

CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK EVENING WORLD

Not Henry Ford.

DEC 3 1928

A LINCOLNIAN CONTROVERSY

A serious challenge of the authenticity of the alleged new Lincoln letters being published in the Atlantic Monthly has been made by no less an authority than Worthington Ford, who probably stands as high in historical scholarship as any living American. Mr. Sedgwick, the editor of the magazine, replies that he thoroughly appreciates the responsibility of sponsoring these letters and that he made what he considered a satisfactory investigation. The letters were submitted to Ida Tarbell, Carl Sandburg, Dr. Barton and Charles Moore, the last for years Keeper of Manuscripts at the Library of Congress, and these were convinced that the letters are genuine.

The statement of Mr. Ford shifts the controversy to the writing; Mr. Sedgwick was more interested in the history of the documents and is convinced from the story of their descent to the magazine that they must be genuine. Mr. Ford, comparing the writing with other unquestioned letters of Lincoln written at the same time, makes the point that the writing, while imitative, is essentially different.

Old paper? Mr. Ford reminds us of the many ways in which old paper may be procured. Faded ink? He explains the process through which we may take a document written a month ago and secure the exact degree of fading desired. And why, he asks, is it that a microscopic examination shows these letters never were folded, when at the time they were presumed to have

been written they could not have been mailed otherwise? Delivered personally? He dismisses this as not plausible.

It is an interesting controversy. The letters are important. If genuine, invaluable. Mr. Sedgwick admits he may be mistaken, but he is convinced. The fact, that so reputable an editor as Mr. Sedgwick and so noted an historical scholar and authority as Mr. Ford thoroughly appreciate their responsibility makes the controversy all the more interesting and worth following.

JUDICIARY STANDARDS