There is a vol. devoted to showing that Lincoln was a spiritualist - which you probably know about. The Spiritualists practically turn away from the worship of God to "seek after spirits" & make a cult of them. It is the same thing that all heathen pagan races have always done, & it makes the chief part of their religion. Abraham Lincoln or any Xn might be inclined to think that the departed spirits have some interest in us, perhaps some cognizance of us, & possibly at times, some kind of approach to us - & still be any thing but a spiritualist. This week's Harpers Weekly has (Feb 15) has an article on Lincoln by Jesse Weik, making evident how Herndon would be likely to think that Lincoln also, like himself, followed Theodore Parker.

I used to read Parker's Life & Letters

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L. E. Chittenden's two vols contain a good deal of testimony bout together on this point.
C. C. Coffin's Life of Lincoln also. This seems to have original material, & is not a mere compilation.
I am inclined to think that Rev Wm Rikman of Atlantic City has a great many war & Lincoln notes & clippings, besides a deep interest in this subject. During the war he was a Presbyterian pastor in Wilmington Del, and a very outspoken Union man among many Copperheads. If he has any material at hand he will be very glad to help you.

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There is an interesting story told of Lincoln's mastery of Euclid. I think it was printed in the Boston Congregationalist, some ten years ago - written by Prof W. A. Mowry "What Geometry will do for a Boy: How Pres. L. became an Expert Reasoner."

To Jacob Abbott (father of Lyman) dear children's writer of his day, who wrote a long series of biographies & histories, Lincoln expressed his indebtedness as having furnished him with a large part of what knowledge he had of History.

It must be immensely interesting if you did devote a whole chapter to L's reading alone, & the influence over him of certain books: their progressive influence on his education & career.

Beginning (& ending) with the Bible. Bunyan. Shakespeare Burns. Gal.

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Aesop. Plutarch, Euclid.
To think that those three ancient
Greeks should do so much for the
education of an American
backwoodsman! Plutarch, the
one author who of all others
makes the best general in-
troduction to all European
& Classical antiquity, as the
Bible to all Oriental - besides
being the most economical of
all books.
Euclid to teach deductive
reasoning: Aesop & &
Bunyan to teach the art of
moral allegory in which
he was so proficient & &
The lives of Washington & Clay.
The Constitution, Declaration
& fundamental Law of the land
followed up with Blackstone
& the foundations of English
Law. Truly if he read but
little he masters what he read,
& there was a Providence in his
selection from the innumerable
mass of books.

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