

Short Incidents:

No.34, Volume 9.

Subject:

Lincoln and Fessenden. How to relieve vexation
and anger.

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Lincoln and Washington. How to relieve
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Lincoln & Fessenden.-- A tactful method of relieving vexation and anger.

At one time during Mr. Lincoln's first term, Senator Fessenden had had trouble with some of his constituents. They had demanded a postmastership in the up-country of Maine, and Mr. Fessenden had received the promise of an appointment of postmaster from the Postmaster General, and from the President; and that the applicant should receive a prompt appointment. The appointment did not come as expected, and letters of indignation began to pour in upon the Honorable Senator, of complaint and fault-finding. At last the patience of even William Pitt Fessenden gave out, and he rushed up to the White House. Up the stairs he went at a quick pace and approached Mr. Lincoln's office door ^{his face} beaming with anger. Abraham Lincoln saw him coming: to allay his ^{ire} ~~anger~~, Mr. Lincoln cried out after hearing just one sentence: "Why Fessenden aren't you an Episcopalian? Mr. Fessenden, a little taken back, replied with a show of dignity: "Yes sir, I belong to that church." "I thought so, said Lincoln, because you swear so much like Seward. He is an Episcopalian. But you ought to hear Stanton swear. He is a Presbyterian, ~~but~~ ^{he} can beat you two to one."

By this time Mr. Fessenden was enjoying a hearty laugh and Mr. Lincoln saw that he was ^{now} prepared for business; he then went on to clear up his friend's trouble, and the postmaster received his appointment with unusual promptitude.

230 words

Lincoln & Tessenzen.-- A tactful method of relieving vexation and anger.

At one time during Mr. Lincoln's first term, Senator Tessenzen had had trouble with some of his constituents. They had demanded a postmastership in the up-country of Maine, and Mr. Tessenzen had received the promise of an appointment of postmaster from the Postmaster General, and from the President; and that the applicant should receive a prompt appointment. The appointment did not come as expected, and letters of indignation began to pour in upon the Honorable Senator, of complaint and fault-finding. At last the patience of even William Pitt Tessenzen gave out, and he rushed up to the White House. Up the stairs he went at a quick pace and approached Mr. Lincoln's office door beaming with anger. Abraham Lincoln saw him coming: to allay his anger, Mr. Lincoln cried out after hearing just one sentence: "Why Tessenzen aren't you an Episcopalian?" Mr. Tessenzen a little taken back, replied with a show of dignity: "Yes sir, I belong to that church." "I thought so," said Lincoln, because you swear so much like Gower. He is an Episcopalian. But you ought to hear Stanton swear. He is a Presbyterian. But he can best you two to one."

By this time Mr. Tessenzen was enjoying a hearty laugh and Mr. Lincoln saw that he was prepared for business; he then went on to clear up his friend's trouble, and the postmaster received his appointment with unusual promptness.