ABRAHAM FLEXNER'S "I REMEMBER"

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I remember Mr. Holland's telling me that his father, Sir Henry Holland, had visited Washington during the Civil War and had called on President Lincoln at the WhiteHouse. The President sprawled loosely at his desk, on which lay a large map, showing the military situation. As they were talking, a telegram or memorandum was brought to him. Asking his guest's permission, he read it and without change of expression laid it on the table. As Sir Henry rose to take his leave, Mr. Lincoln remarked calmly: "It might interest you to know the contents of this message. Our troops have just suffered a severe reverse." Taking a pecil, the President drew a circle that indicated the place where the engagement had taken place. Still unperturbed, he went on to ask: "If there is anything I can do for you in Washington, let me know, for it would give me great pleasure."

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