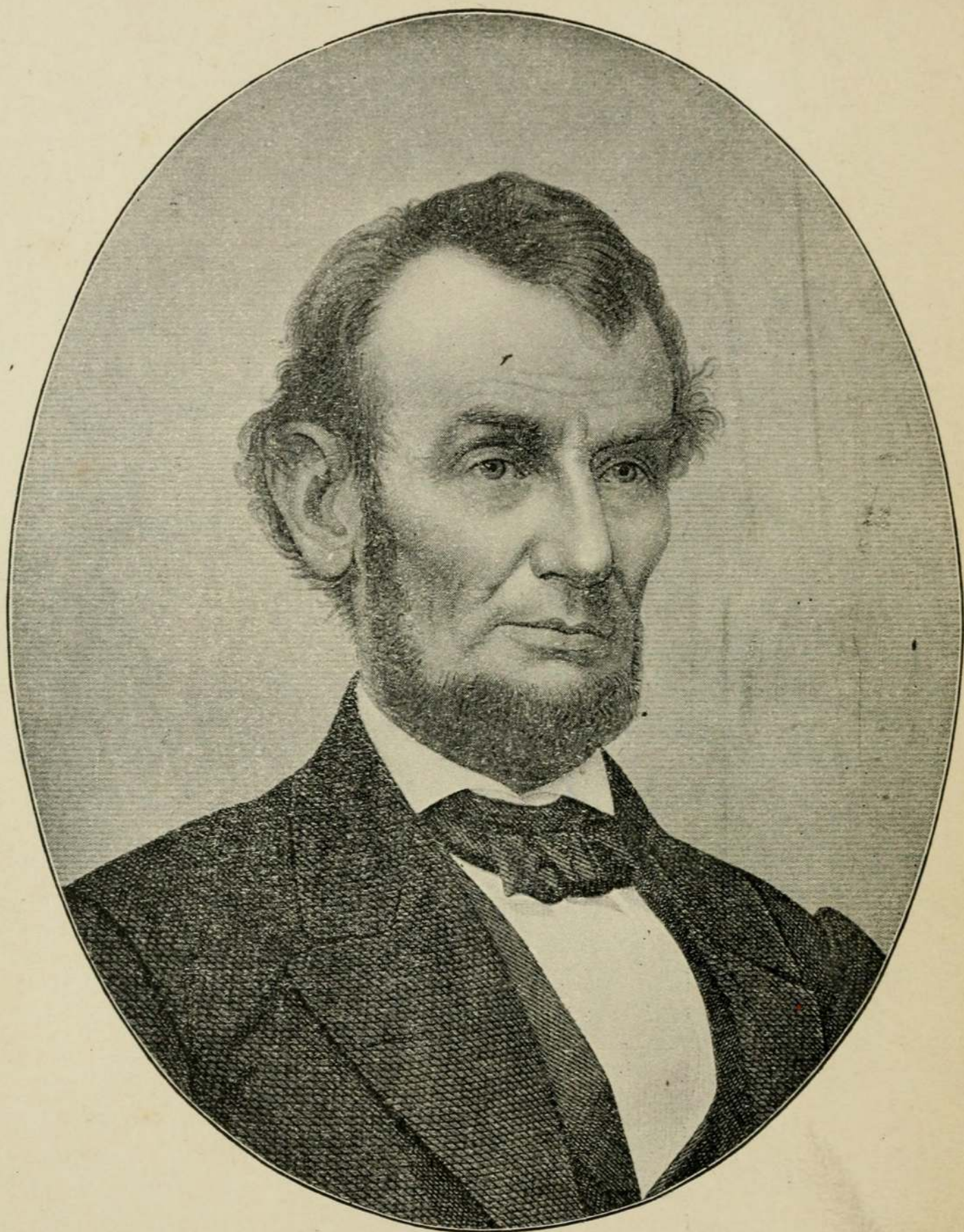




Nancy  
Hanks  
Lincoln  
Public  
Library







*A. Lincoln*

Great Americans of History

---

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

A CHARACTER SKETCH

BY

ROBERT DICKINSON SHEPPARD, DD.

Prof. of American and English History, Northwestern University

---

WITH SUPPLEMENTARY ESSAY, BY

G. MERCER ADAM

Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine, Etc., Etc.

---

ALSO, SUGGESTIONS FROM THE LIFE OF LINCOLN, BY

PROF. FRANCIS W. SHEPARDSON, PH. D.

of the University of Chicago

---

THE EARLY YEARS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, BY

PROF. GOLDWIN SMITH, D. C. L. (OXON).

of Cornell University.

---

TOGETHER WITH

ANECDOTES, CHARACTERISTICS, AND CHRONOLOGY.

H. G. CAMPBELL PUBLISHING CO.

MILWAUKEE.

1903.

## GREAT AMERICANS OF HISTORY SERIES.

- THOMAS JEFFERSON**, by Edward S. Ellis, A. M., Author of "The People's Standard History of the United States," etc. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine, with an Account of the Louisiana Purchase, together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, Chronology and Sayings.
- JAMES OTIS**, by John Clark Ridpath, LL. D., Author of "Ridpath's History of the United States," etc. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- JOHN HANCOCK**, by John R. Musick, Author of "The Columbian Historical Novels," etc. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- SAMUEL ADAMS**, by Samuel Fallows, D. D., LL. D., Ex-Supt. of Public Instruction of Wisconsin; Ex-Pres. Illinois Wesleyan University. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**, by Frank Strong, Ph. D., Lecturer on United States History, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. With Supplemental Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine, etc., and a Character Study by Prof. Charles K. Edmunds, Ph. D., of Johns Hopkins University; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- JOHN ADAMS**, by Samuel Willard, LL. D., Author of "Synopsis of History," etc. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- ALEXANDER HAMILTON**, by Edward S. Ellis, A. M., Author of "The People's Standard History of the United States," etc. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine, etc.; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- GEORGE WASHINGTON**, by Eugene Parsons, Ph. D., Lecturer on American History, etc. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine; with Suggestions by Prof. Henry Wade Rogers, LL. D., of Yale University; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- JOHN RANDOLPH**, by Richard Heath Dabney, M. A., Ph. D., Professor of History, University of Virginia. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- DANIEL WEBSTER**, by Elizabeth A. Reed, A. M., L. H. D., Ex-Pres. Illinois Woman's Press Association. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- HENRY CLAY**, by H. W. Caldwell, A. M., Ph. B., Professor of American History, University of Nebraska. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine; together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.
- ABRAHAM LINCOLN**, by Robert Dickinson Sheppard, D. D., Professor of American and English History, Northwestern University. With Supplementary Essay by G. Mercer Adam, Late Editor of "Self-Culture" Magazine, etc., also Suggestions from the Life of Lincoln by Prof. Francis W. Shepardson, Ph. D., of the University of Chicago. Together with Anecdotes, Characteristics, and Chronology.

\$1.00 per Volume.

\$12.00 per Set

H. G. CAMPBELL PUBLISHING CO.,  
MILWAUKEE.

Copyright, 1899,

By THE UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

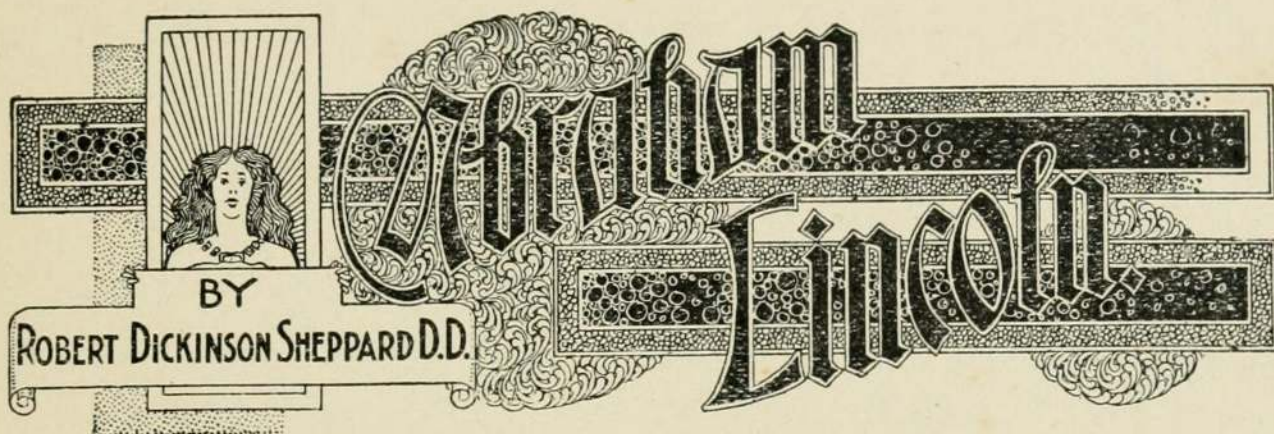
Copyright, 1903,

By H. G. CAMPBELL PUBLISHING CO.

973.7263

B3sh 4a

1903



IT is a far cry from a Kentucky cabin to the White House at Washington, from the estate of a poor white child in the south to that of Chief Magistrate of the United States of America. Yet it is our task to show how that distance was spanned in the life of Abraham Lincoln, and the story of it should be of the highest interest to every American youth.

We are probably not sufficiently removed from the times of Abraham Lincoln to estimate him in his full proportions. The greater part of the literature that has been written concerning him, that is not absolutely ephemeral, has been written for a people who revered him, and who would brook no other than a reverent handling of the object of their devotion. Such jealousy, however, was needless, for loving hands have written intelligently and judicially the story of his life, and of the unfolding of his character. They have written with the ardor of personal friendship and almost in the heat of the exciting days when Lincoln stood as their champion and contended for the National Union to which they were devoted.

These circumstances are not favorable to the ex-

position of the real Lincoln. And yet more than most of the great men of history, his individuality was so striking, its outlines were so well defined, that even a poor artist can trace them, and in his maturer years his action was so studied and deliberate—as if he were appealing to the solemn verdict of future generations—that it is not easy to go far astray in our judgments concerning him. Take him for all in all, he furnishes us a striking example taken from our own times, of a typical American who was born in poverty and reared amid unlikely surroundings and influences, but who made the most of his slender opportunities for intellectual culture, kept himself pure amid much that was degrading, and step by step, attained to nobleness of character, to intellectual strength, to honor and station among those who knew him best and finally, to the highest eminence of position and honor that an American can reach.

In his career he epitomizes a half century of the most interesting and critical conditions of our national life. And the progress of events that culminated in the Civil War, its conduct, and the work of reconstruction that followed it, can nowhere be studied as intelligently as in the story of his outlook on the political life of the nation, of his political affiliations, and his active participation in the settlement of the great questions that involved the existence and prosperity of the nation.

We shall turn first to his ancestry and early environment. He was born February 12th in the year 1809, in a miserable cabin on the farm of Thomas Lincoln, or "Linkhorn," as he was sometimes called, three miles from



Hodgensville in the present county of LaRue in the state of Kentucky. Of his ancestry on the Lincoln side, little is known save that they were among the early settlers of Virginia and were of English descent, and probably were Quakers. The mother of Abraham Lincoln was Nancy Hanks, whose ancestors came from England to Virginia and moved on to Kentucky with the Lincolns, settling near them in Mercer County.

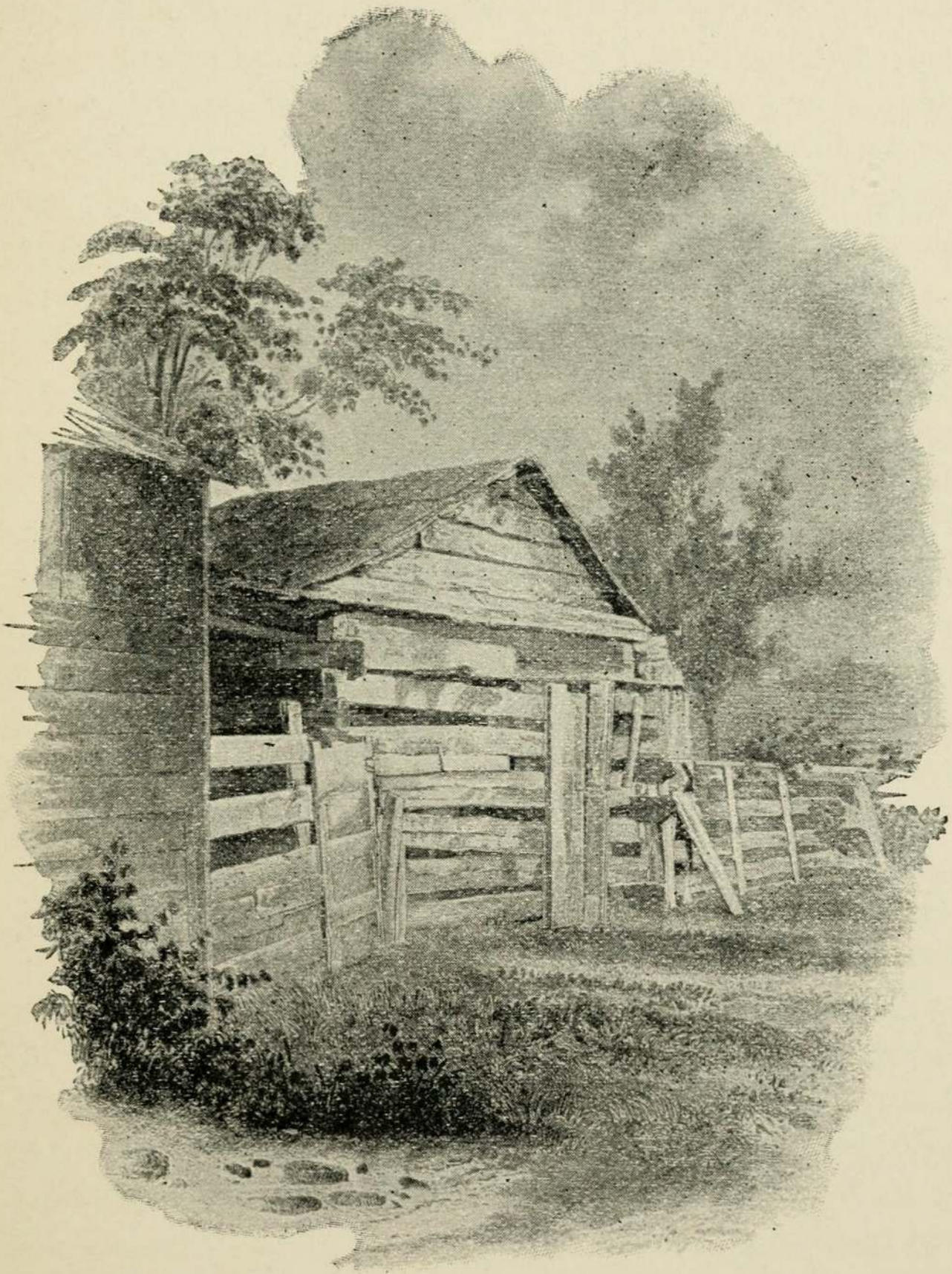
It was while learning his trade as a carpenter in the shop of Joseph Hanks, the uncle of Nancy Hanks, that Thomas Lincoln met and courted the mother of the great president. He was of medium stature, standing five feet-ten in his shoes. His complexion was swarthy, his hair dark, his eyes gray, his face full and round, his nose prominent; he was strong and sinewy; he was peace loving but brave enough to fight when occasion demanded, as it often did in those rough days in the border state of Kentucky; he was of roving disposition, a good story teller, and full of anecdote picked up in his wanderings. In politics he was a Jackson Democrat, and in religion "everything by turns and nothing long." A botch carpenter by trade, he soon tired of that and turned farmer, though he did not entirely abandon rough carpentry, and as a farmer he showed his inconstancy by frequent migrations from one location to another.

Nancy Hanks is described as a slender, symmetrical, woman of medium height, with dark hair, regular features, and sparkling hazel eyes. Of her it is related, as an unusual circumstance in the illiteracy of the time, that she possessed the rare accomplishments of reading and

writing, and taught her husband to write his name. She was born to drudgery and her natural beauty soon gave place to the faded and woe-begone expression that poverty and struggle and uncertainty are wont to write on the faces and forms of the women of the frontier. The first home of her married life was a wretched hovel in one of the alleys of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, where her first child was born, and a little later she occupied with her husband the miserable cabin on Nolin Creek where, on account of his thriftlessness, he barely met the necessities of the little household.

It was here that Abraham Lincoln was born. The manger at Bethlehem was not a more unlikely birth-place. And here he remained until he was four years old, and then the elder Lincoln migrated to another farm some six miles from Hodgenville, on Knob Creek, whose clear waters flowed at length into the Ohio, twenty-four miles below Louisville. This new move that might have proved advantageous—for the banks of the creek and the valleys of the region gave great promise of fertility—was like Thomas Lincoln's other experiences; only six acres out of the two hundred and thirty-eight that made up the farm, were worked, and no permanent title to the land was acquired by him. After four years a new migration began, this time to Indiana.

During these years of Kentucky life young Lincoln's development went on with none of the modern aids. A few days of schooling each summer at the hands of Zachariah Riney and Caleb Hazel were all the opportunities that Kentucky offered him. During the re-



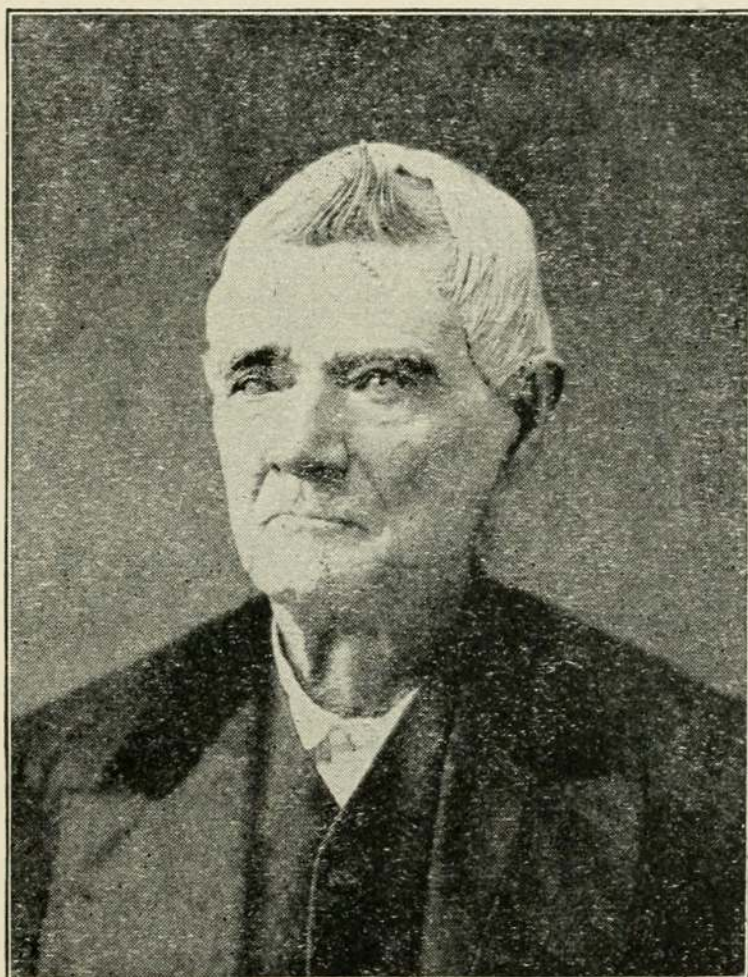
The early home of Lincoln in Elizabethtown, Ky.  
From Raymond's "Life of Lincoln."

mainder of his time he vegetated. In the fall of 1816, the spirit of change came over Thomas Lincoln once more. He had had some experience as a flat-boatman on two trips to New Orleans, and thought to move in that way. He used his skill in carpentry for the construction of a flat-boat, converted his personal property into four hundred gallons of whiskey, and started with his tools and his whiskey, alone. He was ship-wrecked on the raging Ohio but righted his boat, rescued most of his whiskey and a few of his tools, and floated down to Thompson's Ferry two and a half miles west of Troy, in Ferry County, Indiana. Sixteen miles distant from the river, he found a place that he regarded a promising location. Thence he started back on foot for his wife and children, and on borrowed horses he brought the few remaining effects of his family, their clothing and bedding and the small stock of kitchen utensils.

The Lincoln farm was situated between the forks of the Big and the Little Pigeon Creeks a mile and a half east of the little village of Gentryville, in a small well-wooded region, full of game. There he built a log cabin closed on three sides and open on the fourth. The house was about fourteen feet square and floorless. Into this comfortless cabin, with few of the ordinary arrangements for warmth or covering, exposed to all the winds that blow, for it was on a hillock and built of poles, he conducted his little family. The place was a solitude. No road approached it save the trail that Lincoln had blazed through the woods. For a whole year they en-

duced the discomforts of this home in the woods, while some ground was being cleared and a little crop planted. Some relatives followed them from Kentucky the next year, and among them, Dennis Hanks, the young cousin of Abraham Lincoln.

