

(Insert for "Lincoln as a Lawyer"

Even stray boys found in him a friend. A youth passing through Springfield on his way to the West, finding himself without money and thrown in with Mr. Lincoln, was given these two notes to help him on his way. One to a hotel proprietor: "Mr. Wilson. Take care of this boy until tomorrow, or longer if the weather is bad; and send the bill to me. A. Lincoln." And to still another acquaintance further on the route: "This boy wants to reach the Rock River country somewhere near Beloit. If he needs any assistance so you can help him in any way, it will be appreciated; and I will be responsible."

That hat of his was not to be treated with indignity. It did much more than to cover his head. It was his favorite receptacle for carrying mail and packages through a good part of his life. When, back in New Salem, he was post master, a great part of the mail went into his hat as he made his rounds. He never gave up the habit, and every now and then you find him apologizing to his friends for something that he had overlooked by saying that he had not put it in his hat where he usually carried his packages, but in his trunks perhaps, and so had forgotten it. Or that he had put it in an old hat, and putting that one aside for a new one, had overlooked the letter. (See Tracy, pp.37-42)

Lawyer
Change in appearance
suffered - some dignity
no feeling that in mail
late - Oregon - better