

Dille - Lincolns.

Long talks with Mr Rowland Dille
"Roffie" on the neighbors call him.
He came here in '44 - 50 years ago
and is one of the "old settlers". Really all
a more industrious old face - furrowed
on the forehead & from the eyes &
under the lids as I now saw a
face furrowed - the forehead is a
perfect checker-board and from
the outer corner of the eyes the ~~furrowed~~
flesh looks like a hill side cut ^{away}
by heavy rains & the gullies ~~run~~
dried & the flesh is folded up in
smiles under the eyes but the
cheeks are red & healthy - the
eyes bright, cold, penetrating -
hair abundant clean - a suspicion
of blotches about the mouth -
~~The~~ The slouch of the Lincoln
settles hang about him though
he carries himself ^{more} carefully

and dresses more tidily than the typical "settler". As becomes a man who keeps store in town & has known presidents.

Mr D. was a printer on the Register when he came here 30 yrs ago, and connected with a man who kept a dry store - one Wallace - who married a Miss Todd - now this dry store was one of the "three regular loafin' places" of Springfield. "Society" was all the same in those days, everybody knew everybody & we were all alike. There wasn't no newspaper and so all the lawyers and people went into one of the 3 loafin' places and talked. Since! Lots of em. swapped in all day but haven't all yarns. We talked old history and all sorts of political questions. Anna that - don't we

had the best minds in the county
 and I'd rather a hundred the dis-
 cussing you in there than any speech
 ever made. After now off the
 company Micoles was always a part
 and M. Diller finally went with the
 dry stone as a partner and that
 very day M. Diller opened an
 account with him & he continued
 to have his yearly account there
 until he went to Wallingford - M.
 D. has those accounts in his book
 "He was just as intimate as men
 could be who never slept under
 same tent." Met and had more
 & we saw. Went to see him
 playing ball. He loved ball &
 played with everybody in town.
 was playing day before yesterday
 he would make out his long
 arms & shackle out his
 long legs & such a picture

Mr D. describes L's way of enjoying his own stories. He would keep hand on his knees, jump up & wheel round and sit down ~~clapping~~ slapping his knees again.

He tried to do that - cause he was melancholic like. He had shadows on him.

We were to say when we saw him hoodin' "What's the use Abe, nothing aint you fault, What's the use?" but he wouldn't help it.

He loved his children and always had them about him "no government nillt 'em" I remember once sitting at my den and down that came Mr Lincoln with Tad on his shoulder and I'll hold of his coat tails both crying and as they would holler, "What's the matter nillt

the boys in 2." I cried.

Just what the matter with the whole world. I've got 3 walnuts and each of them wants 2."

Mr D. tells of Lincoln being in court house playing chess with a law friend, a kindly old fellow

with no children. Tad came in and kept teasing his father to go home. Mr D. would say yes, soon, pretty soon. Finally Tad kicked me chess board. His companion jumped up & began some emphatic remarks about if he had children, etc. But Mr D. good naturedly patted him on the shoulder & said - "just wait - until you get them & then see" & shrugging Tad marched home

Two days after the nomination Mr
Corkery met Mr L. in brown deep
study in the street and said
"Make the matter Mr L. serious"

"Well, C. they're going to send a
committee here of high flyers to
tell me I'm nominated. as if I
didn't know it - & they will want
some liquor. & I never had a drop
in my house."

There was a M. L. don't give
up your principles don't leave any
hole", I passed on.

The committee came and mended
things over to the house. As they
came up the street John

Cheney was at the head of
procession & beside him
Genl ^{Morgan} Magdon who was to an-
nounce the nomination. On the
piazza in front of house sat
two bare footed boys - Dad &

hill

"Whose boys are those?" demanded
Genl M.

Mr L. said Mr. C.

Well if I were nonresistant-president
of the U.S. I'd put slaves on my
children at least" said Genl M.

"Just wait - Mr L. may be here fooled
himself."

That evening Mr Corbitt heard
mylo of grasses & next-day said
I saw early Mr L. that you gave
mine last night."

I didn't - Kollidillo sent it - in
I it was used.

Mr Dilleo tells excellent story of
his trip to Washington to see L.

"Mr L. my allus mind headed. He
never went back on his old
neighbors. He my like me in
~~that~~ matters of that-kind ever

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puffed me up - cause I knowed
presidents.

En - I went down to W. My
holter was there I went with me
to White-House. Now he said Roll
you want to meet your p'd g's
It is unstrung down here to
say Mr Secretary, Mr President,
Mr Representative & you want
to do it - a you'll split all I
want get to see Mr L. "You
mean to say I want get to see
Abe?" "Yes R'do". "Well now will
see, you don't mean this secretary
would dare't keep out his
old friends?" "You'll see if you
ain't careful!" Well I said
maybe I bet he". Well Isaac he
sent in his card - He had
printed cards. I never did - never
needed none here. I went
in where little plan making

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my - well I was so glad to see
some one from Springfield that -

I just climbed out, "Hello John"
I my end how he says. He just
said "Good day Mr. Diller" I said
I want to see Mr. L. & he said
"you can't see him" I said "why"
& he said he's in Cabinet-Meeting.
I had to go off.

