

Anecdote of Lincoln.

A short time before President Lincoln started on his journey to Washington for his first inauguration, the late Hon. A. S. White and my father, the late Dr. O. L. Clarke, both of Indiana, visited him in his home at Springfield, Ill. They went to talk over the political situation, and also to invite him to stop at La Fayette, Ind. on his journey east. My father introduced himself to Mr. Lincoln as a man who did not want office, which seemed to please him very much.

In answer to their invitation to visit their city, Mr. Lincoln said: "The many invitations to visit on my journey remind me of an undertaker I once knew who had such a slow horse that it was often said he would never get a corpse to its destination in time for the resurrection and if I should stop at all places I am invited, I wouldn't get to Washington in time for

the inauguration."

My father was one of the few men who was not favorably impressed with Mr. Lincoln. He thought he did not comprehend the gravity of the situation and his jking manner, in his estimation was unbecoming in a man in so responsible and serious a position and when Mr. Lincoln offered him, as he did soon afterwards, the post-mastership at La Fayette, he declined it, having so high a sense of honor that he would not accept an office from a president whose policy he could not honestly and heartily sustain. These are old fashioned notions, long since gone out of style, and may perhaps be of interest for that reason.

I send the above incident to use or not as you think best. It is so unusual to hear anything but the warmest praise

of our martyred president that I thought you might like to know that there was another shade of opinion and it seems to me the truth of history requires one to give averse as well as complimentary portrayals.

*Jane Clarke Harvey.*

Tacoma, Wn., 29th Oct., 1895.