



O-51A



O-51B



O-51C

THE FIRST SITTING IN WASHINGTON. Taken with a three-lens camera on a single glass plate, long ago cut apart, the three images are here assembled for the first time from old photographs in the Ostendorf collection. The photograph on the preceding page is an enlargement of the center image.

EXHAUSTED BY A TRAIN JOURNEY during which he had traveled nearly two thousand miles and visited seven states, Lincoln went to Brady's Washington studio, probably on Sunday, February 24, 1861, and sat (opposite), absorbed in problems, while Alexander Gardner took five poses.

Youthful artist George H. Story, friend and associate of Brady, was at the sitting, and fifty-five years later recalled: "It was in November of the year 1859 that I went to Washington, D. C. and set up my easel in a room . . . which I hired from M. B. Brady. . . . A day or two after the President's arrival [February 23, 1861] Mr. Gardner, Mr. Brady's representative in Washington, came to my room and asked me to come and pose Mr. Lincoln for a picture. When I entered the room the President was seated in a chair wholly absorbed in deep thought. . . . I said in an undertone to the operator, 'bring your instrument here and take the picture.'"