

Books That Lincoln Read From Thomas Beer's Hanna

Beer in his Hanna quoted as saying, see page 271

"I have never been a great reader. When I do read it is generally something pretty practical. If your boy is a serious fellow, would suggest that you try to get him a very good book of Baron Humboldt. Either the book is named Cosmos or that is the first essay in it. You probably know this was a favorite essay with Mr. Lincoln. I admired it a great deal when I was a young fellow. I do not mean," he admitted, "that Mr. Lincoln and I grew up just the same way..." But legend will have it that Mr. Hanna did not know the meaning of the word "cosmos," and legend prevails in these cases. He will remain, then, a coarsely ignorant person, without intellect, yet, somehow, a consummate manager of men, a comic arriviste at whose table members of the Cabinet, authors, scientists, actors, and painters cheerfully mingled, Oh, come!