Long talk with A. J. Conant who tells me some of Lis stories which cannot be told to women. Pope had taken a handful of Beauregard's men & was marching on the Confederates. sent telegram to Washington telling how he had taken 5000 prisoners & in the morning would have the rebels in his power - this read in Cabinet - Mr L. asked for his opinion. That reminds me of old woman in Langamon Co who was ill - doctor - physic - returns in morning finds her fresh & well getting breakfast - Physic worked? Yes. How many movements? - 142 - Well Madame I am serious. Of course I know you are joking. how many? 142. Doctor irritated - Madame I must know. you couldn't have had 142. It is necessary I have the exact no of movements? - I tell you 142. 140 of them wind"

"I am afraid Popes captures are 140 of them wind

We comment that this elucidates the situation. ~~puts~~ the Cabinet sees Pope's case after this story - discussion unnecessary

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Story of German or Austrian caricature goose eating gold & excrements are green backs seward angry. Never mind seward after war will turn the goose around - let her eat the greenbacks & turn out gold. "I never talked so to a woman before

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One Judge Davis was reading a paper & found that a former acquaintance of L's & his who had gone west was dead.—

"X is dead" said the judge. Mr L. reflected a few minutes then ~~Mr~~ L. looked up. "Davis" he said "I'm sorry He was a funny fellow".

He loved to be with men who were full of jokes and stories & often sought them though they were rough customers perhaps. Mr J. T. Stuart told Mr W. that when he saw Lincoln in Washington he never asked after his dignified friends but always after the jokers—Mr said L. never asked him "to stop & take a cup of tea" in the White House & he felt aggrieved because of that neglect.

Mr Cuper said Mr Hodge said that Lincoln got many of his jokes from 'Yankee Notions' a funny paper of that day and changed them into Western style. Changed them from "Cockney garb to Sucker garb" Mr ~~H~~ C. said. He enjoyed funny books and read a book by one John Phoenix or "Squibob" called Phoenixiana L. would drop into office with this book

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and ~~the~~ read it to Mr W & his friends. The author was a lieutenant in the army. When Jeff. Davis was secretary of war he called for suggestions to modify the uniform which was bad. The lieut's life of fun was too strong for him and he sent a ridiculous scheme to put an iron plate on seat of houses with ring in it & suggested various ways in which it might be used. D. was very angry & told Cass then of the cabinet threatened to court-martial Squibob - but Cass said - "You can court martial him but all the country will be laughing at you."

"Flush times in Alabama" was another favorite funny book of L's.

Mr W. saw L. take out a curious single bladed knife one day & he asked him about it. Mr L. said "Well I've got a good deal of whittling to do now. I'm whittling out something" Probably an invention. They considered him a born inventor. Both men remembered a lecture - an invention he delivered in B. first time he didn't have a house full & the audience was dismissed (look this up)

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

next time it was a success. Make a good Paragraph on inventions

They say he was always whittling when not busy at work or telling stories.

L. never complained. The lawyers all admit that he was the most unselfish man in the circuit & as a reward generally had the poorest bed & the last served at table. If there was a poor place he skipped into it & no one heard complain ever.

Mr W. considers Lincoln, Douglas & Blaine the 3 most attractive men he ever met. Harrison the most ~~of~~ antagonistic (see Senator Manderson)

The Illinois Central case was tried in Bloomington. (see case) Authorities had assessed Illinois Central. The question was if it was legal. L. their attorney. James J. Joy of Detroit was employed to assist. He tried & L. very shabbily in course of suit. L. charged $5000 as fee. Joy told the company it was too much for a country lawyer. They refused to pay & L. sued them. He took deposition of a dozen eminent lawyers. L. got the verdict.

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