Springfield, Ills. July 31st 1849

Now: Secretary of the Interior

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 18th in answer to my inquiries concerning the letters of Messrs. Thompson & Embree is received, and for which I thank you. You are deceived to some extent at least. Mr. Kaffin did not inform me at the time he gave me the bundle or at any time that any letters filed in my favor had been retained. He said not give me the bundle in person, but it was sent to my lodgings accompanied by a letter from yourself, which letter, now before my eyes, says no indication that any of the letters had been retained. On the contrary it speaks of the papers as an unbroken series numbered from 95 to 183 inclusive with a small package file at a later hour on yesterday.

Again, if the letter of Messrs. Thompson & Embree were retained under the rule you state then that rule was applied with a strange partiality in this case, for I have now under my eye taken from the bundle mentioned, and with the brief upon it reads in your office eight letters falling completely within that rule. Five of them are addressed to the President, one to a third party, two to yourself, all speak of Mr. B. in the same town as Messrs. Thompson & Embree, and none of them was ever in my possession, till they came to me in the bundle referred to. But the strangest of all is, that one of these eight letters, now before me, is this the identical letter of Mr. Barry, which you expressly state in your letter, has been retained by you, or by
Mrs. Lincoln under the rule— Because of these things, I have continued to say for an occasion—

Yours very truly,
A. Lincoln

[The rest of the page is filled with what appears to be illegible handwriting or scribbles, making it difficult to decipher any coherent text.]