"Then" says Isaac "I'm just
your first at it, I told you so."

I felt pretty mean but down
stairs I saw Tad a standing
by a soldier & I went up to the
soldier & I said "get him this
card to Mr. L." & I wrote my
name in one of Isaac's "cards".
Well in just a few minutes
down came and for me to go
up & then my wish. just as
nice as you please. & I up
I told her about little John

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knowing & what he'd done,
I shut said well you'll see
Mr L. I also sent one of the
boys up to tell his father &
Mrs. L. In no time down
came L. in 7-league boots &
he just overwhelmed me he was that
glad to see me & he asked me
all sorts of questions and
sat down beside me with
Lafayette I held on to my hand
& he said you stay & I
will take tea and will go to the
theater. and I said "Mr Lincoln
I can't do that - my wife is up
in Phila - scared to death
afraid the Rebels ~~at~~ will get
me and if I stand all night -
I'd be clean crazy." I've been
sorry since I did it - just
they take tea in the W. H.
I go with Abe L. to see Booth

play Hamlet - his boss play
 to Hamlet my class & is pretty
 something kind of sympathetic to
 him in it: he understood it.

Well when I come to go he
 shook hands 5 times with me
 I said said - he was broken.
 I was that happy I wouldn't
 a lot no more about he did.
 I he was clear out to the car to
 see me go.

That's last time I saw him alive
 I didn't mean to see him dead
 he was right me there & I stand in
 until a little yellow hand grabbed
 him in to me & said "O M.D.
 must you take me to see M.D."
 Well a man can't say no to a
 little girl but wise I said &
 I just picked her up & went on
 the bed - he was all brown &
 muddled up like a walnut. I

wish a low time I had it done
 it. I had I. I had - Harry was
 the first one in between me
 & that day ~~at~~ in Washington
 with him he hold in onto my
 hands & saying so kindly like
 "You're done me good - I'm
 joyful glad to see you & all
 that" "Good but it's hard"
 & the tears started down.

"I. now changed none at W.
 H. may be now it's time I better
 checked. He asked to hand I
 & told him so. "In I. say I.
 you" if I may president I'd
 like some rest. "You would
 mind you say he." "Would you
 do it?"

"My about 5 o'clock I'd drive
 out home & I'd stay there
 til next morning I'd not
 see any body."

'You think you could do you Kollie'
 'Yes sir' by 2 'I'm sure I could'
 'Well now Kollie see here. I can
 put off war gmnans. I see that
 I see that I all that - but then
 the women. What could you do
 about the women. The Kollie might
 a woman called to see me &
 they told her I was ^{resting} she
 wouldn't go ~~down~~ away & me
 I said I wouldn't go down but
 she wouldn't go & I ^{go up &} write
 Kollie that woman was a
 mother I see by it you told
 her to be shut up - turning at
 6 o'clock for neglect of duty
 would you leave your dear Kollie
 would you?' I said yes sir. I
 would 'I'm my little child
 by that time

Oh I told Timothee - he's one
 of those kind of men that God
 made

Best ~~man~~ we grumbled, ~~was~~ a
 democrat. He was the all powerful
 politician you ever see. He'd do
 the outlandish things. No one could
 get ahead of him -

little story of L's mistaking to win
 a vote.

that kind of thing later
 He my best story letter I ever told
 in your letter to you. but there
 some of him stick to me now.
 I've just heard to speak in
 religious meeting I by golly ~~was~~
 I hardly ever get up to
 speak that one of them fool
 stories of Abe L's club. some
 in to upset. I ~~was~~ heard him
 tell me him a load of
 me.

Mr D. speaks of old settlers of before
the day such as "snow birds"

His explanation of Lincoln's career
was simple ~~and~~ "God Almighty-
called Abe & trained him up"

Abe's career is a good one to stop
in for. With my one day I went
over to the court house and
found a lot of old suckers advising
the judges & they said God
would have called him an
money maker as David To do
his ^{day in} ~~hand~~ ^{suckers put him that that} ~~hand~~ ^{was} ~~in~~
Hank he called out "How much
Kollie let's hear what he say"
I he explained the case to me
I said

My see here. You all knowed
Abe Lincoln. Would you a thought
Hank Smith a few Abe was shot
over Lath of your president that
God Almighty would a wanted him
for his president. No said
Hank. I would not. "How much

you, junk" he 2 be blame d if 2
murder. And they all sed the
same thing - will say 2 nothing
would 2. But He did And do
just the same with Abraham &
David. You said tell who ~~the~~
God want. and that shut ins
up for if there anything the
men would that want have
believe its that - Ab 2. why Gods
Almighty man