

At the National Capital.
BOB INGERSOLL, ON LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Col. Bobt. G. Ingersoll introduced Capt. Kidd, of Illinois, last night to a Washington audience. As a prelude to Kidd's lecture on Lincoln, Col. Ingersoll's brief remarks were very happy. They were as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen:—We are to hear a lecture about Abe Lincoln—not Lincoln the president, Lincoln the liberator, Lincoln the statesman, but Lincoln the lawyer, Lincoln the man—something about him as he was when he fell heir to agony and to fame; something about his mode of life, his habits, his thoughts, his wishes, that is to say his daily life, because such peculiarities in their characters are omitted by their biographers. Nearly every great figure of history is a kind of great monstrosity. We know nothing about Washington. He is a steel engraving. No dirt of humanity clings to his roots. We will hear about Lincoln, who lived where men were free and equal, and was acquainted with people, not much with books. Every man is in some sort of a book. He lived the poem of the year in the fields, the woods, the blessed country. Lincoln had the advantage of sociability. He was thoughtful and he saw on the horizon of his future the perpetual star of hope. To him every field was a landscape; every landscape a poem; every flower a lesson and every grove a fairy land. [Applause.] Oaks and elms are far more poetic than streets and houses. A country life is in itself an education. It gives a man the idea of home. He hears the rain on the roofs, the rustle of the breeze, the music of nature's fairest choral. You have no idea how many men education spoils. Colleges are institutions where brickbats are polished and diamonds dimmed. [Applause.] If Shakespeare had graduated at Oxford he would probably have become a pettifogging attorney or a hypocritical person. Lincoln's education was derived from men and things, and hence he had a chance to develop. He had many sides. He not only had laughter, but he had tears [applause], and never that kind of solemnity which is a mask to hide the features. He was not afraid to seek for knowledge where he had it not. When man is too dignified he ceases to learn. Lincoln was a logician. Logic is capacity; it is the child of a good heart and a good head. He was always honest with himself. He was an orator; that is, he was natural. If you wish to be sublime you must keep close to the grass. You must sit close by the hearth of human experience—above the clouds it is too cold. [Applause.] If you want to know the difference between an orator and a speaker read the oration of Lincoln at Gettysburg, and then read the speech of Everett at the same place. One came from the heart, the other was born only of the voice. Lincoln's speech will be remembered forever. Everett's no man will read. It was like plucked flowers. [Applause.] If you want to find out what a man is to the bottom give him power. Any man can stand adversity—only a great man can stand prosperity. It is the glory of Abraham Lincoln that he never abused power only on the side of mercy. [Applause.] He was a perfectly honest man. When he had power he used it in mercy. He loved to see the tears of the wife whose husband he had snatched from death. [Applause.]

Then raising his musical voice and filling the auditorium from pit to dome with its oratorical grandeur, he said:

Abraham Lincoln would never have turned a man out of office without a hearing and left a stain upon his name. He was too grand, too magnanimous. [Continued applause.]