In 1817 a new log house was reared by Thomas Lincoln of unhewed timbers and without floor, door or windows. Seven or eight older settlers had preceded them to this region and soon a tide of emigration poured in,



Dennis Hanks.

sparsely peopling the waste places of the new state of Indiana. The nearest hand-mill to Thomas Lincoln was ten miles away, whither Abraham carried the grist. Of schooling there was little more than in Kentucky, and that of a very simple kind. For two years Thomas Lincoln went the even tenor of his way, raising a little corn, shooting a little game, failing to provide systematically or with any solicitude for the needs of his family. No furniture was in the house save the roughest—three-legged

stools for chairs, a log with legs on it for a table, bedsteads made of poles fastened at one end to the wall and resting on forked sticks, driven into the earthen floor at the other end. On these, boards were laid, while leaves and old clothing served for the bed. They ate from a few pewter dishes, without knives or forks. A dutch oven and a skillet, were the sole utensils of their cabin. A bed-room in the loft, to which he climbed on pins driven in the wall, was the nightly roost of the future president.

Now the milk sickness appeared, and Thomas Lincoln's carpentry was employed in building rough coffins for the dying settlers. He cut out the timber from logs with his whip-saw and made rough boxes for a number of his friends. Nancy Lincoln was stricken. There was not a physician within thirty miles, and no money to pay him should he come. Without a hand to relieve her, the poor jaded woman, the mother of the great president, dropped away on the 5th of October, 1818, and was buried without ceremony in an unmarked grave. She had given birth to a man-child on whom time should set the seal of greatness. His sole apparent inheritance from her, however, seems to have been the tinge of melancholy that often clouded his life. In his observations upon the making of his character he has little or nothing to say of his own mother. The early years of his life were years of neglect. He grew up in deprivation, ill-fed, ill-clothed, to develop alone in the sunshine and in the forest the nature that was in him.

But a new influence was soon imported into the Lincoln home. After thirteen months of widowhood,

Thomas Lincoln made a journey to Kentucky, and brought home with him a new wife, whom he had known and loved many years before as Sally Bush, a woman of "great energy and good sense, very neat and tidy in her person and manners, and who knew how to manage children." She brought with her from her Kentucky home a store of luxuries and comforts that the Indiana cabin had never known. It took a four-horse team to move her effects, and at once she demanded that the floorless, windowless and doorless cabin should be made habitable. Warm beds were for the first time provided for the children. She took off their rags and clothed them from her own stores; she washed them and treated them with motherly tenderness, and to use her own language, she made them look a little more human.

Her heart went out at once to young Abe and all was changed for him. She discovered possibilities in him and set about his training, gratified, loved and directed him, and won his heart. She was the mother whom he describes as his "saintly mother, his angel of a mother who first made him feel like a human being"—and took him out of the rut of degradation and neglect and shiftlessness that, if long continued, might have controlled his destiny. She insisted that he should be sent to school as soon as there was a school to go to; he had already acquired a little reading and writing and was quick in the acquisition of knowledge.

In the rude school house at Little Pigeon Creek where Hazel Dorsey presided, Abraham attended in the winter of 1819, and quickly became the best speller in the

school. In the winter of 1822 and '23 he attended Andrew Crawford's school in the same place, where manners as well as spelling, were a part of the curriculum. He was now a lanky lad of fifteen, and rapidly rising to his full stature of six feet-four. He was not a beauty with his big feet and hands, his shrivelled and yellow skin, and his costume of low shoes, and buckskin breeches too short by several inches, his linsey-woolsey shirt and coon-skin cap; but he was good-humored and gallant, popular with the boys and girls, and a leader.

His last schooling was in 1826, at a school four and a half miles from his home, kept by Mr. Swaney. By this time he had acquired all the knowledge that the poor masters of that frontier region could impart, henceforth he must supervise his own education, as the family were too poor to spare him if opportunities for learning had presented themselves. He must work now in the shop or on the farm, or as a hired boy among the neighbors. One of his employers tells us that he used to get very angry with him, he was always reading or thinking when he got a chance, and would talk and crack jokes half the time. After the days work was over, by the light of the fire, he would sit and cipher on the wooden fire shovel. Any book that fell in his way was eagerly devoured, and its striking passages were written down and preserved. "Aesops Fables" improved his native art of pungent story telling, "Robinson Crusoe," Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" and the Bible were eagerly read by him, as were Weem's "Washington" and a history of the United States. These few books enriched



his mind and laid the basis of his straight-forward, lucid literary style. The Revised Statutes of Indiana, that could not be loaned from the office of the constable, drew him thither like a magnet, and became the basis of his legal lore.

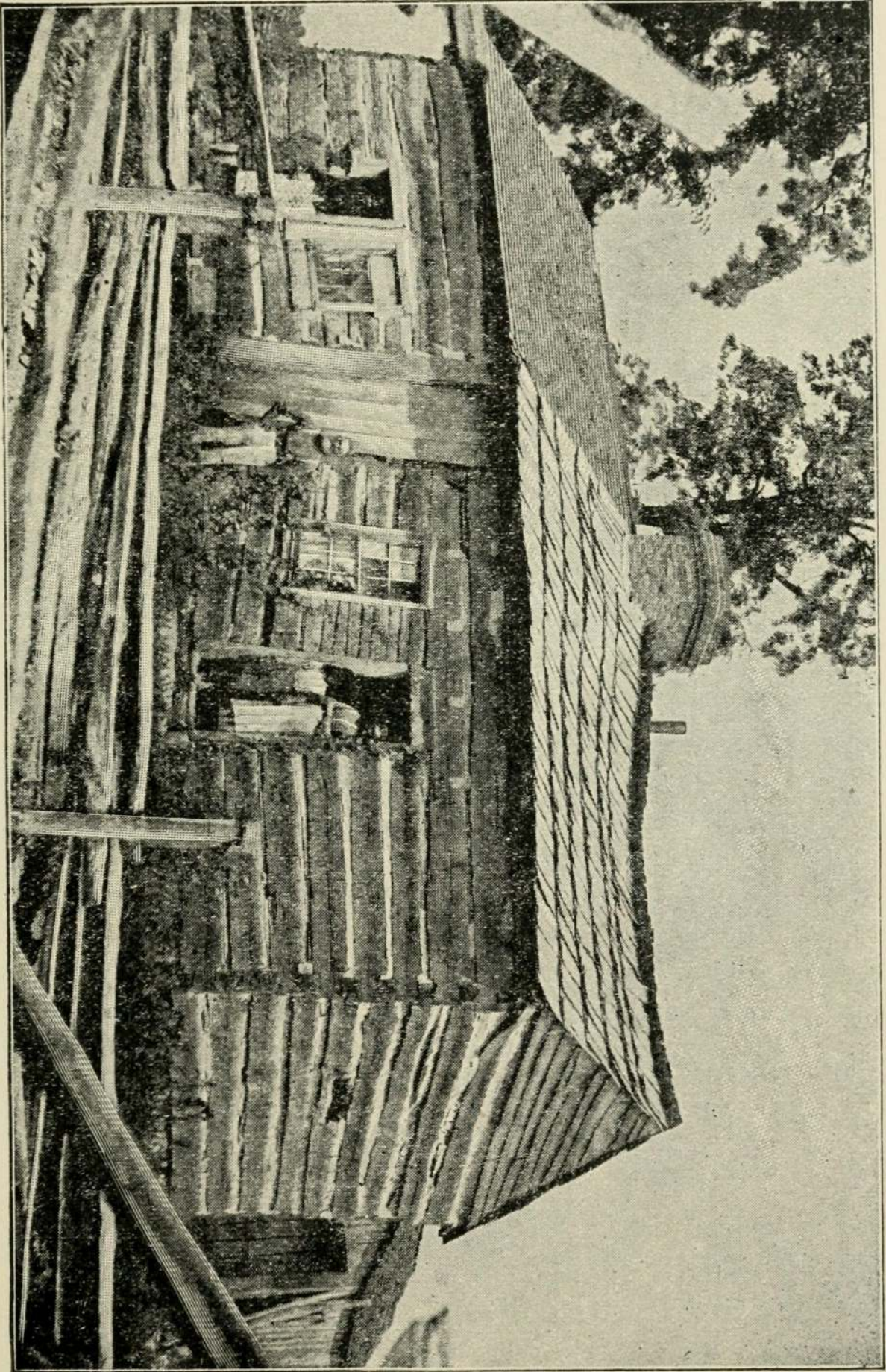
At home, he was the soul of kindness, instantly ready for kindly service, full of his jokes and stories. His father and his cousin were storytellers and it was often a matter of friendly rivalry which could out-do the other. That talent, thus cultivated, was one of the sources of his mastery of men. He had a powerful memory and would often repeat to his comrades long passages from the books he had read, or regale them with parts of the Sunday sermon with such perfect mimicry that the tones and gestures of the rude preachers of that day were vividly reproduced. Even in the harvest field, he was wont to take the stump and sadly interfere with the labor of the day by discoursing to the harvest hands, and more than once his father had to break up this diversion with severity. He had the instincts of the politician and the orator. He could please and divert men, and these rude early opportunities developed in him the consciousness of his power that should one day become so masterful.

His fondness for the society of his fellows was very marked. He could withdraw himself utterly from men over a book, but his tastes were strong to be among men. All the popular gatherings where men assembled were eagerly sought out by him; corn shuckings, log rollings, shooting matches, weddings, had a strong fascination for him. He enjoyed the sport and was one of the foremost

to make it. In all rustic sports he was at home. His strength was phenomenal, and as a wrestler he seldom found his match.

From the time he left Crawford's school he was using all his faculties daily and learning all that the rude world about him had to teach him. Dennis Hanks tells us of the educational processes of the time, "We learned by sight, scent and hearing. We heard all that was said, and talked over and over the questions heard, wore them slick, greasy and threadbare, went to political and other speeches and gatherings as you do now. We would hear all sides and opinions, talk them over, discuss them, agreeing or disagreeing. He preached, made speeches, read for us, explained to us, etc. He attended trials, went to court always, read the Revised Statutes of Indiana, dated 1824, heard law speeches and listened to law trials. He was always reading, scribbling, writing poetry, and the like. To Gentryville, about one mile west of Thomas Lincoln's farm, Lincoln would go and tell his jokes and stories, and was so odd, original, humorous and witty, that all the people in town would gather round him and he would keep them there till mid-night. He was a good talker, a good reader, and a kind of news-boy."

Thus he absorbed all the intellectual life that was astir, and used his powers as he had occasion, observing public business, watching the methods of the attorneys at the bar and kindling with their eloquence. Once the awkward boy attempted to compliment an attorney for his great effort, and years afterward he met him and recalled the circumstance, telling him that up to that time



House in Coles Co., Ill., in which Lincoln's Father lived after moving from Macon Co.  
Here he died Jan. 17, 1851.

it was the best speech he had ever heard, and of his feeling that if ever he could make such a speech as that his soul would be satisfied. High aspiration was evidently stirring in him then, and more than once, when twitted with his fooling, as his story telling and pranks were called, and asked what would ever become of him, he was wont to answer that he was going to be President of the United States. In the rude circles in which he moved, his power of instructing, entertaining and leading was recognized. It was a prophecy to him of leadership in a larger sphere.

In 1828, he made his first trip to New Orleans as a flat-boatman at eight dollars a month. The trip was full of adventure, and attended with some danger, but it was a profitable one for his employer, and one of enlargement of mind for the employed. From that time till 1830, when he became of age, he worked among the neighbors or for his father. And then it was determined to emigrate to Illinois. There, at a point ten miles west of Decatur, the Lincolns settled, and Abraham's last filial act before his majority was to split rails for the fencing of the ploughed land of the new homestead. Then he was free and the home ties were sundered, though his love for his step-mother was often manifested in later years by frequent gifts of money and frequent visits.

He took odd jobs in the country round and the pay was all his own. In 1831, he went to New Orleans on a flat-boat which he helped to build. The boat was launched on the Sangamon, stranded on a dam, and relieved by Lincoln's ingenuity, and started again on a suc-

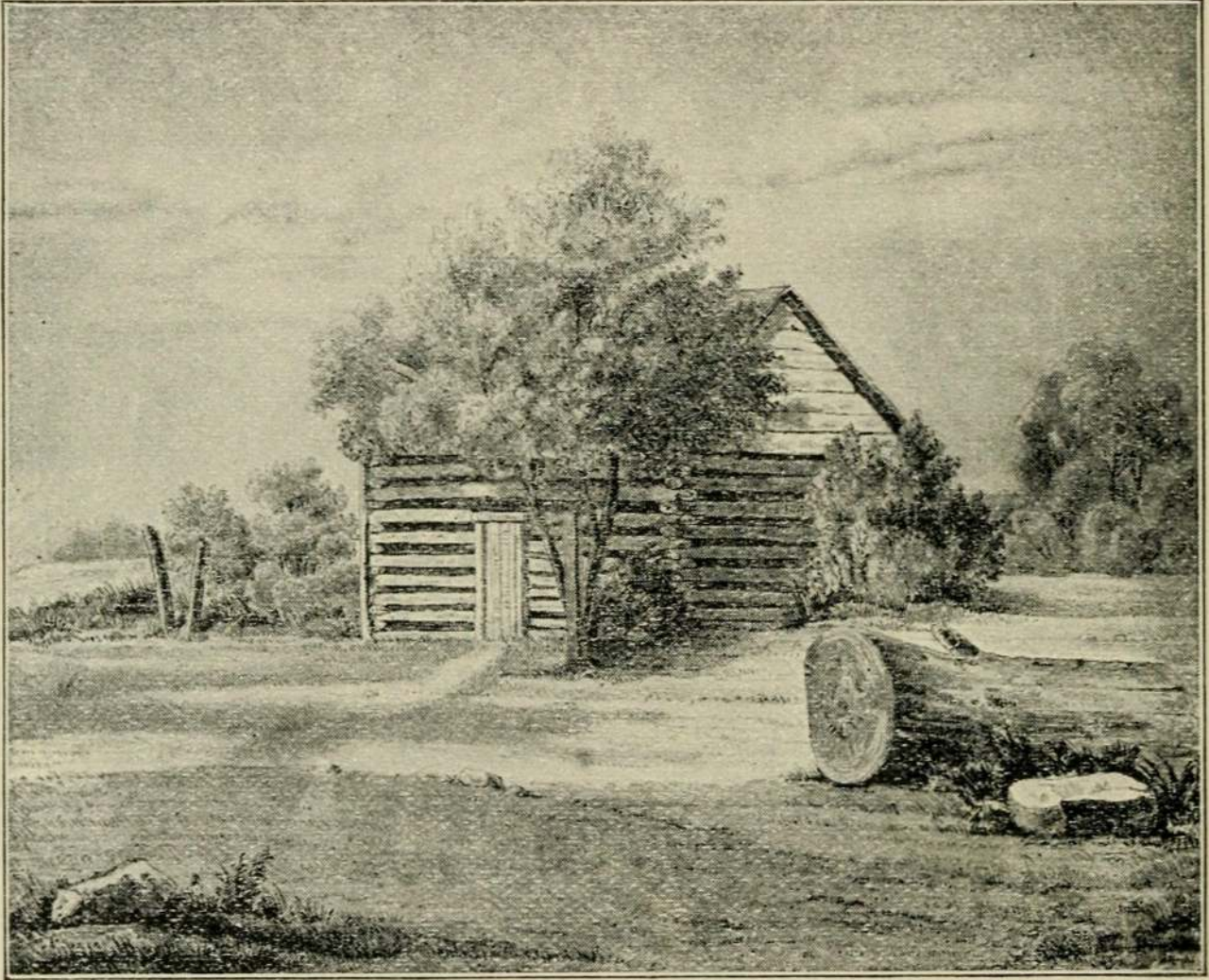
cessful voyage, laden with pork, hogs and corn. It was on this trip that his reflective mind evolved an invention for helping flat-boats over snags and shoals. The invention was patented, but like many another patent, failed to enrich the owner. It was on this trip that Lincoln observed for the first time some of the abominations of the slave trade in the City of New Orleans. It depressed him and drew from him the emphatic, almost prophetic statement, "If I ever get a chance to hit slavery, I'll hit it hard."

He found his way back to New Salem where he kept store for the same employer that sent him to New Orleans. There he won his way to consideration by his genial ways, his gift of story telling, and his strength and skill in wrestling. There, too, he found an English grammar and mastered it by the light of pine shavings, in the long evening hours.

In 1832, the Black Hawk War broke out. Lincoln enlisted, and though without military experience, his popularity won him the captaincy of his company by popular election. His career as an officer was not a brilliant one. His command was an unsoldierly company of American citizens who respected their captain, but who were unwilling to subject themselves to very strict discipline. They did no fighting and were discharged from service after a brief campaign, and Lincoln re-enlisted as a private in the Independent Spy Company. He was wont afterwards to excite much amusement by his stories of this bloodless war. Yet it was a school to him that revealed his relations to his country and helped to fit him

for the great duties of Commander in-Chief in the War of the Rebellion.

Returning to New Salem after the war, his friends urged him, in view of his popularity in the recent war,



Lincoln's Pioneer House on the Sangamon River.  
Built and Occupied by Himself.

to become a candidate for the State Legislature. His appearance in debate, and the favorable impression he made, settled the question of his candidacy for his friends. He felt that an election was an impossibility for him at that time, but he undertook the canvass. It was the custom then for every candidate to stand on his own merits without the aid of a nominating convention. Mr. Lincoln at

this time was nominally a Jackson Democrat, though some of his statements in his first campaign for office resembled very closely Whig utterances, and he will be found speedily to be on that side.

He issued a manifesto to the people of Sangamon County on the question of local improvements, proposing the improvement of the Sangamon River. He announced himself in favor of usury laws which would limit the rate of interest to be paid in the state. He was in favor of education, and of the enactment of sundry laws that would benefit the farming community in which he lived. His manifesto was that of a crude and immature statesman—or better, perhaps, of a young politician, seeking to adjust himself to the popular opinions about him and to reach public office thereby. He was defeated at the election, but he had the satisfaction of knowing, that the people who knew him best gave him their votes. The canvass, however, gave him a wider acquaintance with the people of the district and established him in their eyes as a young man of considerable promise.

In default of a political opening, the question of his future career pressed upon him. He could earn a poor livelihood with his brawny arms, but to this he was indisposed, feeling, as he did, that there was a larger destiny before him than of mere manual labor. He tried clerking in a store, then merchandising on credit, which last experience ended disastrously and left him a burden of debt. Then he began the study of law, with borrowed books. He put his new knowledge into practice by writing deeds, contracts, notes and other legal papers for his

neighbors, following prescribed forms, and conducting small cases in justice's courts without remuneration. This was his law school, self-conducted. Volumes on science were at the same time eagerly devoured by him, and the few newspapers on which he could lay hands were the sources of his political information. Burns and Shakespeare were his especial delight.

To pay his way, he won the good opinion of the surveyor of Sangamon County, who appointed him deputy, and gave him a chance to acquire a knowledge of surveying, in which he became an expert. He was called hither and yon about the county as a surveyor, and was made arbiter in disputes on lines and corners. Best of all, he earned a good living and made many friends for the future.

From 1833 to 1836, he was postmaster of New Salem, as a Jackson appointee on the score of right opinions. The emoluments of the position were not burdensome. He kept his office in his hat.

In 1834, he was again a candidate for the Legislature. This time he leaned to the Whig party. It was during this year that his personal effects, including his surveying instruments, were sold under the hammer by the sheriff to satisfy a judgment against him on account of his unsuccessful career as a merchant. But warm personal friendship intervened to save his property and keep him in courage for the work of his life.

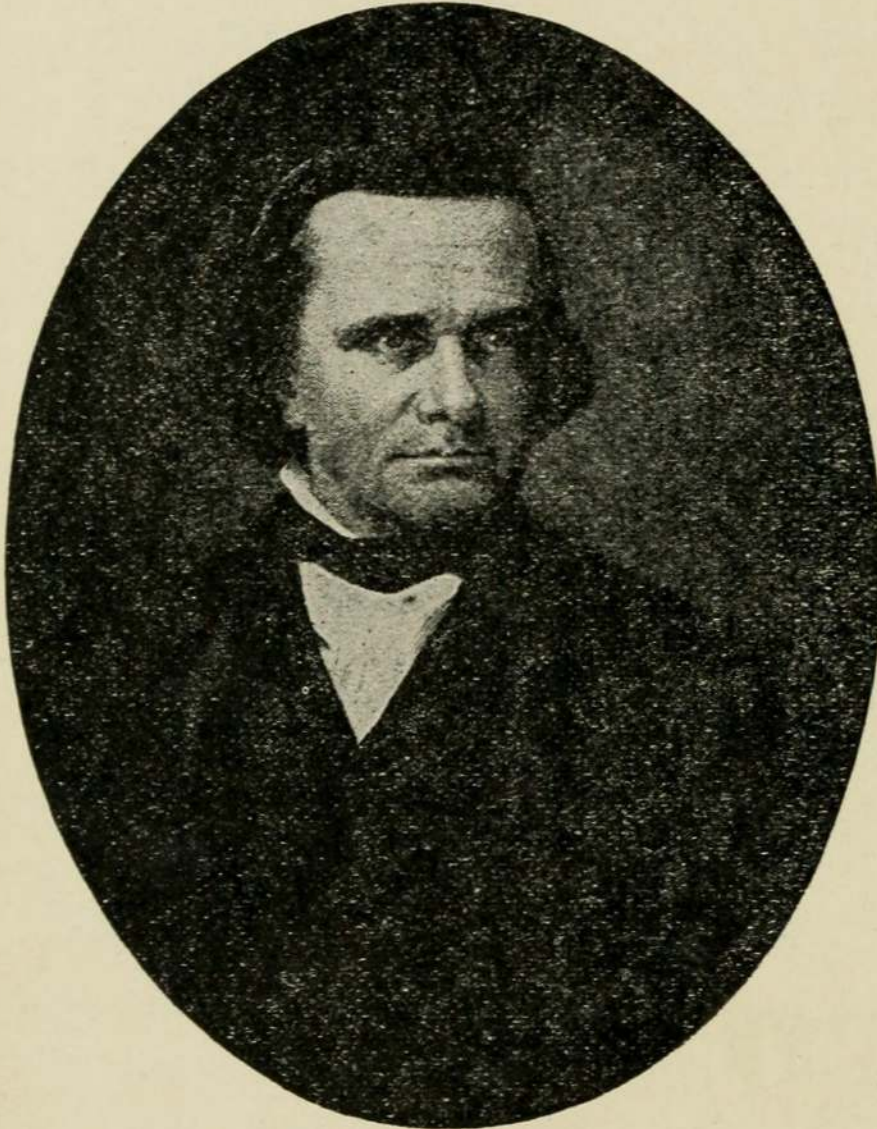
The campaign of 1834 was personally conducted, as was that of 1832. In the harvest field, at the grocery or on the highway, wherever he could find men to listen,



he interested them in his cause and his personality, chiefly the latter. Where he was known he was welcomed, and where he found it necessary to make himself known, his auditors soon made the discovery that he belonged to the singed cat variety. With his calico shirt, short trousers, rough brogans, and straw hat without a band, he raised a laugh at his appearance that was soon turned to applause at his knowledge and his skill in presenting it. He headed the poll on election day, and appreciating the fact that a new outfit was necessary to comport with his dignity as a legislator, he borrowed two hundred dollars from Coleman Smoot, an admirer who had never seen him, and got himself up in the best clothes he had ever worn. The loan was scrupulously repaid. The time up to the session of the Legislature was spent in preparation for his new responsibilities, in reading and writing.

