

### Suggestion for Syndicate

In talking with William Fortune, he tells me that he has succeeded in getting a copy of "Quin's Jester." This is the book that the old gentleman whom he interviews in S.W.Ind. told him about, calling it "King's Jester," and said that on Sundays the boys used to go to the woods and listen to Lincoln read these stories.

Fortune says that when he got the book he sat up nearly all night to read it, but he doesn't find anything obscene in it. This is exactly my experience in reading "The American Jest Book" of 1789, which I am inclined to think may be the one that Lincoln had.

Fortune says that Beveridge is making much of this, that he has been around Illinois picking up stories - to which he is inclined, I judge, to treat as if they were salacious and not illustrative as I am convinced Lincoln used his material. Of course Beveridge being a humorless and self-important and slightly, at least - if not more so - snobbish, is utterly incapable of understanding this side of Lincoln. A man must have a natural sense of humor and a touch of the Gaelic in him to treat this kind of thing decently. I don't believe Brother Beveridge can ever do it.