

While many of Lincoln's cotemporaries caused him serious embarrassment and he felt deeply their disloyalty and their perverseness, he managed to get from most of them considerable amusement. Brooks tells page 300 W in L's Time, of how he had in his office in the White House a series of pigeon holes arranged in alphabetical order. One was labelled W & W. Seeing Brooks look at this one day Mr. Lincoln said, "I see you are looking at my W & W, that is Weed and Wood, Thurlow and Fernando." Then, with a chuckle, "That is a pair of them." He describes also the amusement the president got from the old-womanish Mr. Wells, Secretary of the Navy. He used to tell ~~Rex~~ Orpheus C. Kerr's story: The story ran that a dying sailor in one of the Washington hospitals said he was ready to go if he could see his old grandmother at home before he died; and the attendant at his bedside, being to ask Sec'y Welles if he would personate that relative, the Secretary replied that he would do it with pleasure--but he was then busy examining a model of Noah's ark with a view of introducing it into the United States navy."

As to his adapting stories ~~of~~ for the occasion, there is a good example on page 293. Brooks says that Lincoln, when Hood's army of the Tennessee was destroyed by Thomas in Dec. '64, told a story of Slocum and his dog. This story is practically the same as that told by Porter in the Century for Nov. 1896 called "Sykes and his Dog" and applied to Grant's disposition of the army of Pemberton after Vicksburg. This story is applied to two similar but different situations, changing the name, in just the same way that Conant describes in his reminiscences. Couple this also with the account of the origin of Lincoln's stories given by the Bloomington lawyer.