He had enough of his two hundred dollars remaining to pay his passage on the stage coach to the scene of the Legislature at Vandalia. That body was overwhelmingly Democratic in its political complexion, and set the pace for Illinois of that class of legislation so common in new countries: the creation of public debt and the starting of great and ill-considered public improvements, and the licensing of banks with great privileges, and practically no guarantees, a class of legislation that brought on the financial collapse of 1837. The legislature represented the overwhelming majority of the people and accomplished their behests. All were crazed with the spirit of speculation, all were similarly responsible,

and all suffered in the same general consequences. Mr. Lincoln swam with the stream, voted for all the wild-cat measures which, according to the best wisdom of the time, were essential to the prosperity of the state. He



Stephen A. Douglas.  
Born 1813. Died 1861

was a silent member, however, at this session of the Legislature, though he served on the committee on Public Accounts and Expenditures.

It was at this session of the legislature that he met Stephen A. Douglas, with whose later career his own was destined to be so closely interwoven, and

whom at his first meeting he characterized as the "least man he ever saw." In time he readily accorded him the title of "The Little Giant," with whose powers he, only, seemed able to cope. This legislature was beset, as later legislatures of Illinois have been, by a corrupt and persistent body of so-called log rollers, who were on

hand to push their schemes by persuasion and corruption. But no taint attached to young Lincoln, who, if he were carried away like the other legislators of the time, by schemes of artificial prosperity, was beyond the reach of bribery.

In 1836, he was again a candidate for the legislature, self-nominated, for this was before the age of caucuses and conventions. In the *Journal* of New Salem he announces his platform. He favors extending to all whites who pay taxes or bear arms (not excluding women) the right of suffrage. If elected, he should consider the whole people of the district as his constituents, regardless of the manner of their voting, and while acting as their representative he would be governed by their will on all subjects on which they should make known their will, and on other subjects he would follow his own judgment as to what would advance their interests. He further announced that he was in favor of distributing the proceeds of the sales of public lands to the several states, to enable each state in common with others, to dig canals and construct railroads without borrowing money and paying the interest on it. On the question of national politics, he announced his adhesion to the standard bearer of the Whigs.

For two months the campaign was conducted in the rough and ready manner peculiar to those times. Hot words were bandied, personalities were indulged in, pistols were frequently drawn, and the personal prowess of the candidate was one of his strong claims to the respect of a rough constituency. At no point was Lincoln lack-

ing in his knowledge of his audiences. They had had demonstrations of his physical prowess. Popular report had credited him with fearlessness, and his plain strong reasoning, his humor and skillful repartee did the rest.

It was the custom for political antagonists to address the same audiences, or at least for both sides to get a hearing at the same time and place. It was during this campaign that Geo. Forquer, who had been a Whig in the legislature of 1834, and had changed his views on being appointed registrar of the Land Office, presumed to call Lincoln to account. Forquer had aroused much attention as a political turn-coat, and likewise by his sudden prosperity in being able to build the finest house in Springfield, on which he set up the only lightning rod of which the region could boast. He listened to Lincoln's speech in defense of the principles that he had recently repudiated, and when he had finished he arose to answer, with a fine assumption of superiority, saying that the young man would have to be taken down, and he was sorry that the task devolved upon him. He thereupon proceeded to take him down in a strong Democratic speech. When he had concluded Mr. Lincoln replied to his arguments, and then alluded to Mr. Forquer's remark that the young man must be taken down. Turning to his audience, he said:

"It is for you to say whether I am down or up. The gentleman has alluded to my being a young man. I am older in years than I am in the tricks and trades of politicians. I desire to live and I desire place and distinct-

ion as a politician, but I would rather die now than, like this gentleman, live to see the day that I would have to erect a lightning rod to protect a guilty conscience from an offended God."

Another Democratic orator met his Waterloo in an engagement with Lincoln in the same campaign. Dick Taylor was severely Democratic in theory, denouncing the Whig aristocracy and making much of his sympathy with the hard-handed toiling masses, but in practice he adorned himself with splendid apparel, and shone conspicuously with ruffled shirt, silk vest, and an impressive watch chain. On one occasion when Taylor was parading his democracy and denouncing the aristocratic Whigs, Lincoln edged up to the platform, and gave a jerk to Taylor's vest, that exposed his ruffled shirt, his gold watch and chain and pendant jewelry. It was a movement that took all the wind out of Taylor's sails and hardly needed the speech which Mr. Lamon credits to this occasion, which has so much of personal interest in it, that we repeat it.

"While Taylor was making his charges against the Whigs over the country, riding in fine carriages, wearing ruffled shirts, kid gloves, massive gold watch chain with large gold seals, and flourishing a heavy gold-headed cane, I was a poor boy hired on a flat-boat at eight dollars a month and had only one pair of breeches to my back, and they were buckskin, and if you know the nature of buckskin, when wet and dried by the sun, they will shrink, and mine kept shrinking until they left several inches of my legs bare between the top of my socks

and the lower part of my breeches, and whilst I was growing taller, they were becoming shorter, and so much tighter that they left a blue streak around my legs that can be seen to this day. If you call this aristocracy I plead guilty to the charge."

Mr. Lincoln was elected by a larger vote than any other candidate. Sangamon County, that had usually gone Democratic, went Whig by more than four hundred majority. The Convention System was now taking root in the west. Some of the members of the legislature of 1836 and 1837, among whom was Stephen A. Douglas, were nominated by conventions, and hereafter the Whigs are compelled to fall into line. Elections are to be conducted no more on the self-nominating plan and personally conducted canvass. But national issues and national parties are to control in state affairs. This change, in the minds of many, was prejudicial to the real interests of state affairs and certainly detracted much from the grotesqueness and individuality displayed in the self-nominating and self-conducted campaign. Men now stood upon the platform of a party, when they accepted a nomination. Mr. Lincoln was hereafter to be a party man, sometimes leading his party, but all the time loyal to it, and seeking to force no movement until the rank and file of his party were abreast with him.

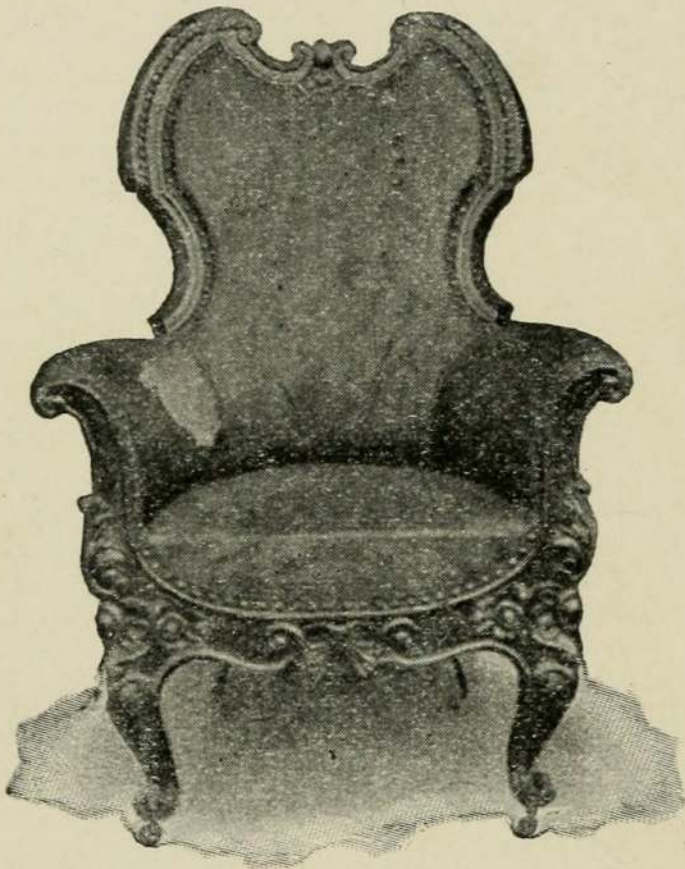
In national politics, at the time of the meeting of the legislature of 1836-37, the country was on the verge of a panic. The deposits of the United States had been withdrawn from the U. S. Bank and deposited in specie-paying state banks. The whigs had passed an act requiring

the funds of the government to be deposited with the states, the act to go into effect Jan. 1st, 1837. A month before this date the Legislature of Illinois met at Vandalia. Thither Mr. Lincoln went with the intention of being an active member. He had been instructed by his constituents to vote for a system of internal improvements. All parts of the state were clamoring for them and men of all parties were of one mind in the matter. Lines of railroads, improvement of rivers, the Illinois canal, and the location of the capital and the setting up of state banks, were the great questions of the session. Members of the legislature interested in one locality swapped votes to other localities for votes in favor of their project. Thus the log-rolling went on till nearly every county in the state shared in the plunder of their common treasury which was recruited by issues of bonds that ought to have paralyzed any sane company of legislators who could foresee the consequences; but they were intoxicated by the spirit of speculation.

Among the schemes in which Mr. Lincoln chiefly figured was the removal of the capital to Springfield. As a member of the Long Nine from Sangamon County—so called because their average height was over six feet—he so skillfully disposed of the votes of himself and his colleagues, in return for votes on behalf of Springfield, that that city was selected as the capital of the state. Ford estimates, in his "History of Illinois," that it was made to cost the state six millions of dollars for the removal of the capital from Vandalia, and naming the men who participated in this reckless legislation and the high po-

sitions to which most of them later attained, he declares all of them to be "spared monuments of popular wrath, evincing how safe it is to a politician, but how disastrous it may be to the country to keep along with the present fervor of the people."

Mr. Lincoln, in his part in the proceedings of the leg-



Library Chair used by Lincoln during his  
Occupancy of the White House.

islature, obeyed the will of his constituents in locating the capital at Springfield, and the will of the people at large in voting for a general system of improvements at the public expense, and his own judgment was committed to the policy. The fruition of their reckless legislation was debt and disaster, all had sinned and all suffered, and the penalties were not visited upon the legislators who

recorded the popular will. More creditable to Lincoln's mind and heart at this session of the state legislature was the protest in which he joined, against the action of the legislature on the subject of slavery. No state was more pronounced than Illinois on the subject of repressing the Abolition movement. Illinois had decided once for all, in 1824, that it was not disposed to become a slave state, but its people had no sympathy



as yet with the movement to interfere with slavery in the South. The name Abolitionist was counted by the people of Illinois as hardly better than Horse-thief and the so-called Black Code of the state, discriminating against negroes whether free or slave would have been a disgrace to Turkey.

In 1836, Elijah P. Lovejoy, who had been publishing a moderately anti-slavery paper in St. Louis, moved to Alton, where he found the opposition even stronger than in Missouri, and his press was broken up and thrown into the river. He again set up his press which was to publish a religious paper, and not distinctively an abolition paper, though he claimed the right as an American citizen to publish whatever he pleased on any subject, holding himself answerable to the laws of the country in so doing. Only occasionally, did he discuss the subject of slavery, but so repugnant was abolition sentiment to the people about him that his office was again destroyed. The setting up of another press was followed by his murder in defence of his life and his property. It was during this state of feeling, that culminated in Lovejoy's murder, that Lincoln bravely wrote a protest against the extreme action of the legislature on the slavery question, and obtained the signature thereto of a colleague with his own. The resolutions were read and ordered to be spread upon the journal of the house. In these resolutions he stated that he believed that the institution of slavery is founded upon injustice and bad policy, but that the promulgation of abolition doctrine tends rather to increase than to abate its evils. That the Congress of the United

States has no power under the Constitution to interfere with the institution of slavery in the different states.

That the Congress of the United States has the power under the Constitution to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, but that the power ought not to be exercised unless at the request of the people of the district. On this question he saw clearer than his colleagues and came nearest to the view of wise statesmanship that at that stage of the game would make the abolition of slavery the result of growth and of the logic of events, rather than the result of upheaval and revolution. We do not decry the work of the abolitionists, nor would he in his later years. They preached the iniquity of slavery and roused the moral sense of the nation for the final struggle when the hand that wrote the protest of 1838 might write the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, with a possibility of its enforcement. Between these documents lies, perhaps, the most critical period of American history. Lincoln is at length to be the foremost figure of that period, moving without haste, but steadily, to the accomplishment of that supreme act which the impatient Abolitionist would have performed at once, regardless of the wreck and ruin which the attempt at immediate enforcement of his policy would work.

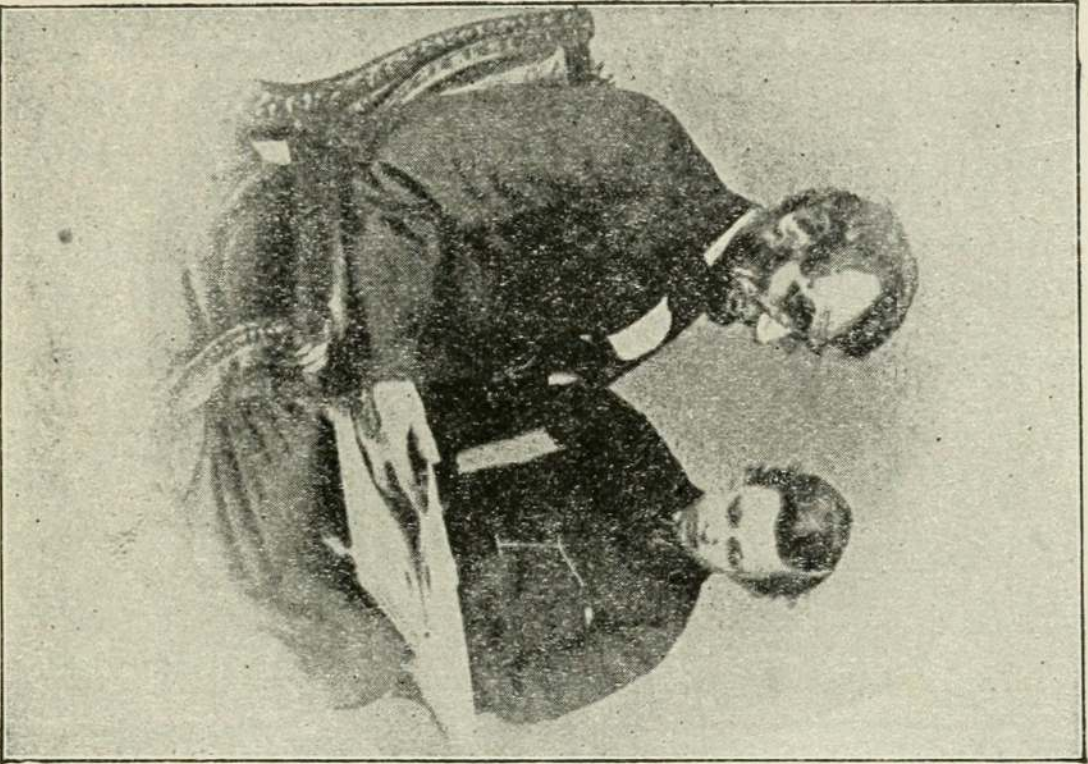
Mr. Lincoln was again elected to the legislature in 1838, and had reached such prominence that he was the candidate of his party for speaker. He was not elected, but remained on the finance committee and took a hand in trying to extricate the state from the almost hopeless bankruptcy into which it had been plunged by the ex-

travagant legislation of 1836 and '37. Mr. Lincoln was elected again in 1840, but did not appear in the session of 1841 and 1842 for reasons of a private nature. His early love for Ann Rutledge had met with disappointment and he mourned over her grave with a heart well-nigh broken. Others had excited his interest, but the old love was the ideal love for him, and no later affection could compare with it, so that although he believed it was proper for him to settle down in married life, his loyalty to such affection as he had known, and his honorable character, made it difficult for him to assume the vows of married life on any other basis than full and complete devotion to the woman whom he should call his wife.

In 1839, he was thrown much in the society of Miss Mary Todd of Lexington, Ky., and he became engaged to her. The date of the wedding was set, but he did not appear. His struggle with himself as to whether he was doing right well-nigh unsettled his mind, and his friends withdrew him to the quiet of Mr. Speed's home in Kentucky, till this crisis of his history should pass. When he returned, his relations to Miss Todd were resumed. She was a clever writer, with some taste for politics, and during the period of their courtship they beguiled themselves with political writing in the *Sangamon Journal* under the nom de plume of "Rebecca." The letters were cleverly done in the style of caricature and bore hard upon Mr. James Shields, an aspiring Democratic politician of somewhat pompous and pretending manner. Mr. Lincoln chivalrously assumed the sole authorship of the letters, for the protection of Miss Todd, and speedily found

himself embroiled with Mr. Shields, who demanded satisfaction. Nothing but a duel or an abject apology would be accepted, and the mutual friends of Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Shields were kept busy arranging the preliminaries of a contest. Mr. Lincoln treated the matter with indifference, chose broadswords as the weapons, and agreed upon the time and place for meeting, with little thought that the duel would ever come off. He was opposed to dueling, and in choosing the weapons, he avoided pistols to avert a tragedy, and chose cavalry broadswords, knowing, as Arnold says, that if the meeting should take place nothing but a tragedy could have prevented its being a farce. The matter was adjusted by the publication of a statement that while Mr. Lincoln was the author of the article signed "Rebecca," he had no intention of injuring the personal or private character or standing of Mr. Shields as a gentleman or man, and that he did not think that the article could produce such an effect, and had Mr. Lincoln anticipated such an effect he would have forborne to write it. Thus this serio-comic affair passed with little result save to emphasize the vanity and sensitiveness of Gen. Shields, and the cleverness and candor of Mr. Lincoln.

Mr. Lincoln carried out his engagement with Mary Todd, and was married to her in November, 1842, with forebodings that did not promise well for a happy married life. Possibly, as Mr. Lincoln feared, they were not altogether fitted for each other. But never, by word or deed, was he disloyal to his marriage vows, nor did he expose the wounds of his heart.



President Lincoln and Master Thad.



Mrs. Lincoln in Reception Costume.

He was not able at this time to provide a home of his own, but took up his residence at the Globe Tavern in Springfield at an expense of four dollars a week for board and lodging for himself and wife. Mr. Lincoln had been licensed as an attorney in 1837, and had removed to Springfield when that city became the capital of the state. Among the men who were his compeers, some of whom afterwards attained prominence, were Stephen T. Logan, Stephen A. Douglas, E. D. Baker, John T. Stuart, Ninian W. Edwards, Jesse B. Thomas, and others of local renown.

Mr. Lincoln's reputation, thus far, has been as a politician in Sangamon Co. Politics will continue to have the chief fascination for his mind, but law will be his profession and his means of livelihood. He found his first law partner in his friend John T. Stuart, to whom he had previously been indebted for the loan of books from which to learn the law. In a little dingy office in the then unkempt town of Springfield, the firm of Stuart & Lincoln was installed, and Lincoln began his career of divided interest between politics and law. He was still a member of the legislature, and though the affairs of the state were in sad need of attention, the politics of the time began to be confined to national issues, and Mr. Lincoln, like the rest, began to occupy himself with a survey of national affairs.

In January, 1837, he delivered an address before the Springfield Lyceum on the Perpetuation of our Free Institutions, which shows that the young lawyer had now attained to the full consciousness and dignity of an Amer-

ican Citizen, who prizes his birth-right and seeks calmly to discern the perils of the nation, and earnestly to put her in a position of security and permanence. This speech marks him at that early date, as more than a politician, grabbing and compromising in the state assembly for local interests; rather as an American citizen opening his eyes to the greatness of the nation, the difficulties and the dangers that hazard the common weal.

As his physical vision overtopped that of his fellows, so now he seems to look out on a broader political horizon than they. His eye henceforth will not be withdrawn from that wide view until all shall be clear to him, and he shall be accepted as his nation's prophet and seer. The speech to which I refer may be overcharged with rhetoric, a vice that is common with young orators, but it has the true ring of sincerity and patriotism, and time will add the charm and force of directness and simplicity to his style.

