

result was that I became a candidate and was elected. I was re-elected, then made speaker of the house, and after that sent to Congress. Later on I was elected governor for six years, and then sent to the United States Senate. There you have it all in a nutshell."

"How about Lincoln, Senator? Was he really such a great story teller as is claimed?"

"Yes," was the reply. "But he did not tell stories for the sake of telling stories. His stories came out in the shape of illustrations of his thought, or to enforce his arguments. He liked to talk, and during his life at Springfield there was a drug store, which still stands there, to which Lincoln used to come nearly every night to talk. There was a crowd who came there to listen to him, and many an argument was sprung merely for the sake of getting Lincoln to talking. He would brighten up as he began to talk, and I used to sometimes think that he told stories to get away from his thoughts and himself. When he was alone he would often drop into habits of deep meditation, would seem to be gloomy and it was almost impossible at such times to arouse him."

"I have heard that he was moody and blue, and that he hovered at times on the verge of insanity. Is that so?"

"He may have been moody at times," replied Senator Cullom, "but his head was extraordinarily clear. I used to think, when I saw him sitting and apparently brooding over something, that he was possibly turning over the great questions concerning the matters which he had to settle in after life, and that the responsibilities which he was to have were already before him. He was, you know, a philosopher, and his great mind and soul were different from those of common men."

"Was Abraham Lincoln a religious man?" I asked.

"In one sense he was, and in another, not," replied Senator Cullom. "As to a belief in a future state and a God, I think he was. He had a religious side to his nature, and I have seen evidences that he had made a deep study of the Bible. As to being a doctrinal Christian—a believer in certain creeds and churches—he was not. As to his study of such matters, I remember an incident. The Universalist and Campbellite preachers of Springfield were holding a joint debate upon certain doctrines. Well, one night, when they were discussing whether there was a hell, Abraham Lincoln attended. He and I sat together, and when the two preachers had finished their discussion, we walked out. I remember Lincoln was disgusted with the discussion. He swung himself out of his seat as they stated the debate was closed and said to me: 'They have scarcely touched the question.' He had evidently been thinking upon the subject, and had it all figured out in his mind."

"I have a book, Senator, entitled, 'Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist, and trying to prove that he was so.'"

"I do not think that he was," replied Senator Cullom.

"What were the elements of his strength?"

"Abraham Lincoln," replied Senator Cullom, "had a great sympathy with the people. He was a man of the people. He could feel for them and with them. He had great common sense and great executive ability."

"Was he a shrewd politician?"

"Yes; he was a good judge of men and knew how to move them."

"Was he ambitious?"

"Yes; very much so," was the reply.

"But he was so wrapped up in the great questions with which he had to deal that it is hard to tell where his ambitions ended and his convictions began. He was far-seeing. I remember the campaign with Douglas. I was in it with Lincoln, and when the returns came in, though Lincoln had the popular vote, a legislature had been chosen which would elect Douglas. I met Lincoln coming home just after the news had been received. I said:

"Well, Mr. Lincoln, we are beaten."

"Yes," he replied, "we are beaten."

"I am very sorry," said I, and at this old Abe put his hand on my shoulder, and, looking down at me with a smile, replied:

"Oh, my boy, don't worry; it will all come right in the end."

"I remember his confident tone afterward, and I believe he saw even then that his defeat would make him President of the United States."

"I got my first desire to go to Washington to Congress through Lincoln," Mr. Cullom went on. "It was the night before he left Springfield to go to his inauguration. I was at this time speaker of the Illinois house, and as I entered his parlor I said:

"Mr. President, I want to come to Washington if possible before you leave."

"Lincoln's eyes laughed as I used the words 'Mr. President,' and he replied, emphasizing his form of address: 'Mr. Speaker, I hope you will.'

"I then began to scheme to get to Washington and was soon elected a member of Congress."

At this point the conversation turned to politics, and during it I asked Senator Cullom to give me a short statement as to the issues of the next campaign.

Senator Cullom replied: "The issues are not many, but they are very important. The Republican party will espouse protection, sound money and true Americanism, advocating a strong foreign policy on the basis of America as against the world."

"Can the Republican party succeed on such a platform?"

"Yes," replied Senator Cullom; "I think there is no doubt of it."

"Senator Cullom," said I, "how would you like to be President of the United States?"

The Senator thought a moment, and replied:

"I would like it very much. I don't believe it would be a very hard office to fill. The President should choose good men to help him. If he selects his cabinet and subordinates properly these will bring the authorities, the situation and the information that he needs properly before him, and good common sense is enough to determine the rest."

"What qualities should a President have?"

"He should be a man of the people. He should be a patriotic American, should be possessed of common sense, and be a man who knows how to select and handle men."

"I hear your name mentioned in many quarters for the position," said I, "as a candidate for the Republican party."

"Yes," replied Senator Cullom. "I have been talked of in times past, and I believe there is some talk about me now."

To tell the truth, I am tired of the talk, and I have illustrated my situation by comparing it with that of a boy who went to school with me at Mount Morris. This boy I will call Sam. He is a prominent man now, and I dare not mention his name. Well, Sam could not for the life of him learn Latin, and he was kept in the same Latin book from one term to another. At last his teacher, in despair, said to him:

"Sammy, why don't you study and get out of this? Aren't you ashamed to remain right here in the same place week after week?"

"Sam talked through his nose. His conversation was a continuous whine, and in reply he whined out. 'Yes, I am, and I would study if I had a new book, but I am tired of this. It's the same old thing over and over again, and if it's not to go any farther, I want to stop it.'

"And that," concluded the Senator, with a laugh, "is my position as to the talk about me for the presidency."

Frank G. Carpenter

ENGLAND'S POLICY.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3. — Senator Morgan, of Alabama, chairman of the foreign relations committee and an authority on international law, called attention to Lord Salisbury's claim that Great Britain had acquired rights in the disputed territory adjoining Venezuela by treaty with the native Indian tribes.

He said: "For the last three-quarters of a century Great Britain has been forming, whenever she could, little by-arrangements with Indian tribes that had customs that were constituted into the tribes. It was in that way that she recognized the Mosquito King Clarence. Such treaties with such people are made right in the teeth of the well-understood and well-accepted doctrine of Great Britain, Germany, France, Spain and all the American states, which is that when a country has acquired by conquest or discovery any territory, the Indian tribes found therein are considered as occupants at the will of the sovereign, and are not regarded as nations having sovereignty, such sovereignty inuring to the nations that discovered or conquered the territory. A recognition of the sovereignty of such Indian tribes has been regarded as a breach of the international rights of other nations."

For this reason any claims of Great Britain with Venezuela based upon private treaties with Indian chiefs are of no avail and should not be recognized as being in conformity with international law. I think Great Britain is prepared now to adjust the Venezuelan boundary question on the lines that were surveyed by Schomburgk. When that line was established the British colonists commenced moving out to it and making settlements, and particularly taking up gold claims and Venezuela, in her weakness, has been compelled to stand by and see that course pursued until Great Britain sets up a claim similar to that of a man who has occupied for a number of years territory belonging to somebody else.

"I would suppose that unless Great