

Private

Springfield, Ill. Oct 19. 1860  
Miss. Grace Bedell

My dear little Miss.

Your very agreeable letter  
of the 15<sup>th</sup> is received.

I regret the necessity of saying I  
have no daughters. I have three  
sons - one seventeen, one nine, and  
one seven, years of age - They, with  
their mother, constitute my whole fam-  
ily.

As to the whiskers, having never worn  
any, do you not think people would  
call it a piece of silly affectation  
if I were to begin it now?

Your very sincere well-wisher  
A. Lincoln.

On loan from the Benjamin Shapell Family Manuscript Foundation  
(070, Lincoln to Grace Bedell)