In all the political campaigns of the time his voice was heard in the meetings of politicians, in the grocery, or the office or on the rostrum. He was a central figure in these meetings. He studied politics, got in shape his arguments, and learned the art of putting things to an average American audience, as few politicians have acquired it. The question of the sub-treasury was an absorbing question of 1840. It was the Democratic party measure to provide for the convenient and safe keeping of the national funds. It has proved a wise expedient, but Mr. Lincoln opposed it, as did his party. Apparently, on questions of public credit, fiscal expedients and finance,

he was not destined to be an authority. It was on the questions of freedom and union, and the measures that make for them, that he was to specialize and succeed. Meanwhile, he was working hard at the bar, but leaving no opportunity unused to evince his interest in politics.

In 1843, he aspired to run for Congress, but was distanced in the race for the Whig nomination by E. D. Baker. He was appointed a delegate to the nominating convention, and magnanimously served. He humorously alludes to his predicament in writing to his friend Speed, where he says, "In getting Baker the nomination I shall be fixed a good deal like a fellow who is made groomsman to a man that has cut him out and is marrying his own dear 'gal.' "

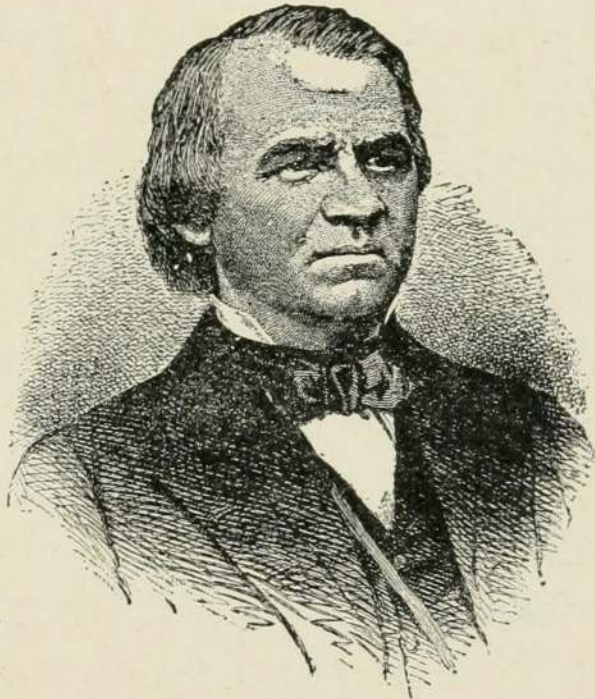
In 1844, he was a candidate for election on the Whig ticket, and stumped the state for Mr. Clay for President. In joint debates and independent speeches he maintained his Whig principles and chivalrously labored for the idol of his party. The defeat of Clay was, to him, a source of sorrow, but setting aside his political disappointment, he studiously set himself to the discharge of his professional duties until 1846, when he was nominated for Congress and elected. Peter Cartwright was the standard-bearer of the opposition. He was a doughty antagonist, whose clerical relations were dead weight upon him, and Mr. Lincoln easily "got the preacher" as he expressed it, and with the aid of Democratic votes. He was the only Whig member from Illinois, and thus came into special prominence. Some of his colleagues from the state were Wentworth, McClernand, Ficklin,



Richardson and Turner. Douglas had just reached the Senate.

The roll of the house at this, the 30th Congress, showed a galaxy of great names. Robert Winthrop was the Speaker, and among the Whigs were John Quincy Adams, Horace Mann, Collamer, Stephens and Toombs; and among the Democrats were Wilmot and Cobb, McDowell and Andrew Johnson, while Webster and Calhoun, and Benton and Clayton were members of the Senate.

Lincoln at once took an active part in the discussions that related to the Mexican War, that scheme of the Southern statesmen to acquire more territory for the ex-



Andrew Johnson.  
Born 1808. Died 1875.

pansion of slavery. He held, as did the Whigs, that the war was unnecessarily and unconstitutionally begun, and in his famous "Spot Resolutions," he called upon the president to put his finger on the spot on American soil on which the Mexicans were aggressors, as the president had alleged. Mr. Lincoln did, however, vote with his party to give supplies to the troops and thanks to the generals who conducted the war, while censuring the president for his part in bringing it on. Mr. Lincoln had a weary time explaining to his constituents what they considered his inconsistency in attacking the

president for bringing on the war and then voting supplies for its conduct. Before his return from the east and after the session of Congress, he made several campaign speeches in New England, enlarged his acquaintance and became more familiar with the elements that should enter into future politics.

His second session passed without any striking incident save one that indicated his attitude to the slavery question. On the Wilmot Proviso, which favored the purchase of Mexican territory and prohibiting of slavery thereon, he voted, as often as it was up, in the affirmative, and he himself proposed a resolution for the gradual compensated emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia. Thus ended his congressional career in which, in the national arena, he had gained a unique outlook on public affairs, and where he won some reputation as a consistent Whig, loyal to his party, and opposed to the extension of slavery; and likewise as a political antagonist, clear in statement, fertile in illustration, and with a talent for ridicule and sarcasm that was difficult to be reckoned with. He easily yielded the nomination to the next Congress to his friend, Stephen T. Logan, and continued the practice of law, but with an abiding interest in national affairs, ready when the time should again come, to take his part in the struggle.

From 1848 to 1860, his chief work as a lawyer was to be done, and likewise the work that should determine his selection as a candidate for the presidency of the United States. In 1860, the scene of his legal services lay in the eighth judicial circuit in which Sangamon

County was included till 1859. The court intinerated from county to county, and Mr. Lincoln followed it, first on a borrowed horse, then on a nag of his own, which he cared for himself, and later, in a second-hand buggy. His coming was always welcomed at the hotel where he was wont to stop and by the lawyers on the circuit. Uncomplaining, genial and unselfish, he met the incidents and inconveniences of this itinerant life in so cheerful a manner, and his pranks and stories were so enjoyable, that outside of the court room and in it, no one was more popular than he. His honesty was a proverb. No shady case had any standing or encouragement from him. Poverty was no bar to the securement of his services, and when he entered on a case to which his judgment and conscience were committed he entered upon it with a thoroughness and fearlessness which seldom met with failure.

Judge Caton, for many years one of the judges of the Supreme Court and intimate with Mr. Lincoln, says of him: "He was a close reasoner, reasoning by analogy and usually enforcing his views by apt illustrations. His mode of speaking was generally of a plain and unimpassioned character, yet abounding with eloquence, imagination and fancy. His great reputation for integrity was well deserved. The most punctilious honor ever marked his professional and private life. He seemed entirely ignorant of the art of deception and dissimulation. His frankness and candor were elements which contributed to his professional success. If he discovered a weak point in his cause he frankly admitted it and thereby prepared

the mind to accept the more readily his mode of avoiding it. No one ever accused him of taking an unfair or underhanded advantage in the whole course of his professional career."

He put the kindest construction possible on the frailties of his fellow men. He sympathized with the unfortunate, and relieved them to the utmost of his ability in their distress. He was true as steel to his clear apprehension of intellectual and moral truth, unyielding in matters of honor and principle. He could flay an adversary relentlessly who by cowardice or meanness, by malice or greed, exposed himself to his denunciation. He could be tender as a woman to misfortune or suffering. He was wondrously constituted to be a great jury lawyer with his power of analysis, his logical faculties, his generous sympathies, his apt illustration, his candor and his irresistible humor.

He was offered a lucrative partnership in Chicago with Grant Goodrich on his return from congress, but he preferred his old circuit and his old companions. Though he was frequently called to the trial of cases in prominent courts in his own and other states, and responded to the call, his heart was with his comrades on his old circuit, and he could not be tempted from it. The day before he left Springfield for Washington, in 1861, he went to the office to settle up some unfinished business. After disposing of it he gathered a bundle of papers and books he wished to take with him. Presently he addressed Mr. Herndon, his old partner:

"Billy, how long have we been together?"

“Over sixteen years,” he answered.

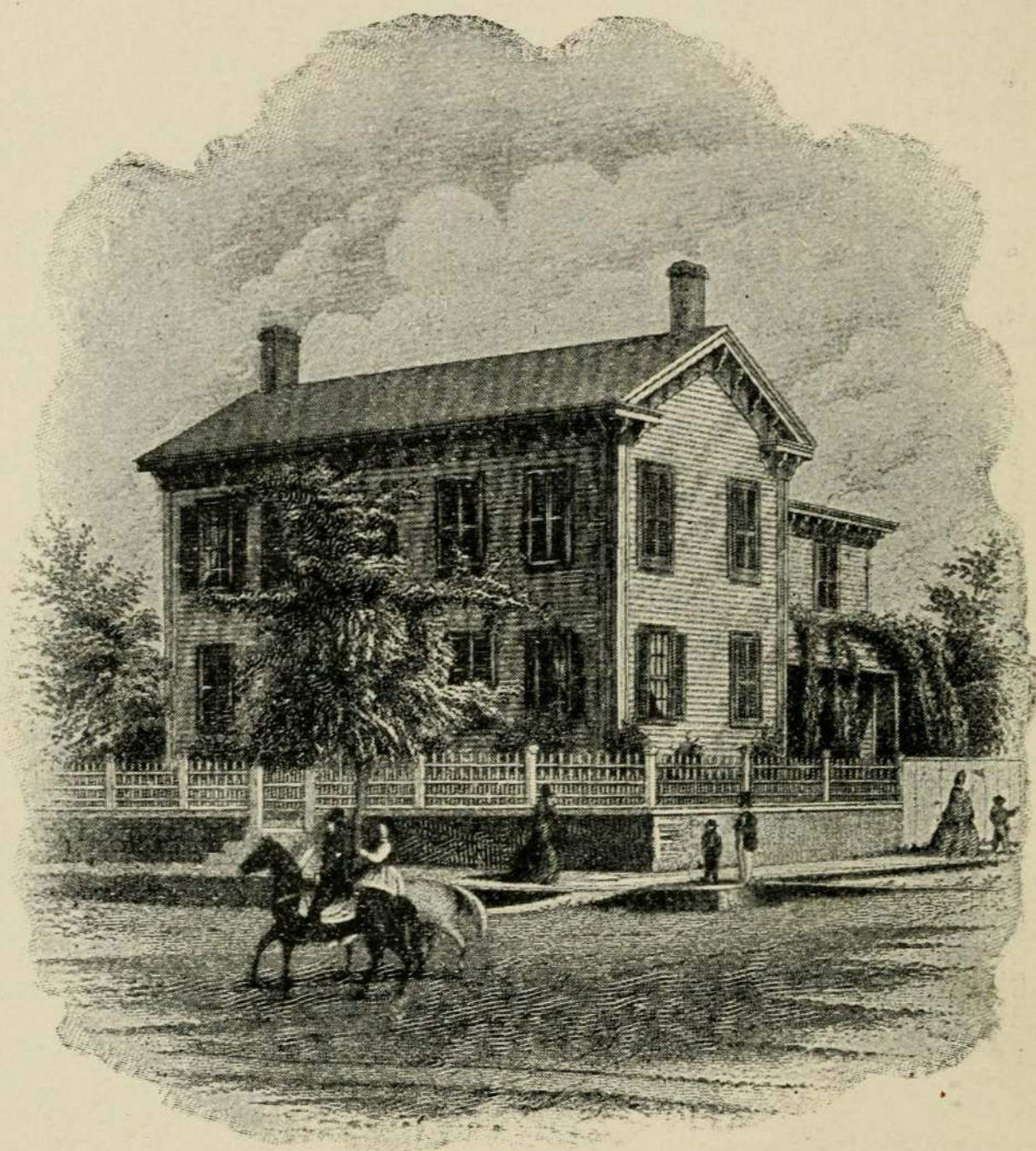
“We’ve never had a cross word during all that time, have we?”

Then, starting to go, he paused and asked that the sign-board of Lincoln & Herndon which hung on its rusty hinges at the foot of the stairs be allowed to remain.

“Let it hang there undisturbed,” he said, with a significant lowering of his voice. “Give our clients to understand that the election of a president makes no change in the firm of Lincoln & Herndon. If I live I am coming back sometime and then we’ll go right on practicing law as if nothing had happened.”

If Lincoln had had no other career than as a lawyer in Central Illinois, he would have occupied a unique place among the great lawyers of the state. But his mind was always at work upon the higher problems of the national life. He declined to run for congress in 1848 in favor of Stephen T. Logan, who suffered defeat. He declined the governorship of Oregon, preferring to remain in closer touch with national affairs in Illinois, than he would be if he removed to that distant region.

In 1850, he again declined to be a candidate for congress, though he was strongly urged. He was coming to the opinion that the sectional agitation between the North and South was beyond the skill of politicians to settle by the methods that had been and were still, being tried. He had hoped that time would heal the animosities that threatened the existence of the union and the principles of free government on American soil. In con-



Lincoln's Home at Springfield.  
In front of the house stands the tree planted by Lincoln previous  
to 1850.

versation with intimate friends, in 1850, he stated that, "the time is coming when we must all be Democrats or Abolitionists." Though he acquiesced in the measures of the Whig party, which were favorable to compromise to avert strife, he spoke out his own conviction as to the injustice of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, and seemed to feel disheartened as to any improvement as things were going.

In 1852, his fellow citizens at Springfield chose him to deliver a eulogy upon the life and services of Henry Clay. This discourse was not remarkable in itself, save as it was the occasion to Mr. Lincoln for emphasizing the opinion of Mr. Clay in regard to slavery and the proper method of putting an end to it. Mr. Lincoln agreed with him in his aversion to the institution and the advisability of gradual emancipation by the voluntary action of the people of the slave states, and the transporting of the freedmen to Africa. Compensated and voluntary emancipation and transportation were the features of his plan, and he hoped that it might be realized. Then, assuming the tones and language of a prophet, he said:

"Pharaoh's country was cursed with plagues and his hosts were drowned into the Red Sea for striving to retain a captive people who had already served them more than four hundred years. May like disaster never befall us. If, as the friends of colonization hope, the present and coming generations of our countrymen shall by any means succeed in freeing our land from the dangerous presence of slavery, and at the same time restoring a captive people to their long lost fatherland with bright prospects for

the future, and this, too, so gradually that neither races nor individuals shall have suffered by the change, it will indeed be a glorious consummation."

If only that policy could have prevailed what sacrifice of human blood and treasure, what agony and sorrow, it might have saved! But it was not to be.

The Fugitive Slave Law had been passed and in the Dred Scott Decision, not only was that law to be upheld, but the most extravagant demands of slavery were to be confirmed by the highest court in the land. Measures were to be set on foot to open the territories north of 36°. 30" to the spread of slavery. The Missouri Compromise was to be repealed and the agent of this legislation, its crafty and eloquent advocate, was to be a son of Illinois, the early compeer and antagonist of Mr. Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas. His rise in politics had been phenomenal. His abilities were great and his ambition more than kept pace with them. His objective point was the presidency of the United States. If he could become the candidate of a united Democracy for that high office, the coveted prize was within his reach. To this end, he lent his great abilities to the carrying of those measures that would be acceptable to the pro-slavery element of the nation: He identified himself actively with every movement that sought to increase the area of territory for slavery expansion. He held with Calhoun and Davis that, under the Constitution, slaveholders could take their slaves into the territories of the United States, subject only to the Missouri Compromise. This obstruction, as chairman of the committee on territories, he desired to set aside in the



Kansas-Nebraska Bill, which opened that vast area of land to settlers who could vote up or down the question of slavery, within their limit. With the passing of this bill, the period of compromise was over. Friends of Union and Freedom saw that there was now no prospect of peace without submission to the extravagant and revolting pretensions of the pro-slavery party.

It was now that Mr. Lincoln girded himself for the great contest of his life, and at once, as if by common consent, he became the leader of the Anti-Nebraska party, as Mr. Douglas was the leader of the opposing party in the North, and attention was fastened on these two great antagonists whose strife should continue until freedom or slavery should prevail. It was in October, 1854, that they first measured weapons at the Illinois State fair. Mr. Douglas defended his position with his usual ability and Mr. Lincoln was put up to answer him. There was a marked contrast in the men. One was small of stature but of great physical force, a successful demagogue, a skilled debater, ready and resourceful, ambitious for power, contending for measures abhorrent to the spirit of free institutions as a means to the accomplishment of his ambitions.

Mr. Lincoln was stalwart, angular, and plain, not devoid of ambition, but resolutely opposed to the gaining of a single foot of American soil for the extension or perpetuation of slavery. He attacked the positions of Mr. Douglas with clearness and force. He so completely uncovered his purposes that he carried his audience captive, and his speech was so permeated with intense moral con-

viction, that he often quivered with emotion in its utterance. Others addressed the people that day, but to Mr. Lincoln was awarded the honor of having pierced the armor of his antagonist, and of having won the right to carry the standard of freedom into the battle that could not be averted.

The Abolitionists of the state now sought to commit him fully to their programme. They felt that in his Anti-Nebraska utterances he was with them and ought to declare himself fully, but he avoided them. The time for him had not yet come. In the fullness of time he could be more useful to the cause of union and freedom by a conservative record than if he had been open to the charge of being a fanatical abolitionist. On the question of the Anti-Nebraska Bill he could take strong ground, and he followed Mr. Douglas to Peoria to repeat the same triumph in debate as at Springfield.

In 1854, in spite of his unwillingness, he was elected to the Illinois Legislature. A senator was to be elected at that session in place of General Shields, and Lincoln now aspired to that position. There was an Anti-Nebraska majority of two on joint ballot, but some of them were pronounced Abolitionists, for whom Mr. Lincoln's position was not sufficiently advanced, and five were Democrats, who preferred to vote for a senator with antecedents like their own. To the Abolitionists, Mr. Lincoln easily pledged himself to vote for the exclusion of slavery in all territories of the United States. Matteson, the Democratic candidate, was almost elected. The Anti-Nebraska Democrats would probably vote for him on the

next ballot in preference to a Whig like Lincoln. In this emergency Mr. Lincoln magnanimously said to the Whigs, "You ought to drop me and go for Trumbull. That is the only way you can defeat Matteson. The cause in this case is to be preferred to men."

Mr. Lincoln was reserved for the conspicuous campaign of 1858, when he should contest for senatorial honors with Mr. Douglas and discuss the great issues of slavery extension in the hearing of the nation. Meanwhile, the bloody conflicts between the freedom loving settlers of Kansas, and the border ruffians, took place, and the North became aroused over the plan of the pro-slavery men to foist pro-slavery constitutions upon the territories that should seek admission to the union. For these events, Mr. Lincoln held Mr. Douglas responsible, and he likewise held fast to the conservative position that the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was an act of bad faith, and that slavery should not be extended into territories heretofore free.

The first national convention of the Republican party met in February, 1856, and made its platform on the lines of Mr. Lincoln's contention on the subject of slavery. His prominence in the eye of the party was evinced by the fact that from that convention he received 110 votes for the vice-presidency. His voice was heard during the campaign, discussing the great issues of the time. In 1858, a Democratic state convention met in Illinois, which besides nominating a state ticket, indorsed the name of Stephen A. Douglas as his own successor in the senate. That crafty politician had begun to have doubts

as to whether the Lecompton constitution was the act and deed of the people of Kansas, and sought to recall the support of the people of his state, who were estranged from him by the violence that had been introduced in Kansas. In the effort to restrain the friends of freedom from freely voting upon the issues that were really before them, it was even suggested that Mr. Douglas was on his way to the Republican fold.

Mr. Lincoln was not deceived by Mr. Douglas's change of attitude. There was an election of senator in the next year in the state of Illinois, and the two candidates were the author of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill and his most conspicuous opponent. If this prize should not slip from Mr. Douglas's grasp, he must disavow some of the fruits of his labor on behalf of slavery, and thus retain enough of his former supporters for his election. It was upon his record as a tool of slavery to open the territories to that institution, and upon the ground of his inconsistency in presenting the doctrine of popular sovereignty, that Mr. Lincoln assailed him in his candidacy for the United States Senate.

In April, 1858, a Democratic state convention met in Illinois and indorsed Mr. Douglas. He had so befogged many leading men of Illinois that they begged the Republicans to trust him, and put no one in nomination against him. Already Mr. Lincoln perceived that Mr. Douglas had been crowded into a position that would ultimately destroy his chances of leading a united Democratic party in a national election, for in failing to uphold the Lecompton convention, and in representing in Illinois

that popular sovereignty would demonstrate the ability of the territories to protect themselves from slavery, he created genuine alarm in the South. Mr. Lincoln's battle was nearly won. It did not matter if Mr. Douglas should defeat him by his insincere scheming in 1858. A greater day of reckoning was coming in 1860.

On the 16th of June the Republican convention of Illinois passed a resolution unanimously declaring that "Abraham Lincoln is our first and only choice for United States Senator to fill the vacancy about to be created by the expiration of Mr. Douglas's term of office." On the evening of that day he locked his office door and produced the manuscript of a speech and read the opening paragraph to his partner, Mr. Herndon. When he had finished he looked into the astonished face of Mr. Herndon and asked him, "How do you like that?"

It was the speech that was to be delivered before the Republican convention, avowing his candidacy for the Senate. The paragraph was as follows:

"Gentlemen of the Convention: If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it. We are now far on into the fifth year since a policy was initiated with the avowed object and confident promise, of putting an end to slavery agitation. Under the operation of that policy, that agitation has not only not ceased but has constantly augmented. In my opinion it will not cease until a crisis has been reached and passed. 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.' I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not

expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall. But I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the farther spread of it and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction, or its adversaries will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the states, old as well as new; North as well as South."

