## hincolise readikg.

ut Abrahan Lincoln, and bsst of all about Abra-
ham Line $\mathrm{In}^{2}$ readiog, which of all sides of him is perhaps least known A friend of mine now in tha city, who had the good fortune to know Litecoln
well for two yeurs before his election as President says while sititiog in his morniug thirly years ago, the land ord came up-stairs and ankei hiu ${ }^{t}$ Abraham Lincoln, known and loved of all landlords in the region about
Spring field. My friend went dow nind found the tall, smooth-shinved gravings or portraits do justice to its wouderful and expreails "Iliad," in
was reading Homers
trantlation, of course. Liucolla hel the book kat arm's length affier a wor
or two had pased, when he lavghel and said: "I have made up my mind that I have got $t$ read Homer
-Tliad,"" and the quaint look which "Tliad," and the quaint look which bas become historical qpread over his
face. "You know a man might as well be out of the world as not read Homers shas. $1 t$ was the sum-
mer of the hot camprign betreen Lin coln and Douglas, pnd this lawyer politiciano, whose public reputation
was probably as fard removed from the clasesies as any man who has reached eminence in our annals, had selected as the book with which he
woulc fill up a gap in his mental edoWoulc fill up a gap in his mental edu political debate Homer's "Iliad,"
There is or ought to be somesher
a travel.-worn Sbakes ieare which de a travel-worn Sbakespeare which de Robert Lincoln-to return to Abraham Linco 'u's reading-is fond of say ing that his father never traveled without his copy of Sbakespeare pack.
ed in a box with him. In the odd moments of cases and trials, in deso late coart-house, in the cheerless rooms of more desolate hotels, in the dirt and discomfort of railrosd travel-ing-and few of us know what rail road traveling was on the lopg stretches of Illinois roads thirty years
ago-Abraham Lincoln read and re-ago-Abraham Lineoln read and re
read this worn-out copy of Shake read this worn-out copy of Shake
speare, committing great stretches of it to memory, uatil, as most men know he was able to match the average ac quaintance of most actors with greaier quaintance of most actors with greater
pasages of the great plays. Judge Kelley took one of the actors of the day. John McCallough I think it was, during the war to see Lincoln, and was amazed to find the Presiden as familiar with the poet as, was the
actor. It is of still more interest, in connection with Mr. Wilson Barrett's theory of "Hamlet," that "Abraham Lincoln once asked 引Hackett, whose Falstaff was the delight of an early day: "Why do you actors always
play Hamlet as an irresolute, vacillating. Yague, middle-aged sort of a man?" "Because he was," replied Mr. Hackett, with the acute certaisty
of the actor. "But he was not," said of the actor. "But he was not," said
Lincoln; "he was young impetuous, full of action, prompt. He is always doing some thing. The play is ful ${ }^{1}$ of lt , and he ${ }^{\text {on }}$
young man."
I was privileged the other day to hear Walt Whitman express his opin-
ion of these conflieting "Hamlet." "Is not that," said the of "Hamlet." "Is not that," said the old man, in a slow, ponderous, hesitating
tope in which be oflen pauses for a tove in which he often pauses for a
Word, but never stops for as idea, "is not that the mystery, the wonder, the fun of it, as the slang word would
have it, that Hamlet combines boit these phases, the ancontrollable impule, aggresive temperament, and at
the same time the meditatise, philo. the same time the meditative, phillnot this the interest of the character which bas caused it th be overlaid with great accumulati, which bave
hidden the puel's real $f$ urpos-If he had one?"-Philadelphia Pres.

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