

Springfield, July 26. 1857

Now: Wm Martin

Dear Sir:

I received yours of the 22nd ^{new} yesterday - I went to the Telegraph office & found the despatch as you say, of Jan'y 25th. It is in pencil; and the operator says he does not know whose handwriting it is; but that he does know it is not the writing of the operator who was here at that date - I took Mr James S. Lamb to see it, who at first said it was not Mr. McCormack's nor his own writing; but that he thought he knew who wrote it, and would enquire - Just now he has told me that the man he thought had written ^{it}, denies doing so, and that he, Lamb, now has no idea who ever wrote it - He says it is a much better hand than Mr. McCormack himself can write - I do not see any clue to the handwriting - Can you not set it up in pleading so as to be relieved from proving its execution unless Mr. McCormack denies it under oath?

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

A. Lincoln
July 1857.

to
Hon: Wm Martin
Atton
Illnois.

