Hilton City, May 18, 1838

Mr. A. Lincoln,

My Dear Sir,—There are strange rumors afloat in this good Whig-republican section of the State, to the effect that the terms upon which Mr. Fortnaude gives his support to you are, that in Case of your election to the U.S. Senate, you and your friends in Southern Illinois are to support him for Governor. This is but a damaging story. Having more friends here than Mr. N. She is making capital for himself rather than advancing your chances, and as a friend of yours, she will use whatever of influence she possesses to secure the election of a Member of the Assembly from this District who will not only not aid you, but likewise make it for you. I have ventured to call your attention to this story. The election of a Candidate for the Assembly belongs to this Country and as the Republican Party here is composed of five Whigs to three Democrats, I think there will be little difficulty in getting the right kind of a man— at all events, it shall be no fault of mine if it is not done. Douglas has but few admirers as our party here. The sentiment seems to be that if the party has any gifts to bestow, they shall be given first to those who have been instrumental in clothing the Party with the power of elevating her Champions to place and influence.
Perhaps I should add that this same story
is somewhat current in Chicago; as you can readily
grapple with it by thinking of your friends.

Tribbing that I shall see you in Spring
field on the 16th of June.

Remain as ever,

Truly yours,

E. J. Bridges
TO
MAY 19
1858

Hon. Abraham Lincoln
Springfield
Ill.