1/18/95

Saw Capt Kidd editor of Meadville this morning. He told me of his first meeting with Lincoln. He was selling reapers & was explaining to by-standers the merits of his machine - L was in 5-3 at the time Lincoln was interested in the McCormick case. L. stopped & listened and afterwards meeting K asked him to go up to his office in the old court house and L showed him how to put together a machine he had been studying and had taken apart and could get together again. L. did it - and explained to K the principles which bothered him very much while this was going on. K. was reminded of a story and K told one in reply and they sat down & "swapped" until 2 when L was called for dinner. After that L. never saw K. without asking him if he

(over)

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had anything new in way of stories & he would put everything aside if possible to listen to them.

K tells an excellent courtroom performance of L's. One day he had argued a case with great eloquence and earnestness & finishing went over to the stove L's at down ~~His head~~ shielding out his long legs to the fire. one foot on the top of the other. He was listening to the opposition lawyer through apparently in deep thought - Presently he began with the under foot to work at the heel of the boot resting on it - & soon had his boot off then leaning over he pulled off his stocking & began to search for something object that evidently had annoyed him. Before he was satisfied some

"Capt Kidd, editor of the Monitor"

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thing his opponent said struck him & springing up one foot bare he ~~sprang~~ shoved into the middle of the room & ~~began~~ exclaimed "Your Honor I protest - my opponent is misstating my argument." He made his point: & then limping back sat down & dressed his foot.

Capt K. told this story as if it were true - but they & he's a great liar - that is the Republicans say so or rather the opponents of the Monitor.

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