Then followed a masterly review of the aggressive steps by which pro-slavery legislators had sought to extend the institution, and the part that Mr. Douglas had played in it, and his present inconsistent attitude toward his party and his insincere overture to the Republican party. Then with the clarion peal of an acknowledged, trusted, and confident leader, he concluded:

"Two years ago the Republicans of the nation mustered, over thirteen hundred thousand strong. We did this under the single impulse of resistance to a common danger, with every external circumstance against us. Of strange, discordant, and even hostile elements, we gathered from the four winds, and formed and fought the battle through under the constant hot fire of a disciplined, proud and pampered enemy. Did we brave all that to fall now? Now, when that same enemy is wavering, dissevered and belligerent? The result is not doubtful. We shall not fail: If we stand firm we shall not fail. Wise counsels may accelerate or mistakes delay it, but sooner or later the victory is sure to come."

Mr. Herndon said, "Is it politic to speak it as it is

written?" referring to the expression, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Mr. Lincoln answered, "I want to use some universally known figure, expressed in simple language as universally known, that may strike home to the minds of men in order to rouse them to the peril of the times. I would rather be defeated with this expression in the speech, and it held up and discussed before the people, than to be victorious without it."

Other friends were called in council. They thought his utterance impolitic and sure to lead to his defeat. Mr. Lincoln heard them patiently. Mr. Herndon was the only one who said:

"Lincoln, deliver it just as it reads, the speech is true, wise, politic and will succeed now or in the future."

Then Mr. Lincoln broke silence and said, "Friends, I have thought about the matter a great deal, have weighed the question well from all corners, and am thoroughly convinced the time has come when it should be uttered, and if it must be, that I must go down because of this speech, then let me go down linked to truth, die in the advocacy of what is right and just. This nation cannot live on injustice. 'A house divided against itself cannot stand,' I say again and again."

He spoke these words with deep emotion. For him the die was cast. The speech was delivered.

The Democrats thought he had dug his political grave. The conservative Republicans shrugged their shoulders. They thought it presaged defeat. The radical Republicans and the Abolitionists recognized in it the platform

of the coming struggle, and the watchword of victory.

Then followed the campaign with its joint meetings. It was the intellectual combat of Titans. Mighty assemblies gathered all over the state, and the press of the nation reproduced the struggle so that the entire country witnessed the combat. The whole question of slavery, and Mr. Douglas's relation to it, was discussed, in a manner perfectly satisfactory to the friends of freedom and union. In the course of the campaign, with the shrewdness of the great lawyer that he was, Lincoln asked Mr. Douglas for a candid answer to four questions that he might get an answer to one of them. That question was, "Can the people of a United States Territory in any lawful way, against the wishes of any citizen of the United States, exclude slavery from its limits?"

Mr. Douglas answered, "It matters not what way the Supreme Court may hereafter decide as to the abstract question, whether slavery may or may not go into a territory, under the Constitution. The people have the lawful means to introduce or exclude it as they please, for the reason that slavery cannot exist a day or an hour anywhere unless it is supported by local police regulations. Those police regulations can only be established by the local legislature, and if the people are opposed to slavery they will elect representatives to that body who will, by unfriendly legislation, effectually prevent the introduction of it into their midst."

The doctrine of "possible unfriendly legislation" alarmed and incensed the South. The wedge that had been started by Mr. Douglas's Anti-Lecompton attitude,



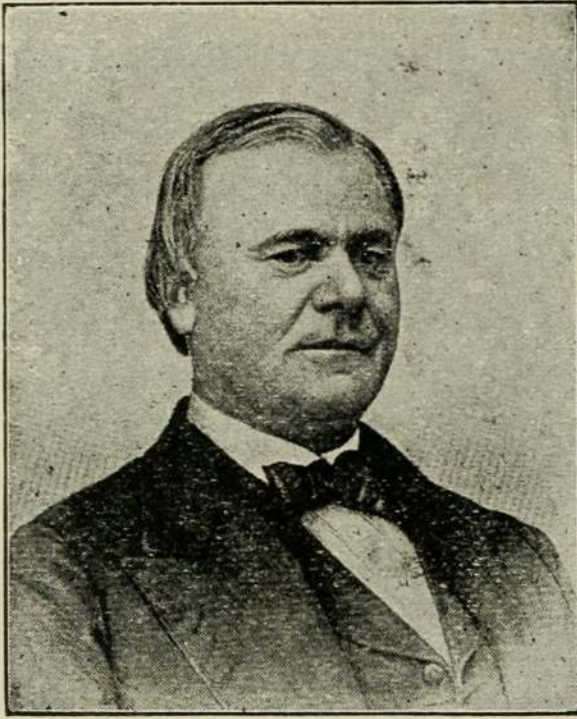
was driven still deeper by the answer to this question. It presaged the sundering of the Democratic party in twain, and the triumph of the principles of Mr. Lincoln's Springfield speech. The election that should determine the senator-ship took place Nov. 2, 1858. The ticket which Mr. Lincoln championed had four thousand more votes than the Democratic, but by an old and inequitable apportionment of the districts of the state, a majority of the law-makers chosen were Democrats. Mr. Douglas was re-elected. When asked how he felt over the result, Mr. Lincoln answered that he felt like the boy that stubbed his toe. It hurt too bad to laugh and he was too big to cry. But he won a reputation as a debater that was a revelation to the nation. He was so strong, so fair, so temperate, so manly, in the great conflict, that he instantly took front rank among the national leaders who were devoted to the union and opposed to the extension of slavery.

On the 25th of February, 1860, he was invited to New York, and delivered at Cooper Institute, before one of the most brilliant of American audiences, his masterly review of the political questions of the hour. His utterances were all that could be desired. The nation had made his acquaintance and acknowledged his power and worth.

On May 9th and 10th, the Republican state convention of Illinois met at Decatur. Mr. Lincoln was present as a spectator, sitting quietly just within the door of the wigwam. Richard J. Oglesby was on the platform. He arose and stated:

“I am informed that a distinguished citizen of Illinois

and one whom Illinois will ever delight to honor, is present, and I wish to move that this body invite him to a seat on the stand." Here Mr. Oglesby paused, as if to tantalize his audience and arouse their curiosity,



Richard J. Oglesby,  
War Governor of Illinois.

and then he announced the magic name of Abraham Lincoln.

Pandemonium reigned for a while in that wigwam. Then the motion was seconded and carried with tumultuous shouts and Mr. Lincoln was carried over the heads of the audience to his place on the platform. Mr. Lincoln rose, smiled, bowed and blushed, as if overwhelmed

with the enthusiastic attention of his fellow citizens. Later, Mr. Oglesby rose again with a mysterious speech upon his lips:

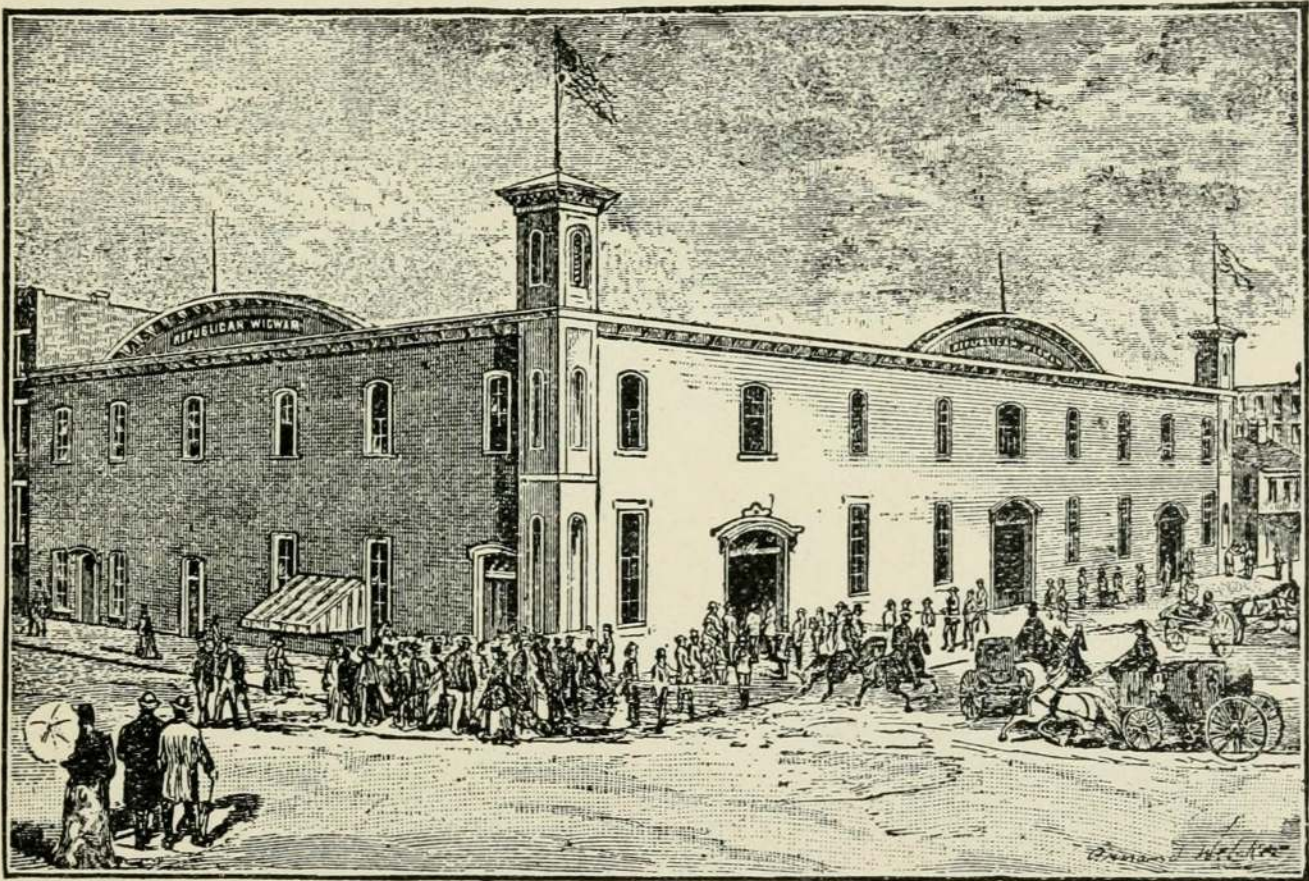
"There is an old Democrat," said he, "waiting outside, who has something he wishes to present to the convention."

"Receive it," they cried.

The doors of the wigwam opened and in marched old John Hanks with two fence rails on his shoulders, bearing the inscription, "Two rails, from a lot made by Abraham Lincoln and John Hanks, in the Sangamon bottom, in the year 1830." The audience was beside itself. Mr.

Lincoln blushed and laughed. They insisted upon a speech, and he said:

“Gentlemen: I suppose you want to know something about those things. Well, the truth is John Hanks and I did make rails in the Sangamon bottom. I don’t know



The Wigwam, at Chicago. The Building in which Lincoln was Nominated for the Presidency by the Republican Party, May 18, 1860.

whether we made those rails or not. The fact is I don’t think they are a credit to the makers. But I do know that I made rails then, and think I could make better ones than those now.”

That convention closed with a resolution declaring: “Abraham Lincoln is the first choice of the Republican party of Illinois for the presidency,” and instructing the

delegates to the Chicago convention to use all honorable means to secure his nomination and to cast the vote of the state as a unit for him.

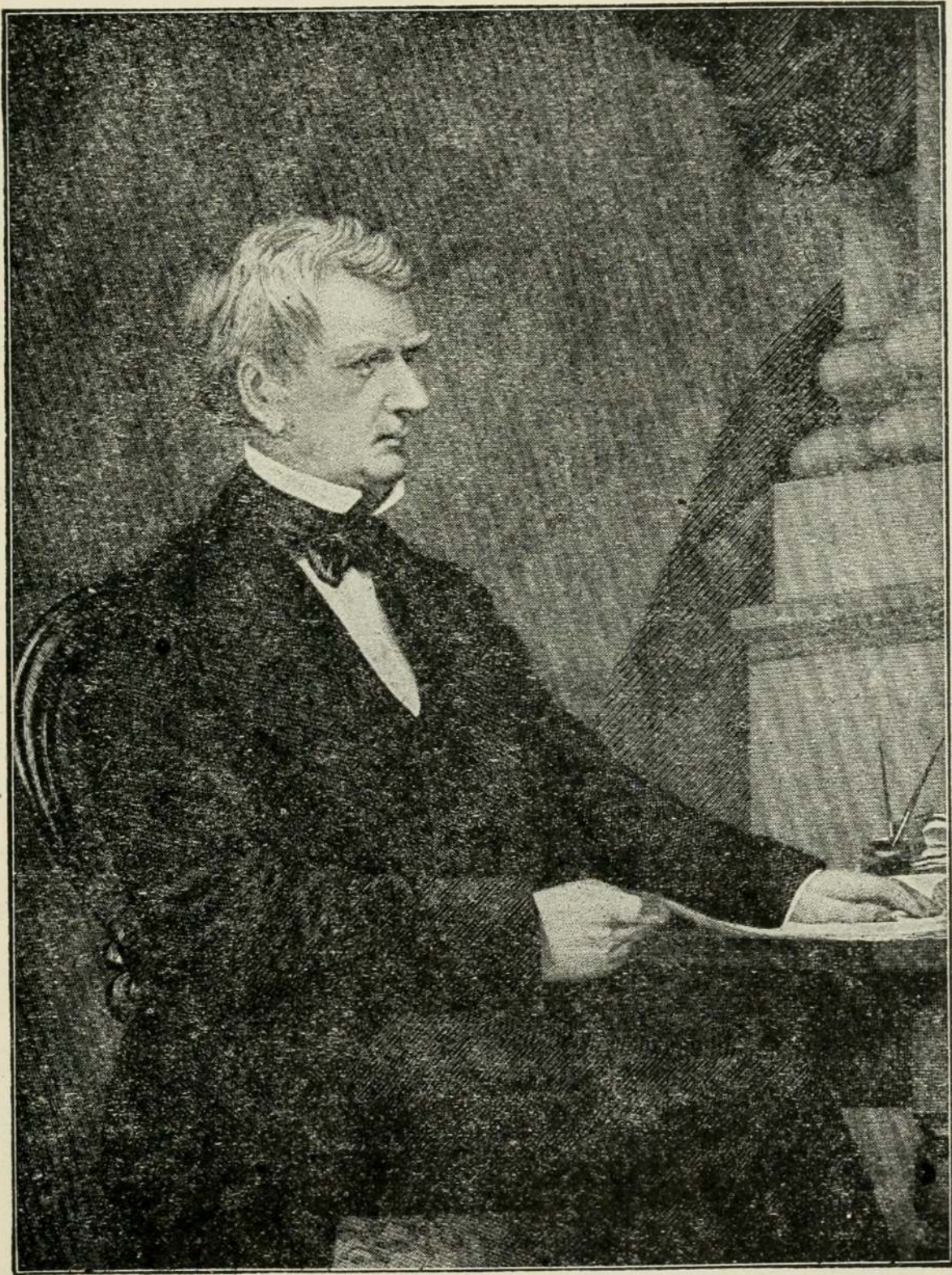
Thus was the movement started that should make Abraham Lincoln, the flat-boatman, the rail splitter, the standard-bearer of the Republican party in the fateful election of 1860.

The convention met at Chicago on the 16th of May in a great wigwam at the corner of Lake and Market Streets. William H. Seward of New York was the representative man of the East for the highest office in the gift of the nation, at the hands of the Republican party. Favorite sons of other states received complimentary votes on the first ballot.

On the third ballot Mr. Lincoln had distanced all competitors and was within 1-1/2 votes of the nomination. Those votes were quickly given and the nomination was made unanimous. When the dispatch announcing his nomination was handed him, at Springfield, he started home with it, saying:

“Gentlemen, there is a little short woman at our house who is probably more interested in this dispatch than I am, and if you will excuse me I will take it up and let her see it.”

The formal letters of notification and acceptance were passed. The Democrats were divided, as Mr. Lincoln had foreseen. His Freeport question had rent them in twain. Douglas and Breckenridge were their standard bearers, and the result was not difficult to foresee. On the 6th of November, the nation recorded its verdict. Abraham



William H. Seward.  
Born 1801. Died 1872.

Lincoln was President-elect of the United States. Between November and March there was much to be done. His cabinet was to be chosen, numerous offices were to be filled, his private affairs were to be wound up. The magnanimity of his mind was soon made apparent in his willingness to appoint his opponents to the highest offices within his gift.

He offered the Secretaryship of the Treasury to Mr. Guthrie of Kentucky; another secretaryship was tendered to Mr. Gilmer of North Carolina; Stephens of Georgia was also approached. He saw, as few party men could see, the injustice and impolicy of administering the government in the interest of a party that had no existence in the southern states. Though he was a conqueror, he was a conciliator, and if grave trouble was to be safely avoided, he would leave no stone unturned to avoid it.

Without jealousy or fear, he intrusted the foremost places in his cabinet to his late political rivals, utterly oblivious to the suggestion that they might outshine or supplant him.

Seward, the accomplished, eloquent statesman from New York, he made his Secretary of State, Chase his Secretary of the Treasury, Bates his Attorney General.

Cameron and Smith he appointed in deference to the suggestions of his friends, for services rendered, as alleged, in securing his nomination. Hundreds of office seekers made a pilgrimage to Springfield and made life a burden to him. He listened to their

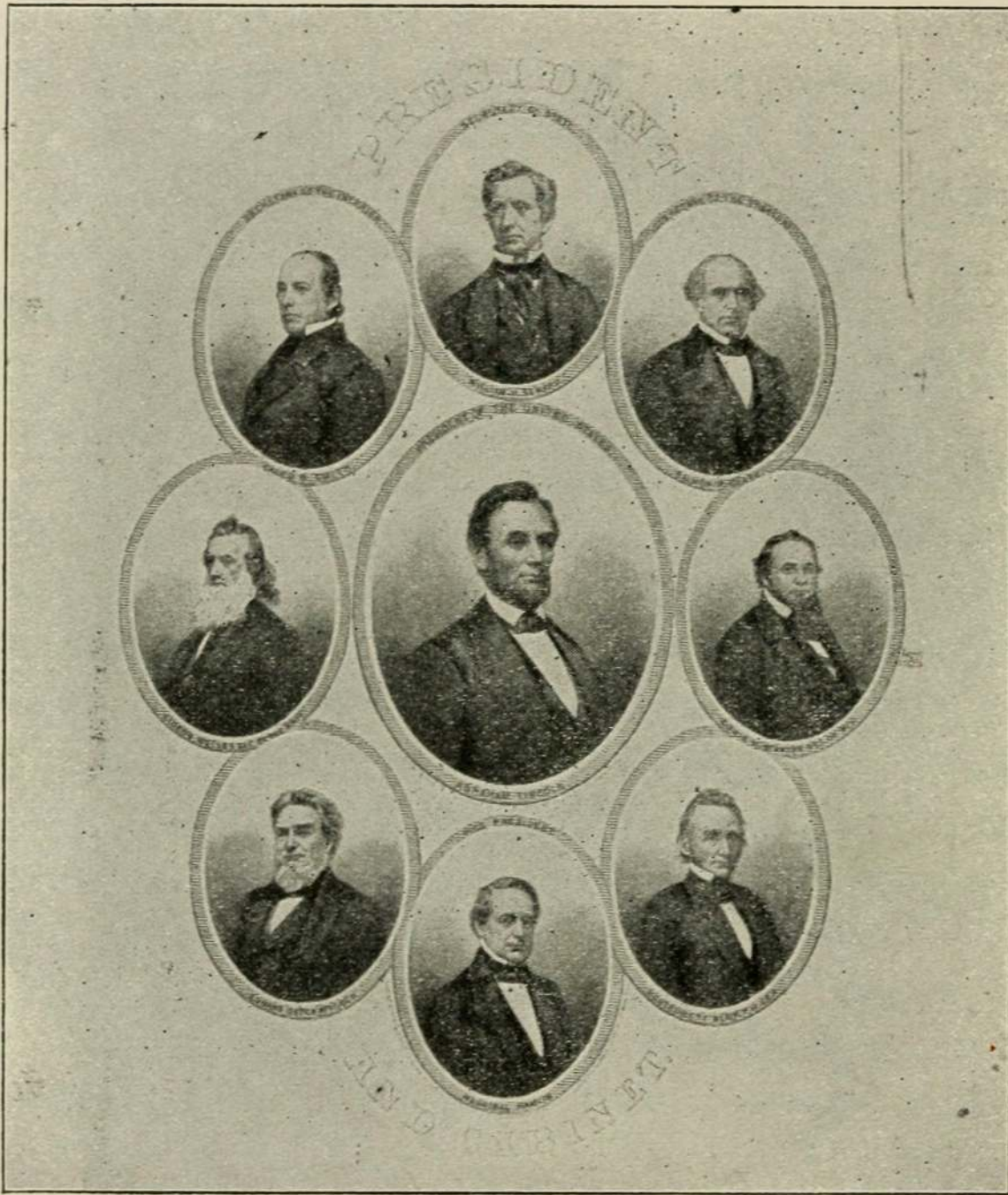
plea, regaled them with an apposite story and sent them on their way. Many of his old-time friends hoped to reap the reward of their friendship in appointment to office, and felt hardly toward him that their cases were not always favorably considered. But he would not have it said that he used his public position in the interest of his friends. Then too, old friends and old scenes must be visited that he might say good-bye, for his long absence, from the region where he had grown to manhood. He made a tender farewell visit to his old step-mother, who had been a mother indeed. He visited New Salem and shook hands with thousands of his old friends, whom he had known in all the phases of his career.

