

THE GANGLING LEGS AND HUGE FEET of the President always created interest. A fifteen-year-old youth named Charles W. Nickum watched Tom Cridland take Lincoln's picture in Dayton and commented years later: "He was so long-legged that when he crossed one over the other, both feet seemed to rest on the floor."

The "big foot" photograph aroused Lincoln's curiosity: "I can understand why that foot should be so enormous," he said to Noah Brooks. "It's a big foot anyway, and it is near the focus of the instrument. But why is the outline of it so indistinct and blurred? I am confident I did not move it."

Brooks suggested that the throbbing of the arteries may have caused an imperceptible motion.

The President crossed his legs and watched his foot. "That's it! That's it!" he exclaimed. "Now that's very curious, isn't it?"

Only ten days after this sitting, Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg address. Near his right hand, on the table, is a white envelope containing an advance newspaper printing of the companion address at Gettysburg by Edward Everett.