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It is well understood by "the Profession," that lawyers do not read authorities favoring the opposing side. I once heard Mr. Lincoln, in the Supreme Court of Illinois reading from a reported case, some strong points in favor of his argument. Reading a little too far, and before becoming aware of it, he plunged into an authority against himself. Pausing a moment, he drew up his shoulders in a comical way, and half laughing, went on, "There! there! may it please the Court; I reckon I've scratched up a snake. But, as I'm in for it, I guess I'll read it through." Then, in his most ingenious and matchless manner, he went on with his argument, and won his case, convincing the court that it was not much of a snake, after all.

This is the only story of Lincoln I have come across, in my Father's handwriting. I am sure you will take good care of it, for me.

From Mrs M. B. Cowdy
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