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Lincoln Studying Before the Fire

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N229668—Lincoln Studying Before the Fire.
This View is Non-Stereoscopic.

Washington, D. C., New York, N. Y., Portland, Ore., London, Eng., Sydney, Aus

LINCOLN STUDYING BEFORE THE FIRE

If all the school days of Abraham Lincoln were put together they would not make one whole year. First he went to school in Kentucky and later in Indiana. The school houses were little log cabins with seats made of logs split open and set upon legs, and with windows covered with greased paper.

Lincoln read every book he could lay hands on, his stepmother said. When a passage struck him he would write it down on boards till he could get paper. Then he would rewrite it, look at it, repeat it. Books, ink, paper, pencils were very hard to get. After a long day's work he would throw himself on the floor and read or study by the flickering light of a wood fire. Wooden fire-shovels were used and if he had no pencil, Lincoln would write or work his arithmetic on the fire-shovel with a piece of charcoal. When it was covered he would shave it off with a drawing knife and

begin again. As a boy he had only six books, the Bible, Robinson Crusoe, Aesop's Fables, Pilgrim's Progress, Weem's Life of Washington and a History of the United States; and these he read over and over till he knew them by heart. As long as he lived his language showed the influence of his familiarity with the Bible. He would read a dictionary with interest. He used to go to the home of the town constable and read the "Revised Statutes of Indiana" with absorbing interest and one time he walked six miles to borrow a grammar which he soon knew by heart. His studies were the chief delight of his life and he read and wrote and ciphered incessantly, learning wherever he could. Today the advantages he longed for are offered free to all the children of his country.