The framing of his policy and the writing of his inaugural address were absorbing cares. As he looked out on the alarming situation in the South and the imbecility and knavery that was being manifested in Washington, his forced inactivity till March was like a consuming canker. Southern States were seceding and appropriating national property. The arsenals of the North were being looted for the benefit of the South, by order of the Secretary of War. Frantic efforts were being made in Congress to concoct some scheme of compromise that would save the union, and Mr. Lincoln was implored to, speak some word, or offer some suggestion as to his policy, that would help the situation. To such as sought to know his position, he referred them to his record.

To the committee of thirty-three in the House he said, "Entertain no compromise in regard to the extension of slavery." To Mr. Washburne he said on this point:

“Hold firm, as with a chain of steel.”

On Dec. 17th, he wrote to Thurlow Weed that “no state can in any way, lawfully, get out of the union without



President Lincoln and his Cabinet.

the consent of the others,” and, that “it is the duty of the president and other government functionaries to run the machine as it is.” To Mr. Washburne he wrote, for the



advice of General Scott, "Please present my respects to the General and tell him, confidentially, that I shall be obliged to him to be as well prepared as he can to either hold, or retake the forts, as the case may require, at and after the inauguration." The summary way in which General Jackson had dealt with the nullifiers of 1830 and '32 was a frequent study during these months of waiting.

At length the time came for his departure to the scene of his labors. With his mind fully made up, his cabinet chosen, his inaugural written, he bade farewell to his old partner, as we have related. Judge Gillespie, an old friend, called to say good-bye and told him he believed it would do him good to get to Washington.

"I know it will," Lincoln replied, "I only wish I could have got there to lock the door before the horse was stolen. But when I get to the spot I can find the tracks."

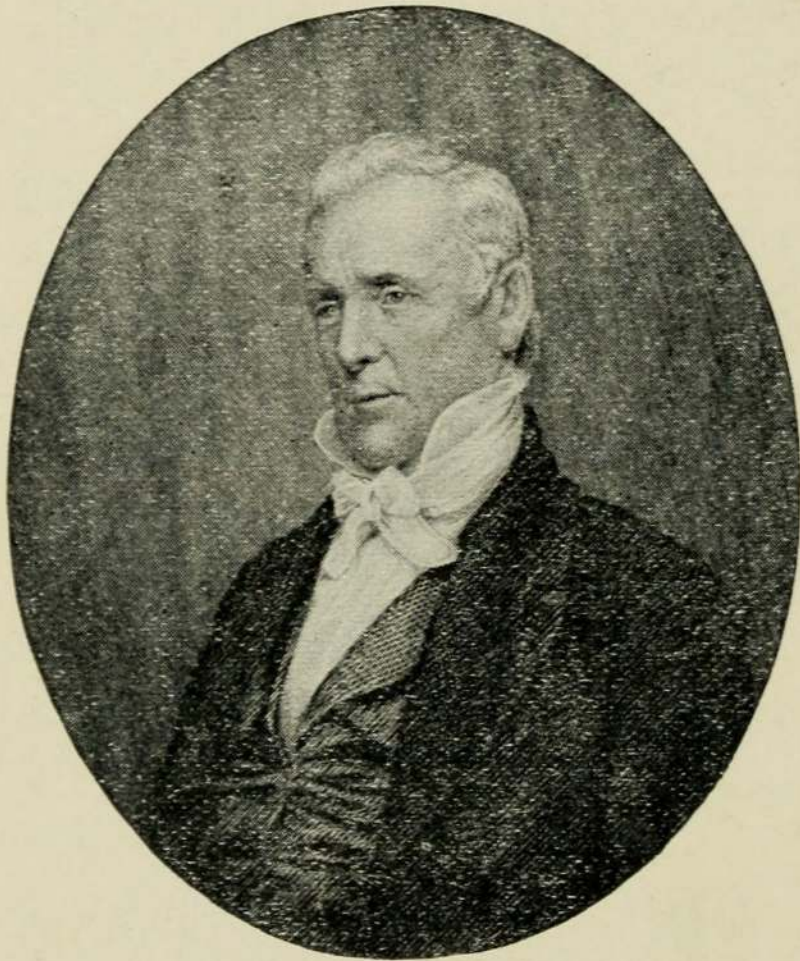
With tender farewell he addressed the citizens of Springfield, commending them to the Divine care, and begging their prayers on his behalf.

At different stages on the route he stated his position with a clearness that admitted no uncertainty, that he purposed to rule justly, respecting the rights of all under the Constitution, maintaining the rights and possessions of the nation in all its parts.

Assassins lay in wait for him, but he avoided them and reached the Capital in safety more than a week before the inauguration. On the 27th of February, when waited upon by the mayor and common council of Washington, he assured them, and the South through them, that he had no disposition to treat them in any other way

than as neighbors, and that he had no disposition to withhold from them any constitutional rights. They should all have their rights under the Constitution, not grudgingly, but fully and fairly.

No more fateful or solemn inauguration of a president ever took place than that of Abraham Lincoln on the 4th



James Buchanan. Fifteenth President  
Born 1791. Died 1868.

of March, 1861. As he stood before the Capitol, serene, brave, true to the noble instincts of his nature, and the promise of his life, resolutely set on upholding freedom and the Constitution, there surged about him a swarm of traitors and conspirators, whose purposes were but thinly concealed. President Buchanan was there, whose irreso-

luteness had permitted secession to get good headway. Chief-Justice Taney and his associates were there, whose perverse ingenuity had formulated the Dred Scott Decision. Generals soon to be conspicuous in the ranks of the rebel army, surrounded him. Seward, the great rival whom he had distanced, stood near. Chase, Scott, Sumner and Wade, who should hold up his hands in the day of

battle were there, and Douglas was holding the president's hat, though the ambition of his life had been overthrown by the man who was now the "observed of all observers." He was solicitous for the safety and convenience of the new president and defiant to the enemies of the union.

The great inaugural was but the fuller statement of the views to which he had given expression in the period since his election. It was conciliatory, but clear and firm. He said, "I have no purpose directly, or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it now exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so." "I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution the union of the states is perpetual. I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the union be faithfully executed in all the states. In doing this there need be no blood-shed or violence and there shall be none unless it is forced upon the national authority."

He pointed out the way of curing dissatisfaction with the form of government, by amending it, or by their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it. Then he counseled patience in the consideration of sources of dissatisfaction, declaring that intelligent patriotism and Christianity and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, in the best way, all our present difficulties. Then, as if clothed with the full dignity of his magisterial office, he pronounced these solemn and beautiful sentences, "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and

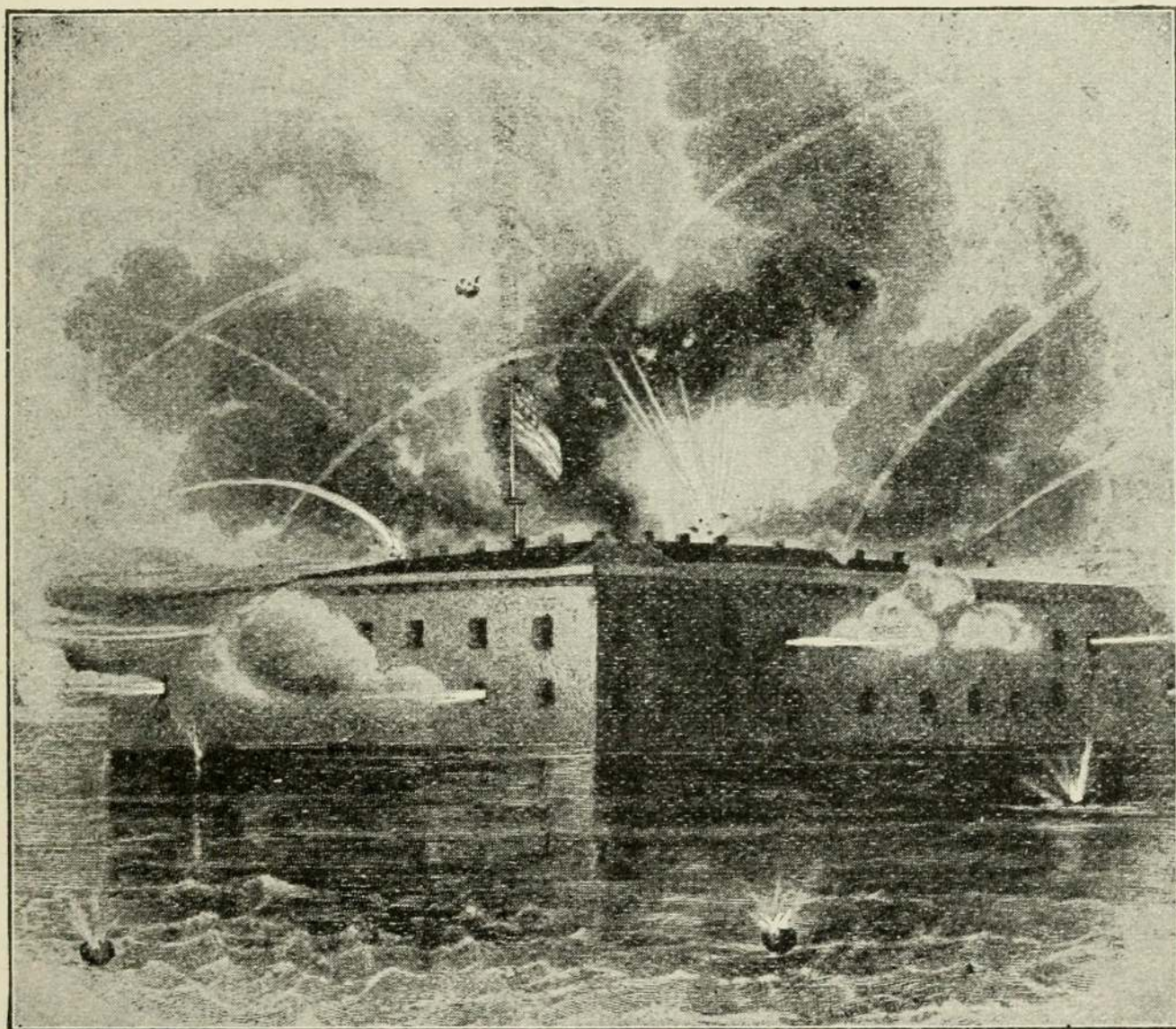
not in mine, are the momentous issues of civil war. The government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government, while I have the most solemn one to preserve, protect, and defend it. I am loath to close. We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it will not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." But these gentle words were lost upon the men who had already committed themselves to the disruption of the union and the founding of a Confederacy, of which the institution of slavery should be the chief corner stone.

On the evening of the 4th of March, Mr. Lincoln entered the White House, that should be his home for the remainder of his days. There, was sumptuousness and elegance to which he was not accustomed, formality and etiquette, that in his quiet life he had not practiced, but to all he adjusted himself with that simple grace that marked the American citizen, born to the purple and destined to command.

He found the government in confusion, seven states in secession and a rebel government already organized at Montgomery, Alabama. The Southern heart had been fired and her young men were in arms.

He nominated his cabinet and set himself earnestly

at work upon the tasks that were forced upon him. Though his counselors were able men, famed for leadership, they were only his advisers. He was their chief, President of the Nation and Commander-in-Chief of the



The Bombardment of Ft. Sumter, April 12, 1861.

army and navy of the United States. If any of them supposed that he would divide that responsibility or yield to their dictation they were soon, kindly but firmly, disabused. Some of the Southern leaders thought that there would be no war, that the North was divided and that the Northern people would not fight. There was

some encouragement to this idea, but not in the calm, resolute purpose of the new President.

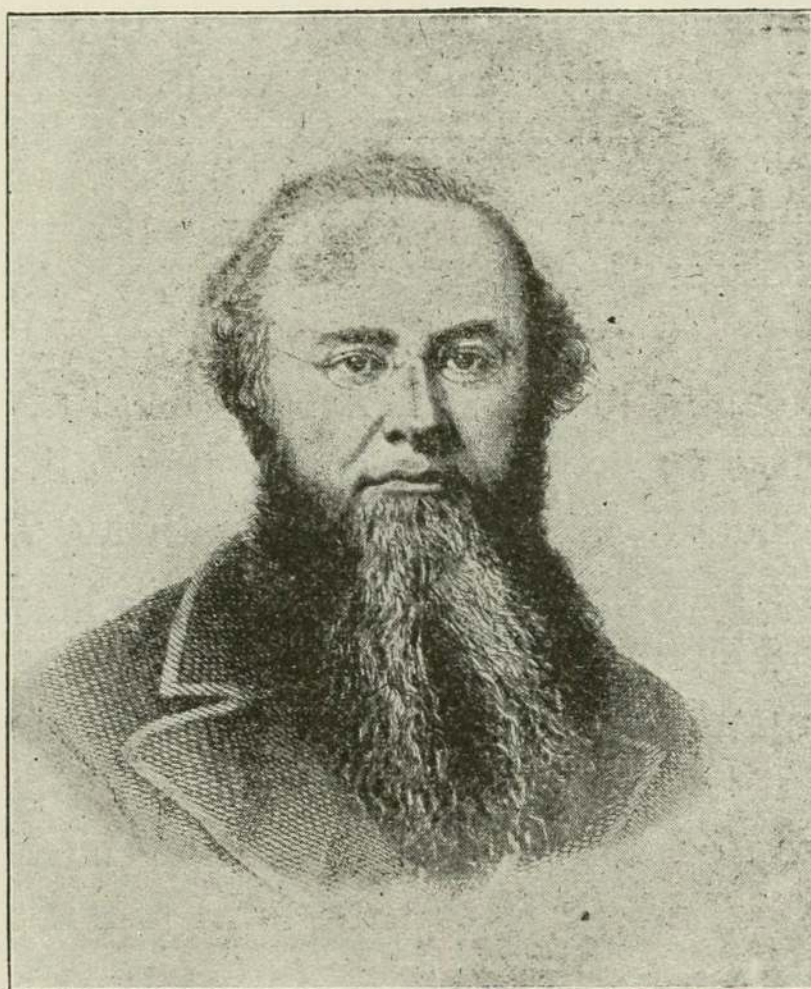
On the 15th of April, the President issued his first call for seventy-five thousand volunteers to put down the rebellion. Ft. Sumter had been attacked and had fallen. One by one the rebel leaders had slunk away from the scene of their treason, Breckinridge among the last. The war was forced upon him. Patriotic devotion to the Union effaced all differences. Half a million of men responded to the President's call. Congress voted men and money for the prosecution of the war. The times were inauspicious. The best generals of the country were in the rebel service. Arms, ammunition, and accoutrements, had been seized, and foreign sympathies, and hostile diplomacy, raised grave problems for the new executive; but he faltered not. Disasters came, incompetent commanders and inadequate preparations demonstrated that war would be discouraging and tedious. Still, he did not falter. He succeeded in holding Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri in the union, and in dividing Virginia and holding West Virginia loyal.

When Congress met in Dec., 1861, in his message on the slavery question, he said, "I have adhered to the act of Congress freeing persons held to service used for insurrectionary purposes." In relation to the emancipation and arming of the negroes he said, "The maintenance of the integrity of the union is the primary object of the contest. The union must be preserved and all indispensable means must be employed. We should not be in haste to determine that radical and extreme measures,

which may reach the loyal as well as the disloyal, are indispensable." The possibility of injustice to the border states led him to counsel patience.

During this session of Congress, slavery was forbidden in the territories of the United States, and Mr. Lincoln labored with the representatives of the border states to accept the idea of gradual compensated emancipation, which they declined. In his second message, he urged the proposition upon congress of gradual and compensated emancipation. I cannot forbear quoting some of his words. In concluding his appeal he said:

"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty. We must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country. Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history! We of this



Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War.  
Born 1814. Died 1869.

congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the last generation. We say we are for the Union. The world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union. The world knows we do know how to save it. We, even we, here hold the power and bear the responsibility. In giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free, honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth. Other means may succeed; this could not fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just—a way which if followed, the world will forever applaud and God must forever bless.”

His plan, so earnestly and eloquently presented, resulted in no action. The matter pressed upon his mind until, on his own responsibility, he issued his proclamation of warning, his own magisterial act, on Sept. 22, 1862, advising the states in rebellion that if they did not return to loyalty by January, 1863, he would issue a proclamation emancipating their slaves. January came, and with it the most momentous document in the history of the country, wherein the names of the states in rebellion were cited; and then, by virtue of his power as President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, he ordered and declared that “all persons held as slaves within said designated states and parts of states, are and henceforward shall be, free,” and that “the Executive Government of the United States, includ-



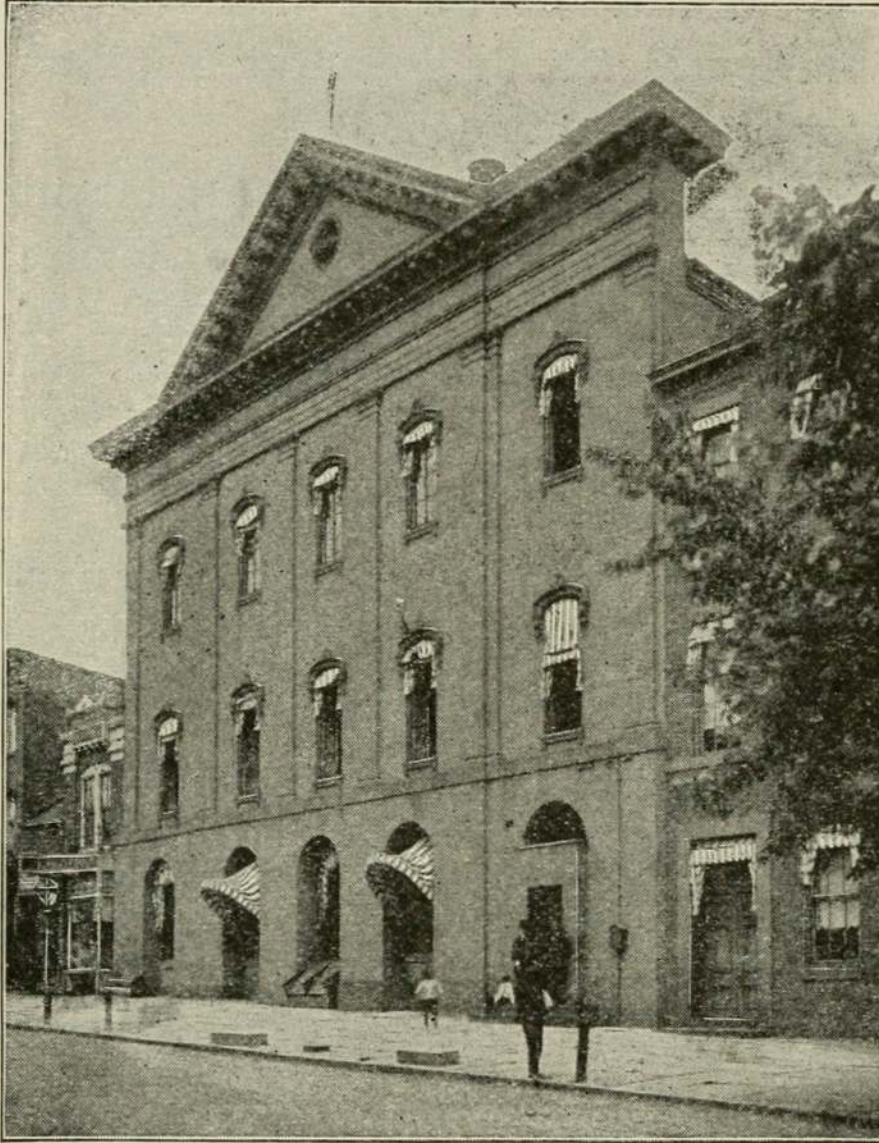
ing the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.”

Upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice warranted by the constitution, upon military necessity, he invoked, “the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.”

It was the crowning act of his career. The moment of destiny had come and found him ready. The promise of his young manhood, made amid the slave scenes of New Orleans, “If I ever get a chance to hit Slavery I’ll hit it hard,” was fulfilled. Henceforth, he is Lincoln the Emancipator!

Supplementary legislation gave full effect to the purpose of this great document, reaching to the slaves in border states and in sections under the control of the Union. The tide of battle turned in favor of the Union, and ere the close of his term the purposes for which he had gone from Springfield to Washington were well-nigh accomplished. Through it all, he was the masterful leader, bearing his own burden; resting his often breaking heart and burdened mind with the wit and humor that had always been so restful to him; bearing with patience the mistakes and jealousies and malice of men; never faltering in his steady course; wisely avoiding entanglement with foreign nations till our crisis should be passed; practicing humanity and kindness that sterner men thought subversive of discipline; approachable to all who had an errand, or who needed to invoke the great, strong, kind-hearted President. He came down to the close of his first term of office to be triumphantly re-elected, and to

inaugurate the work of reconstruction, for he who saved the Union was, in the judgment of the people, the one who might most effectually restore it to its old form, free



Ford's Theatre, Washington, where Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, April 14, 1865.

from the curse of slavery, to the condition of a great homogeneous common-wealth, the home of happiness and thrift and freedom. He began his work with his old kind, conciliatory, yet self-confident, tact, and just as he had begun, the bullet of an assassin removed him from labor to reward.

That assassination conferred on him the crown of martyrdom. If he had survived, he might have been Moses and Joshua in one. It was enough that he was Moses.

