

*Abraham Lincoln in the National Capital* 65

Francis P. Blair of Chicago, in *The Life of Abraham Lincoln* by Ida M. Tarbell:

"During the war my grandfather, Francis P. Blair, Sr., lived at Silver Springs, north of Washington, seven miles from the White House. It was a magnificent place of four or five hundred acres with an extensive lawn in the rear of the house. The grandchildren gathered there frequently. There were eight or ten of us, our ages ranging from eight to twelve years. Although I was but seven or eight years of age, Mr. Lincoln's visits were of such importance to us boys as to leave a clear impression on my memory. He drove out to the place quite frequently. We boys, for hours at a time, played 'town ball' on the vast lawn, and Mr. Lincoln would join ardently in the sport. I remember vividly how he ran with the children; how long were his strides, and how far his coat tails stuck out behind, and how we tried to hit him with the ball, as he ran the bases. He entered into the spirit of the play as completely as any of us, and we invariably hailed his coming with delight."

The marital incident to be narrated indicates Mr. Lincoln's interest in the human kind generally, the humble and the high, those he had seen or never would see again.

It is thought to be the only marriage in the Executive Mansion in Mr. Lincoln's presidency and the only marriage in the Mansion in all time where there was no kinship with the family. The time—1862.

James Henry Chandler and his sweetheart, Elizabeth, lived at Mount Sidney, Virginia. Their courtship was clandestine and their leave-taking, an elopement. To Harper's Ferry they went to have the marriage ceremony. There they found the conditions so turbulent it could not be effected. They continued on by stage to the City of Washington.