But Lincoln's fees were as a rule smaller than his clients expected or his fellow lawyers approved of. Mr. Abraham Brokaw of Bloomington, Illinois, tells the following story illustrating Lincoln's idea of a proper fee. One of Mr. Brokaw's neighbors had borrowed about $500.00 from him and given his note. When it became due the man refused to pay. Action was brought, and the Sheriff levied on the property of the debtor and finally collected the entire debt; but at about that time the Sheriff was in need of funds and used the money collected. When Brokaw demanded it from him he was unable to pay it and was found to be insolvent. Thereupon Brokaw employed Stephen A. Douglas to sue the sureties on the official bond of the Sheriff. Douglas brought the suit and soon collected the claim. But Douglas was at that time in the midst of his campaign as a candidate for Congress and the funds were used by him with the expectation of being able to pay Brokaw later. However, he neglected the matter and went to Washington without making any settlement with Brokaw. Brokaw, although a life-long and ardent Democrat and a great admirer of Douglas, was a thrifty German and did not propose to lose sight of his money. After fruitlessly demanding the money from Douglas, Brokaw went to David Davis, then in general practice at Bloomington, told him the circumstances and asked him to undertake the collection of the money from Douglas. Davis protested that he could not do it, that Douglas was a personal friend and a brother lawyer and Democrat and it would be very disagreeable for him to have anything to do with the matter. He finally said to Brokaw, "You wait until the next term of court and Lincoln will be here. He would like nothing better than to have his claim for collection. I will introduce you to him and I have no doubt he will undertake

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it." Shortly after, Brokaw was presented to Lincoln, stated his case and engaged his services. Lincoln promptly wrote Douglas, still at Washington, that he had the claim for collection and that he must insist upon prompt payment. Douglas, very indignant, wrote directly to Brokaw that he thought the placing of the claim in Lincoln's hands a gross outrage, that he and Brokaw were old friends and Democrats and that Brokaw ought not to place any such weapon in the hands of such an Abolitionist opponent as Lincoln and if he could not wait until Douglas returned he should at least have placed the claim for collection in the hands of a Democrat. Brokaw's thrift again controlled and he sent Douglas' letter to Lincoln. Thereupon Lincoln placed the claim in the hands of "Long" John Wentworth, then a Democratic member of Congress from Chicago. Wentworth called upon Douglas and insisted upon payment, which shortly after was made, and Brokaw at last received his money. "And what do you suppose Lincoln charged me?" Brokaw says in telling the story. After hearing a few guesses he would answers, "He charged me exactly $3.50 for collecting the nearly $600.00."

Such charges were felt by the lawyers of the 8th Circuit, with some reason, to be purely quixotic. They protested and argued, but Lincoln went on serenely charging what he thought his services worth. Ward Lamon who was one of Lincoln's numerous

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services worth. Ward Lamon who was one of Lincoln's numerous circuit partners says that he and Lincoln frequently fell out on the matter of fees. On one occasion Lamon was particularly incensed. He had charged and received a good-sized fee for a case when the two had tried together and won. When Lamon offered Lincoln his share he refused it. The fee was too large he said, part of it must be refunded and he would not accept a cent until part of it had been refunded. Judge Davis heard of this

transaction. He was himself a shrewd money-maker, never hesitating to take all he could legally get and he felt a natural disgust at the disinterested attitude of Lincoln on money. Calling Lincoln to him the Judge scolded roundly. "You are pauperizing this court, Mr. Lincoln, you are running your fellows. Unless you quit this ridiculous policy, we shall all have to go to farming." But not even the ire of the bench moved Lincoln. He continued to try cases and accept insignificant fees, even frequently to refuse fees when his clients were needy.

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