Let us close with the words of Owen Lovejoy, spoken when emancipation resolutions were under consideration and Mr. Crittenden had said, "I have a niche for Abraham

Lincoln." Mr. Lovejoy exclaimed, "I, too, have a niche for Abraham Lincoln, but it is in Freedom's holy fame and not in the blood besmeared temple of human bondage; not surrounded by slaves, fetters and chains, but with the symbols of freedom; not dark with bondage but radiant with the light of liberty. In that niche he shall stand proudly, nobly, gloriously, with shattered fetters and broken chains and slave whips at his feet.

"If Abraham Lincoln pursues the path evidently pointed out for him in the Providence of God, as I believe he will, then he will occupy the proud position I have indicated. That is a fame worth living for, aye, more, that is a fame worth dying for, though that death led through the blood of Gethsemane and the agony of the accursed tree. That is a fame which has glory, honor and immortality and eternal life.

"Let Abraham Lincoln make himself, as I trust he will, the Emancipator, the Liberator, as he has the opportunity of doing, and his name shall be not only enrolled in this earthly temple, but it will be traced on the living stones of the temple which rears its head amid the thrones and hierarchies of heaven, whose top stone is to be brought in with shouting of 'Grace unto it.'"

Mr. Lovejoy's confidence was not in vain.

# LINCOLN, "THE EMANCIPATOR."

(1809—1865)

BY G. MERCER ADAM.\*

IF there ever was a life consecrated from early manhood to humanity's cause, it was that of Lincoln, "the Emancipator," the revered martyred President who fell in Freedom's name. His death, sad and lamented as it was and is, was, however, a glorious and triumphal one, for it did almost as much for Freedom, and, no matter of what color the people were, for individual rights and popular liberty in this great nation, as was done by the holocaust of human life that fell in their cause, and by the colossal sums expended throughout a most critical and appalling era. His demise and the manner of it, after so strenuous, honest, and conscientious a life, influenced, if it did not actually mould, the immediate future of the nation, and gave reconstruction such a set and direction as it might hardly otherwise have had, while potently reuniting and cementing the riven Union. One far-seeing and most humane event in Lincoln's administration, while he lived, was instrumental not only in adding glory to his name, but in bringing about the close of the great conflict of his time. We refer, of course, to the edict of Emancipation and the prohibiting of slavery in the States and Territories of the Union. Emancipation, it is true,

---

\* Historian, Biographer, and Essayist, Author of a "Precis of English History," a "Continuation of Grecian History," etc., and for many years Editor of *Self-Culture Magazine*.—The Publishers.

was resorted to as "a war measure" in the thick of the deadly contest; but with Lincoln, long before the era of the decree and the amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery forever from the country, the vile traffic had always been held in abhorrence, and deep in his mind had lain the thought of abolishing it or seeing it abolished. The immediate effect of the measure, we know, was to drive the South to the verge of desperation; while at the North it was only partially accepted and for a time it aroused even bitter animadversion. Happily, however, a change of sentiment came ere long, when it was seen what freedom meant to the slave, and how telling were the consequences of emancipation in the issues of the war. The act, almost entirely, was Lincoln's own, and its consummation did surpassing honor to him, as well as to his administration, and, at large, to the people who endorsed and applauded it.

There is little need here to rehearse the well-known incidents in Lincoln's modest trading venture down the Mississippi, which led the great and humane President early in his career to become an abolitionist, though he was never a negrophilist. To a heart so tender as his and so open to the dictates of justice and the rights of all, the sights he witnessed in that expedition in the flatboat on the great river of manacled and whipped slaves, were sufficient to turn his mind and heart against slavery and to avow, as he expressed it, that some day he would "hit it hard," while he knew and affirmed that it could never be compromised with. His conservatism and moderation, together with his respect for law, at the outset of his career made him, not tolerant towards

the evil institution, nor timid in his attitude towards it, but careful to keep it within bounds and prevent its extension where it was not law. This it is that has led some writers to deny that Lincoln was opposed to slavery as a crime and a moral wrong, and to affirm that he assumed hostility to it only as a political manoeuvre, especially after his memorable contest with Stephen A. Douglas. This, we think, unfair and ungenerous toward the great Emancipator, since few men in public life have more remarkably shown, as Lincoln throughout his career showed, a sense of moral right and a mind and heart influenced by humane motives, and prone to kindness himself and by precept and example urged its sway and interaction upon others. In some measure, then, critics are right, and are justified by Lincoln's own written and spoken words in regard to slavery. But while it is true that Lincoln's hand was for a time stayed by the limits of the Constitution, and by his early powerlessness to root the giant evil out, and while Emancipation was resorted to as a means of saving the Union by an astute war measure, it is nevertheless also true that its author was, and had long been, opposed in his heart of hearts to the curse of slavery, believed it to be founded upon injustice and bad policy, and though he would not force abolition upon any State against the popular will and voice, he yet hated it thoroughly and looked with pain and abhorrence upon its existence in any and all sections of the Union.

It may also assuredly be said that Lincoln looked forward with confidence to the ultimate extinction of slavery, though it took, as it did, a great crisis in the history of the Nation to get rid of it. His own belief in this respect is enshrined

not only in the momentous edict that forever banned it from the Republic, in his opposition to the Dred Scott decision, on the ground that it deprived the black man of the rights and privileges of citizenship, but in those prophetic words of his which he uttered at the Springfield convention, in 1858, that nominated him for the United States Senate. In that cry for unity and singlemindedness in the Nation he affirmed his belief that the Government of the country "cannot endure permanently half-slave and half-free," for, as he added, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Once more, in 1864, he said in memorable words, "if slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong"—a dictum of unmistakable truth and force;—while he knew that the war then going on between the North and South was a struggle on the part of the latter, not only for the right of secession, but to perpetuate slavery, the one factor that had divided the country into two hostile and irreconcilable camps, and was, materially and socially, the distinctive barrier between them. With the prescience that marked his statesmanship, he saw this fact so clearly that the Proclamation of Emancipation was the result—a measure that almost everywhere was hailed by the plaudits of mankind; while, in the wording of the Act itself and in Lincoln's own defence of it, we see the great Liberator's realization of the profound moral agitation of the era and the significance of the remedy he would apply in bringing about the abiding issue of the conflict.

We have dealt with Mr. Lincoln's moral convictions in regard to slavery, and of the righteousness of the measure he resorted to in planning and launching, at the right juncture in a critical time, the great Act of Emancipation. Of the

President's other conspicuous virtues and characteristics much also might be said, and that not merely in the way of commendation, but as the memorial of an eminent and highly revered life of perpetual and priceless value as an example to the Nation. One of the notable qualities in the man, which has been the theme of not a little controversy, is that of his own personal religious life. The question has repeatedly been asked: "What was his religious belief, if he had any," for some venture, and wrongly and unjustly, we believe, to class him as an unbeliever and agnostic. Of Mr. Lincoln's religious life we do not know much, since he never revealed his whole inner self to anyone. In early life he was doubtless indifferent to religion; but when he came to high position he appeared to treat office as a trust, and again and again acted as if he were plastic in the hands of a Divine Being. His unblemished life, and thoughtful, humane career, and the consecration of himself to the Nation's need, show that he lived his life under a deep sense of responsibility to a Higher Power.

At Salem, Illinois, he seems early to have come in contact with a rather reckless set of men, of the rough Western type, who among their other crudenesses indulged in scoffings at things sacred. With these men, Lincoln, in his promiscuous comradeship, had associations, and it is probable that at this time he joined them in their heedless flings at Christian truth, and especially at the sects and their jarring discords. But if he took part in their levities, and even aired some of the cheap witicisms directed against religion by Volney and Tom Paine, of whose sceptical writings he had been a reader, it was at an immature stage of



his intellectual and moral life, and before he was impressed with the realities of human existence, and with the providential dealings of that Heavenly Power which he was afterwards profoundly to acknowledge and pay reverence to. Later on, we see the true, frank, outspoken but reverent man, who was the embodiment of kindness and "as tender as a woman"—the man who got near to the people, for whom he had a great, large-hearted, human love. To such he often spoke affectionately and most truly his mind, as on the occasion of his leaving Springfield, Ill., to assume at the capital the arduous duties of the Presidency. At the station, before his departure, he addressed a large assemblage of his fellow citizens and old acquaintances who had come to bid him good-bye. "Friends," he said to them, "one who has never been placed in a like position can little understand my feelings at this hour, nor the oppressive sadness I feel at this parting. I go to assume a task more difficult than that which devolved upon Washington. Unless the great God who assisted him shall be with and aid me, I must fail; but if the same omniscient mind and almighty arm that directed and protected him shall guide and support me, I shall *not* fail, I shall succeed." This is the true Lincoln, and in the above words there is the mighty source owned by him of his dependence and need. A like religious attitude he also manifested throughout his administrations; and during the great era of strife, when victory was vouchsafed to the North by the God of battles, often to that omnipotent Being did he publicly, and among intimates and associates, give devout and grateful thanks.

Another and kindred trait in the man was his tender,

loving nature and the warmth of his sympathies for those who were in trouble, and especially towards the common people, whom, as he once said, God must assuredly like, else, as he characteristically put it, "He wouldn't have made so many of them." Very charming was the interesting, figurative manner in which he would at times address them; while in his daily intercourse he ever showed his kindly interest in their welfare, and, without effort or evident design, would endear himself to them and readily win his way to their hearts. His homely ways and quaint humor—at times also even his caustic wit—were qualities that further commended him to the affections of his own rough people and brought him fame among those, far and wide, among whom he spent his early and maturing years. Nor among these honest, simple folk were his studious habits, meditative moods, and even his occasional plaintive sadness, missed by them, as many stories regarding him attest, such as are told by those especially who knew him intimately, who worked by his side, traded or did business with him in his early homes, or who spent the long winter evenings with him by his or their own kindly though rude firesides. Amid such associations and in such varied relations, Lincoln was always the same modest, unassuming man, the same genial, kindly and sympathetic friend. Even after good-fortune and a change of circumstances came to him, aided by his own natural and acquired gifts, he never altered in this respect; nor did he ever suffer himself to be beyond the reach, and if need be the aid, of an old acquaintance or of an erstwhile known and rarely-forgotten face. Humble and obscure as was his origin, and rough and uncouth as was

the environment of his early days, only the possession of a manly, humanized mind, in close touch with its fellow-mind, and of a soul far removed from the ignobleness and materializing influences of high position, could have kept Lincoln the same kindly, approachable man he ever was and remained to his lamentable, tragic end.

We have incidentally referred to Lincoln's studious habits and meditative moods, and important were the results to him of his early predilection for books and the acquisition of knowledge through his unappeasable thirst for reading. The stimulus in the direction of mental acquisitions appears to have been early given him by his kind and intelligent stepmother; though his own ambition and longing for knowledge were, obviously, an inheritance of birth, afterwards strongly developed by innate propensity and an eager desire for information, so far as such could be gratified through the facilities and materials within his reach. Meagre, as we know, were these facilities, as were those which he could command through the fitful periods of desultory schooling. The books in early youth at his service were, moreover, few, including little besides the Bible and a spelling book; for an English grammar, it is said, he tramped six miles to a neighbor's house to borrow and study it. Later on, he seems to have become possessed, or obtained the loan of, Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," the Life of Henry Clay, and Weems's biography of Washington. These he eagerly devoured. On the first of them he appears to have formed the rudiments of an eminently good literary style, afterwards assiduously improved by further reading, as well as by his own excellent judgment and good taste. On the

biographies, he gratified his desire for some practical acquaintance with the political history of his country, other than could be picked up among his neighbors and fellow-settlers, and from such politicians of local fame as he came across. All told, this material was not much with which to equip the future debater and statesman; but it was more to Lincoln than to a man of less inquiring mind and with little of his powers of assimilation and reflection. Not much more liberal was his training in law, though he assiduously read the statutes of his State and some text-books and other tomes of legal lore; while, when he had need to search for materials for any case he had to get up, he delved into and primed himself with the decisions of the local courts. In these and such like exploitations into the dry literature of the law, he was greatly assisted by a retentive memory and a remarkable power of getting into the heart of a subject and of clearly and cogently presenting it with all the illuminating skill of a sound understanding.

When he had gained some local notoriety and was known as "a character" in the towns of the West, he began to take active part in the politics of the time, and occasionally to mount the orator's stump. In this delectation he more frequently indulged, especially after he had gained confidence in his powers, and had partly slaked his appetite for mental food. At this time he even began to compose a little, one of his early attempts, it is related, being an essay, prompted by his humane feelings, in which he denounced cruelty to animals. What facility he manifested later in his career, in both his written and his spoken utterances, it is not a little curious to trace back to that early

composition deploring the cruelty of youth, in the wanton snaring of birds, and on catching terrapins and putting live coals on their backs. But it was as a stump speaker that he more particularly shone, and on his appearance in that capacity he never lacked an audience, who enjoyed to the full the jokes and abounding humor of his harangues, and when in his more earnest moods, the heartfelt power and effectiveness of his serious address. The success he met with as a public speaker was, as we have hinted, not a little owing to his characteristic facetiousness, and, above all, to the fund of stories he was possessed of and could recall and use with remarkable appropriateness to the occasion, while giving added point to his argument. As his political education developed, Lincoln's fame as a speaker grew apace, especially after his contest with Douglas over the Senatorship, a contest that showed in a remarkable manner what his powers were as a debater in the field of national as well as of local politics, and how effectively he mastered the constitutional and other questions of the time that enabled him to floor his adversary. Other gifts and qualities as a debater brought him success, particularly those that extort admiration from an intelligent, dispassionate audience, namely, restraint in the speaker, that puts a check upon unfair as well as inconclusive argument, and the absence of temper and of anything bitter or personal in the style and manner of his address. In these respects, the future President was invariably honest with himself, as well as with his opponent and his hearers, and never allowed himself to utter an unbecoming taunt or fling at those opposed to him, even in the most heated of party controversies. Such

were the traits in the man who, when great issues were beginning to loom on the political horizon, was to take a commanding position in their discussion and direction; and who brought with him the potent influences of a clean, high heart, and a record for all that was worthy and honorable in one aspiring to usefulness and patriotic duty in public life.

In treating, as ere long he was called upon to do, with the great issues of his time, another quality is discernable in Lincoln's public utterances that marks him out as one who will long live in the nation's heart. We refer to the lofty sentiments and the profound religious tone of his addresses and State papers. The tragic events of the era of the Civil War, an era of calamities and long-enduring strife, with its appalling shedding of blood which he deeply felt and deplored, naturally gave occasion for the manifestation of emotion and for the heart-wringings he time after time experienced, as news reached the capital of some great battle whose issues were either adverse or favorable to the Union cause. In reflecting upon these tragedies of the battle-field, and especially in commenting upon them on some public occasion, as in the Gettysburg address or in his second Inaugural, Lincoln showed the moral grandeur of his nature and the deep heart of pity and reverence that was in him, by utterances of inspiring elevation that came home to and touched to the quick all sympathetic hearts. For dignity and simple beauty, as well as for the fervent patriotism which inspired them, these addresses are unique in the annals of eloquence, and as such are surely destined to immortality. About them there is little of conscious artifice; while they

are marked by compactness of statement, logicalness of thought, and lucidity of expression, as well as by a nervous force which reveals the sincere conviction of the speaker, and, despite his wonted humor, the earnestness and serious caste of his mind. "To these qualities in Lincoln," observes a writer, "was added the great gift of poetry. He spoke in figures, and they were tropes that, while they might (at times) shock the polite, never failed to illustrate and ornament what he was saying to the humble."

Like the poet, Robert Burns, of whose writings he was a delighted reader and memorizer, Lincoln, as we have pointed out, was of and near to the people. He loved the humble bard's songs, and like him, too, he loved Mother Earth, and had that gentleness of nature, sympathy for, and tenderness toward his fellowman which distinguished the Scottish poet. "It was this deep heart of pity and love in him," writes Hamilton W. Mabie, "which carried him far beyond the reaches of statesmanship or oratory, and give his words the finality of expression which marks the noblest art." Of his poetic temperament, the same critic (Mr. Mabie) thoughtfully remarks: "That there was a deep vein of poetry in Mr. Lincoln is clear to one who reads the story of his early life; and this innate idealism, set in surroundings so harsh and rude, had something to do with his melancholy. The sadness which was mixed with his whole life, was, however, largely due to his temperament; in which the final tragedy seemed always to be predicted. In that temperament, too, is hidden the secret of the rare quality of nature and mind which suffused his public speech and turned so much of it into literature. There was humor

in it, there was deep human sympathy, there was clear mastery of words for the use to which he put them; but there was something deeper and more persuasive,—there was the quality of his temperament; and temperament is a large part of genius. The inner forces of his nature played through his thought; and when great occasions touched him to the quick, his whole nature shaped his speech and gave it clear intelligence, deep feeling, and that beauty which is distilled out of the depths of the sorrows and hopes of the world.”

Another interesting feature in the early career of Lincoln was his resort to law as a profession. His training for this was a little less haphazard than his fitful school education; though what he picked up in the way of legal lore was, as we are told, as much “by sight, scent, and hearing.” He attended the Courts, read the Indiana Revised Statutes, heard law speeches, and listened to law trials. In time he became a popular Western advocate and a scrupulously honest one, never upholding any case that was not morally right or in which he was likely to fail in court, so acute and deeply engrained were his honorable instincts and sense of justice. Where he had doubts of his client’s truthfulness and honesty, he would abandon his case rather than take up his defense or argue in court what he knew or suspected to be a false and unjust position.

Alike honorable was his attitude toward his fellowman, and especially with his relations with women. “There is one part of Lincoln’s early life,” writes Professor Goldwin Smith, “which, though scandal may batten on it, we shall pass over lightly; we mean that part which relates to



his love affairs and his marriage. Criticism, and even biography, should respect as far as possible the sanctuary of affection. That a man has dedicated his life to the service of the public is no reason why the public should be licensed to amuse itself by playing with his heart-strings. Not only as a storekeeper, but in every capacity, Mr. Lincoln was far more happy in his relations with men than women. He, however, loved, and loved deeply, Ann Rutledge, who appears to have been entirely worthy of his attachment, and whose death at the moment when she would have felt herself at liberty to marry him threw him into a transport of grief, which threatened his reason and excited the gravest apprehensions of his friends. In stormy weather especially, he would rave piteously, crying that 'he could never be reconciled to have the snow, rain, and storms to beat upon her grave.' This first love he seems never to have forgotten. He next had an affair, not so creditable to him. Finally, he made a match of which the world, perhaps, has heard enough, though the Western lad was too true a gentleman to let it hear anything about the matter from his lips. It is enough to say that this man was not wanting in that not inconsiderable element of worth, even the worth of statesmen, strong and pure affection."

His marriage, in 1842, with Mary Todd of Lexington, Ky., was, as all know, not a happy one, partly owing, it may be, to her higher social position and superior education, but more by reason of incompatibility of temper. But of this not a word is known to have escaped Lincoln in the way of complaint or accusation, since his honor evidently shrank from such disclosures. What he did, on the con-

trary, was to devote himself with more assiduity and patience to his profession, in the practice of which, as we have affirmed, he was never mercenary or suffered the least taint of dishonor or wrongdoing.

Though returned temporarily a member of Congress in 1847, it was not until 1854 that his political career actively began, a few years after the outbreak of the national agitation against slavery and the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law. At this time, Lincoln's chief political opponent was Stephen A. Douglas, who, aspiring to the Presidency, was courting the favor of the South by bringing forward his Kansas-Nebraska Bill, which practically was a repeal of the Missouri Compromise of 1850 opening the territory to the extension of slavery and adding to the political preponderance of the Slave States. It was at this juncture, when "the irrepressible conflict" began, that Lincoln came actively and interestedly on the scene and set himself to wrestle with the evil institution as an outspoken abolitionist. Soon now (1858) occurred the famous debates in Illinois between Lincoln and Douglas, in which the former delivered himself of the effective rhetorical figure of "the house divided against itself," which gave point to the controversy now on between freedom and slavery, and in that keynote brought himself to the fore as a candidate for the United States Senate, with an evident eye the while to the office of the President. Though Douglas was successful in the contest for the lesser post, Lincoln, by the masterly part he took in the debates with "the little giant," commended himself to the West as a candidate for the chief office in the nation, and in the East spread his fame among

the electorate at large, especially after his able political address at the Cooper Institute, New York, in February, 1860, followed by other telling speeches in New England. The result came later in the year, with dissensions and a split in the Democratic party and the nailing of antislavery colors on the Republican banners, aided by the furore in the entire North over threatened secession and the coming precipitation of a conflict between the two radically opposed sections of the Union. In November the Republican party won by a large plurality in the North, in the contest at Chicago, and Lincoln was elected to the Presidency. In the following March (1861), the inauguration at Washington took place, and the humble frontier "rail-splitter" assumed the reins of the Federal government, determined, God-willing, to maintain the integrity of the Nation and uphold its undivided authority.

The election and installation of President Lincoln as successor in office to the then chief magistrate, Buchanan, precipitated, as all know, the calamitous Civil War, and, by the irony of Fate, settled not only the distracting controversy in regard to State Rights, but ultimately the great human question of the freedom of the slave. In the preceding month of December, South Carolina had declared for secession and dissolved her connection with the Union, in which momentous act she was joined before March, 1861, by six other States (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas); while their people seized the Federal forts, arsenals, custom-houses, post-offices, and other national property within these States and practically defied its constitutional guardians. Placing themselves thus

outside the Union, they presently elected Jefferson Davis president of what was styled the Southern Confederacy, and in April (a month after Lincoln's inauguration) took up the weapons of war and with them bombarded and captured Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor. This aggression by the Confederacy while for the moment it appalled the North, inflamed its people to almost the point of frenzy. The retort to the Southern challenge to battle was the instant call by President Lincoln, as commander-in-chief, for 75,000 men of the Union militia—a summons that was promptly and enthusiastically responded to. In the proclamation calling for additional troops, Lincoln, while demanding the seceding States in arms to disperse and retire peaceably to their homes within twenty days, at the same time appealed "to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate, and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and existence of our national Union, and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs already long enough endured."

