test, could be discovered. She spoke of public men with whom she had become acquainted during her residence at the White House. She specially dwelt on the friendship which existed between Mr. Seward and Mr. Lincoln and herself. It was the habit of the secretary to dine with Mr. Lincoln and herself informally, two or three times a week. She alluded to the Motleys, whom she met in England, and spoke with great sensibility of their kindness, and told how badly she felt when the minister was removed. She very keenly described the characters she had met abroad, showing that she possesses great powers of analysis. She gave her views of foreigners, and foreign matters, concerning which she exhibited great apprehension and acuteness of mind. She also spoke of the books she was engaged in reading, and the life she led. Her health at present, she observed, was superb. She had never been better. When she came to Chicago from Florida she had been suffering somewhat from fever, and her nervous system was somewhat shattered. She was prostrated, and any eccentricities she might have manifested then, if any, she attributed to this fact.

There were some light iron bars over the door, to which she called the attention of the gentleman. She said they seemed to menace her, and they annoyed her with the idea that she was in prison. She was somewhat apprehensive that the prison bars, and the presence of insane people in the house, whose wild and piercing cries she sometimes heard, might affect her mind so as to unseat her reason, in time. She commented upon journals and journalists with great intelligence. The conversation took the widest possible range, and from this the representative of *The Times* became convinced that her mind was in a perfectly sound and healthy condition. She made no complaint of her treatment. She thought she would like a little more liberty to drive out, and a little more liberty to receive her friends. She exhibited marvelous charity through the entire course of the interview for those by whose instrumentality she had been placed there. The gentleman departed thoroughly convinced that whatever condition of mind Mrs. Lincoln may have been in previously, she is unquestionably compos mentis now, and ought not to be deprived of her liberty.