There was one political advantage which the Lincoln administration gained by Secession, namely, that it withdrew the preponderating influence of the Southern Democratic representatives from the House of Representatives and the Senate; while in a large measure it fused in these institutions the two opposing sections of the Northern Republicans and united them in support of the government and the War. At first, the latter did not at once come together in their design to coerce the South; indeed, many leading men in the North were, for a while, if not apathetic, dazed by the grave situation and peril of the country;

though they ere long reasserted their patriotism and rallied to the aid of the Nation and its administration. The latter, moreover, was by this time organized, and Mr. Lincoln had succeeded in forming a strong and able Cabinet; and this had its influence on the country in enabling it to tackle the great task before it, however little at first it was able to accomplish by its arms in the field. For long, indeed, it was a time of sore trial to the North, and a bitter humiliation that so little was effected by its troops in coping with the enemy. The disaster and rout of Bull Run (July 21st) early revealed the extent of the demoralization of the Union forces at the outset and its inadequacy as the fighting reliance of the Nation. Even when a year had passed, though the army had been recruited to over 200,000 men, there were no decisive results; while still darker days were to follow, and much inefficiency and perplexity to come, ere any appreciable gain cheered the North and lifted a corner of the curtain of gloom. Nor did matters brighten for long, what with failures and other experiments in the chief command of the army; the depreciation of the Federal currency; and with the adverse attitude of foreign powers (chiefly Great Britain and France) in according belligerent rights to the South, and having to surrender the Commissioners of the latter to England, after a Northern blockader had taken them from a British mail steamer on the high seas.

Nor did the outlook improve even with the change of generals in command of the army of the Potomac after McDowell's disastrous defeat at Bull Run. These changes were successively from McClellan to Pope, and after the former had been reinstated to his subsequent replacement

by Burnside, who at length gave place to Hooker, and Hooker in turn gave place to Meade—all of them inferior to, or at least less successful, than the great Southern captains in the war, such as Lee, Longstreet, Johnston, Beauregard, and Stonewall Jackson. These changes and other dispositions in the chief command of the Northern forces manifestly were a great concern and source of anxiety to Lincoln, who, at this era and throughout the war, assumed the burden and responsibility of them, as well as of the other heavy cares and solitudes in the conduct of affairs through the trying times and perplexities of the era. Only a resolute, patriotic purpose and an undaunted, invincible spirit, could have sustained him in these exacting, onerous duties amid the many discouragements and saddening military reverses that marked his four years of rule, to the collapse of the rebellion and the era of his martyrdom. Nor was this all that we owe the mighty chieftain of the era—great as his burden of exacting work and care was—in these years of anxiety and prolonged civil strife; for we now reach the period when Lincoln's lofty soul yearned, and his sense of patriotic, statesmanlike duty compelled him, to launch that immortal edict of his which was to liberate the abject and downtrodden slave and extend the blessed reality, as well as the beneficent bounds, of freedom to all men throughout the Union. Before this, compensated emancipation had been honestly proposed and urged by the great Liberator; while by Ben Butler's thoughtful, humane device, the escaping slaves had been relieved to the extent of being decreed "contraband of war," and thus entitled to liberty and freedom in crossing the line of

strife. But both of these ameliorations, good as far as they went, palled before the great Edict of Emancipation itself—the act of Lincoln personally—and to him alone does the country and the world owe gratitude and praise for the magnanimity of the measure, the relief it brought to the deserving objects of it, and the removal forever from the nation of the reproach and sin involved in the condition and existence of slavery. That the edict of Freedom was “a war measure” matters little; and hardly in any degree, if at all, does it detract from the honors of him who had long entertained the hope of seeing the slave attain freedom, and who now was happily instrumental in bringing about the blessed consummation.

As a war measure, it is true, Emancipation was beneficent and effective, for it touched the South in its tenderest spot and gave a blow to the State-Rights doctrine, so dear to the Southern and Democratic heart. But even before the issue of the Edict much had been gained by the North in the war, for New Orleans had fallen before Farragut's fleet, and access was thus gained to the waters of the Mississippi, made more effective by the possession taken by Halleck of Memphis and Corinth. Grant had also fought and won the battle of Shiloh; Lee had been repulsed at Malvern Hill; while Richmond, the seat of the Confederate capital, had been seriously threatened. Following the issue and enforcement of the Edict came the Federal successes at Gettysburg and Vicksburg; the capture of Fort Donnelson on the Cumberland river, with the consequent surrender of Johnston's and Buckner's forces; which broke the stubbornness of Southern fighting, soon to be para-

lized by the victories at Chickamauga and Chattanooga, by Sherman's march through Georgia and his clever manœuvering and driving out the enemy from the Valley of the Shenandoah, and by Grant's destruction of Lee's army, the capture of Richmond, and the final surrender at Appomattox.

The elation in the North due to this auspicious turn of affairs for the Union, and the practical close of the long struggle, were an immense relief to Lincoln as well as to the entire Northern and Western people, soon now to become again, with the people of the South, a peaceful and reunited nation. The cost of the strife, however, was tremendous—a national debt contracted of over 3,000 million dollars, and the loss or disablement on either side of nearly half a million men each, including the dire slaughter on both sides in the battles of the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania Court House, and at Murfreesboro and Cold Harbor. The result to the Federal cause had been, moreover, at the cost of disastrous disturbance to the commercial, maritime, and other affairs of the country, besides the disorganization of the finances and the great depreciation of the currency, in spite of Secretary Chase's herculean effort to control, improve, and check the effect of this, not to speak of the riots over the drafts of men needed for the recruitment of the army and the other difficulties of enlistment. Much of the anxiety and perplexity of all this naturally fell heavily upon President Lincoln, in addition to the oversight and supervision he was called upon to give to the army, in its different commands in the field, and to the selection and appointment of its responsible and guiding chiefs.



For this illustrious man, who throughout showed consummate tact in the management of the nation's affairs—never inclining on one side unduly to weakness or on the other to the usurpation and exercise of autocratic authority—it was a period of grave trial, with continuous straining of both heart and head. Alas! that the end to him should come so pitifully and tragically after all he had suffered and borne!

The remaining facts of importance to relate in this "true story of a great American" may be briefly narrated. In the autumn of 1864, the North re-elected Lincoln for another period of rule, and showing public confidence in him and his administration it also emphasized the national will to prosecute the war to a close. Happily the prospect of ending the conflict was now good, for at this time close upon a million men were upon the Northern muster rolls, while the Southern fighting strength was greatly reduced, and the shrunken forces under Lee and Johnston were in a precarious position and in actual want of food. The gravity of the situation soon now told upon the Confederates, menaced alike by circumstances and by the pressure and enleaguement of Grant's large force, aided by Sherman's cavalry. The closing scene finally came (April 9, 1865) at Appomattox, where Lee surrendered the army of Northern Virginia and the end came of rebellion. The conditions imposed upon the South were no more irksome to these combatants than the laying down of their arms, the ceasing of all hostility, and the restitution to the Federal power of all public property. Following upon this, the Confederate President and Cabinet abandoned Richmond for Dan-

ville, and Mr. Davis subsequently fled into Georgia, where he was captured and after a period of confinement was, at the close of the year 1868, magnanimously included in a general amnesty extended to all who had taken part on the side of Secession.

In startling and grim contrast to the peaceful close of the great struggle at Appomattox came the event which was to send a thrill of horror and pain throughout and beyond the confines of the country. Five brief days after Lee's surrender, namely, on the evening of Good Friday, April 14th, the loved President Lincoln, who, since the evacuation of Richmond by the Confederate administration, had been visiting and had returned to Washington, sat with his wife in a box to witness a play at Ford's theatre. Here, in the fleeting hour of social relaxation from the engrossing cares of office, he was struck down by the murderous hand of an assassin and died on the following morning. Thus, by the weapon of "a demented sympathizer with the cause of disunion," came a close to the illustrious career of the Great Emancipator and his departure to his reward in the hither eternal world. Amid the lamentations and regret of the stricken nation which he loved and died for came the mighty pageantries which marked the funeral obsequies of the martyred one and the sad passing of his remains to their last resting-place at the former home of the patriot President, at Springfield, Illinois.

In a sense, Lincoln's end came as a fitting sequel to, and admonition against, Civil War; and though it deprived the nation of his wise counsels in the great work that lay before it of Reconstruction, his death and the manner of it

were factors of value in hushing all criticism of the man and his career, while raising grateful peans to his memory. In unity well might the two sections of the country, now again become one, pay ceaseless honor to him who had had much to do, through the long and appalling conflict, in bringing about the happy issue of Union, and who, in memorable words, in his immortal second Inaugural, after bemoaning the scourge of war and yet foreseeing its close, had admonished the Nation to have "malice toward none," and "with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right," besought them to "finish the work they were in, to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." With such words of almost inspired wisdom and beauty, and with such a manifestation of kindly and thoughtful mood, ever customary in the speaker, we may take leave of our subject and close our tribute of homage to the great man.

## SUGGESTIONS FROM THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.\*

By PROF. FRANCIS WAYLAND SHEPARDSON, PH. D.,  
University of Chicago.

TWO contradictory tendencies find frequent expression in American life. The one is a disposition to hero-worship of public leaders; the other an inclination to ridicule and belittle them. The first is due partly to long prevalent methods of instruction, and partly to the peculiar conditions of existence here. The second results partly from these same conditions and partly from the asperities of party politics, which have encouraged both caricature and caustic criticism.

The past has been constantly exalted. We have been accustomed to look backward through a haze, which has so distorted our vision that the leaders of days gone by have appeared as giants looming up through the mists of years. This continual glorification has been the bane of all instruction. Environment has lent its powerful aid to the same end. This pre-eminently is the land of opportunity. The saying, "Every American boy expects to be President," has sufficient warrant in the fact that several very unpromising American boys have been elevated to that distinguished position. If conditions are favorable, a moment may make an American one of the Immortals. Just so long as the starry banner waves in the sky, the name of Lawrence will be revered, because of those heroic words he uttered as he was carried from the deck to his death below, "Don't give

---

\* Originally contributed, Feb. 1899, to *Self-Culture Magazine*, G. Mercer Adam, Editor, and published by The Werner Co., Akron, O.

up the ship!" A happy word at the right instant, an opportunity for duty seized, an act of heroism, a tragic death, these have made American names immortal.

But there is another side. All is not glorification, for one failure to use opportunity, one false move, one sign of weakness at a critical time, has doomed a whilom hero to the prison house of neglect and forgetfulness. A striking instance is that of Citizen Genêt, who basked in the smiles of an enthusiastic populace now a century ago. For a year his name was heard everywhere; then he was forgotten. Only the special student of American history knows, or cares to know, that for forty years after his ill-advised triumphal advance from Charleston to Philadelphia, he lived in the United States as a common private citizen. Equally suggestive are the facts about Aaron Burr, who had thirty years of obscurity after his trial for treason, before death came to take him from a land which had once shown him honor. These cases illustrate the second American tendency—to disparage and belittle. A sentiment which applauds quickly will blame with equal readiness and intensity. What party passion does not accomplish, personal bitterness will secure, and the result is that every public man has his life so carefully scrutinized with microscopic exactness, that every detail, no matter how personal or private, is brought to the light to satisfy the imperious demands of a scientific age. The wonder increases, that anything remains to be praised, that every idol is not thrown down. It speaks well for our leaders that so many of them have come out of this searching examination with honor and increased dignity.

In an address at Vassar College a few years ago, a well-

known Harvard professor mentioned a Christmas card which he had lately seen in a store window in Cambridge. It had upon it the pictures of Emerson, Longfellow, Lowell, Whittier, Hawthorne, and Holmes. He found in the very pictures a sufficient argument for the existence of an American literature, and then he expressed his opinion that these men and their writings might safely be left to posterity. "For," he continued, "posterity will judge; that is certain. It will judge, too, with unthinking impartiality—without acrimony, without tenderness. What mankind wants or needs it will preserve and remember; what mankind finds useless it will cast aside and forget. That is what makes the past heroic to all eyes not unduly sharpened by the engines of science. 'It is the sin and the tumult and the passion of human life that die. Enthroned in art the beauty of the old days lives, and it will live forever.' And although science nowadays teaches us the suggestive truth that the old days which we have revered were, after all, when the sun still shone on them, days of turbulence and wickedness, disheartening as any that surges about us now, that same science, one often thinks, is prone to forget the deep law of human nature, which makes each generation, in the end, remember instinctively, of those that are gone before, only or chiefly those traits and deeds which shall add to the wisdom and power of humanity."

No other public man in American history affords such opportunities for study as are presented in the life of Abraham Lincoln. His lowly origin, his meteoric career, his tragic death—these yield ample materials for artist and poet and writer. From every hidden nook and corner of the

western world eager hands are drawing forth the details of his life, and with every added bit of information the mystery of his existence becomes the more complex and inexplicable. Henry Watterson uses words full of meaning, when he says: "A thousand years hence, no story, no tragedy, no epic poem will be filled with greater wonder, or be followed by mankind with deeper feeling, than that which tells of his [Lincoln's] life and death."

The constant tendency toward glorification already mentioned, and in this special case the added inclination to deification, renders the task difficult, indeed, for him who attempts in a brief chapter to tell what the life of Abraham Lincoln means to the American of to-day.

The names of great Americans are associated with great ideas or movements. The majority link the name of Alexander Hamilton with federal finances, overlooking his great influence in the building up of the central government and his determined stand for that central authority as against the individual state. So, likewise, the name of Calhoun will go down to the coming ages as the synonym for Nullification, much to the prejudice of the historic influence of that distinguished statesman. In every case that might be mentioned, the central idea obscures the many other features of a life full of illustration of phases of American development.

In the case of Abraham Lincoln the crowning thought always will be the emancipation of the slave, and yet it is worth while considering whether, as the years go by and the wonderful life is studied again and again, other features than this most dramatic one may not be chosen in real explana-

tion of the power of this leader over the minds and hearts of American citizens. Certainly Mr. Lowell had something else in mind than praise for the Emancipator, when he phrased his "Commemoration Ode" and called Abraham Lincoln "the first American."

When the thought of emancipation first came into the mind of Mr. Lincoln it is difficult to determine. The iconoclastic scientific student casts discredit upon many of the tales which have been told about his boyhood. Especially desirable would it be that one story might be retained. According to that, one day, in the spring of 1831, two youths might have been seen wandering about the streets of that quaint southern city of New Orleans. In age and stature they were men, but in knowledge of the world they were mere children. They had come down the river from their home in Illinois, bringing a flat-boat loaded with pork and beef. They wondered much as they saw the sights of the busy southern city, the centre of all the trade of the West and South, and gained a glimpse of a life so different from that of the simple quiet of their prairie home.

Among other places visited was the slave-mart, and there for the first time they were brought face to face with the evils of human slavery, as they saw men and women, boys and girls, sold like cattle, and heard the sad cry of the mother as the child was taken away, or the mournful lamentation of the father as he realized that he was to be separated from his loved ones. The coarse remarks of the rude overseers grated harshly upon their ears, and as they turned away from the accursed spot and hurried out into the pure sunlight, one of them, with quivering lip and clenched



fist, said to his companion: "John, if I ever get a chance to hit that institution, I'll hit it hard, by the Eternal God!"

The closing cry of the auctioneer, "Going, going, gone," echoing from the walls of the slave market, seemed to come as a mocking defiance of the poor Illinois boatman,—half horse, half alligator they used to call such as he,—who had just uttered such portentous words. This young man from Illinois, all through his life, was to be a believer in dreams and omens. Many a time in his boyhood and youth he is said to have declared that he was going to be President of the United States, and over and over again during the years at the White House he felt the premonitions of his sad end. Perhaps even at this moment his soul had some mysterious communication with the supernatural, as he lived the future in the present, and felt rising within him that spirit which in later years was to lead to the Emancipation Proclamation and crown his life with glory.

Every time he went near the borderland between freedom and slavery, his heart was saddened by the sight of slaves toiling on the plantations, working upon the levees, or, perhaps, shackled in irons, on their way to the auction block. Such sights were "continual torment" to him, so he afterwards wrote to a friend. But no opportunity came to him to strike any blow against slavery, until in 1837, being then a member of the Illinois assembly, he joined a fellow-member in a protest against a resolution on slavery, which was probably designed to mollify those who had been disturbed by the development of anti-slavery feeling. The language of this protest makes dull reading now, but it took courage for anyone in that time, when slavery interests were so

powerful, especially for one who had political aspirations, to declare that "the institution of slavery is founded both on injustice and bad policy."

The idea of colonization may have taken root in his mind because of his regard for Henry Clay. At one time he travelled to Kentucky to hear this Whig leader, and although he found his former idol shattered, after he had listened to an indifferent speech and had received somewhat cavalier treatment, yet this episode perhaps had a formative influence in his anti-slavery development. Being elected to Congress during the height of the Mexican discussions, Mr. Lincoln showed few qualities of leadership, but manifested his opposition to the slave interest by frequent votes for the principle of the Wilmot Proviso, as well as by the introduction of a bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. This bill, moderate enough from a present day standpoint, aroused intense antagonism at the time, and although it never came to a vote, it is interesting as showing the position of Mr. Lincoln twelve years before he went to Washington as President.

A few years passed by with the future Emancipator working as a lawyer in Springfield, Ill. Then the full meaning of the Compromise of 1850 broke upon the people of the North, and a new party was formed, the "Anti-Nebraska" men, of whom Abraham Lincoln was a local leader in his State. His ready wit and stump-speaking ability gave him increasing prominence. The Anti-Nebraska men secured control of the lower House of Congress. Then they organized a new political party on broad construction principles, a party which inherited the desires of the Whigs for a

protective tariff and internal improvements, and added the new principle, that the Federal Government had the right to control slavery in the Territories.

This was the foundation-stone of the Republican party—non-extension of slavery into the Territories. The heterogeneous combination of men of varying views was not formed to secure abolition, but restriction. Old line Whigs, who had forsaken their party because it would take no pronounced position on slavery; the new Whigs, led by William H. Seward, who came into the party after the Compromise of 1850; the Know-Nothings, who had tried to create new issues when there was but one; the Free-Soilers, who despaired of success because of the too radical Abolitionists; and Northern Democrats, who resented the control of their party by the Southern slavemasters,—all these elements came together to support the old Free-Soil contention, “No more slave States. No more slave Territories!” The institution of slavery was hateful to many of them, but they were not ready as yet to demand its abolition in that region where for so long a time it had made its home. The radicals were not satisfied with the platform, but the majority of anti-slavery men voted for Fremont, who received 1,300,000 ballots, 114 electoral votes, and was defeated only by a few of the accidents of politics.

At the first national convention of this party, when Fremont was selected for the candidate, Abraham Lincoln had a good following for the second place, but his fame was chiefly local, until he entered upon the celebrated debate with Stephen A. Douglas, gaining national reputation from being pitted against the distinguished leader of the Northern

Democracy. Then his life-current began to move more rapidly. A visit through the Northern cities, a peculiar turn in the affairs of a great nominating convention, and the awkward rail-splitter was the candidate of the Republican party for President of the United States. The Democratic party, still strong enough to win many a fight, became hopelessly divided. There was an election of intense excitement, and the party which declared that the normal condition of all the territory of the Union was that of freedom won the day. Abraham Lincoln, inexperienced in public affairs, was President. The orators ridiculed him; polite society scoffed at him; the newspapers lampooned him; his party leaders, who knew him not, despised his abilities; seven States rebelled before he could be inaugurated; the belief of the North that disunion was only a threat was proved false, and yet some cried loudly against coercion; foreign influence seemed about to favor the Southern Confederacy; there was no encouragement for him but the cries of the radical anti-slavery people, some of whom wished the "wayward sisters" to depart in peace. Such was the distressing condition of affairs when Abraham Lincoln left his neighbors in Springfield, to undertake what he declared to be a more difficult task than Washington had had, and secretly entered the capital city, to begin his long and troubled career as chief executive of the nation.

The war was begun with the views of Mr. Lincoln unchanged. He believed that the end of slavery was near, no matter what effect the war might have upon it. "I am naturally anti-slavery," he said. "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember the time when I did

not so think and so feel. And yet I have never understood that the presidency conferred upon me an unrestricted right to act upon that judgment and feeling. It was in the oath I took, that I would to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. I could not take the office without taking the oath. Nor was it in my view that I might take an oath to get power, and break the oath in using that power. I understood, too, that in ordinary civil administration this oath forbade me practically to indulge my private abstract judgment on the moral question of slavery. I did understand, however, also, that my oath imposed upon me the duty of preserving to the best of my ability, by every indispensable means, that government, that nation, of which the Constitution was the organic law. I could not feel that, to the best of my ability, I had even tried to preserve the Constitution, if, to save slavery or any minor matter, I should permit the wreck of government, country, and the Constitution altogether."

The time had not come for him to fulminate his decree. There were many who would fight to sustain the Union, who would not engage in a war for the abolition of slavery. The President recognized this fact, and waited. Sometimes to the radicals he seemed to be taking backward steps, as, for example, when he kept Union generals from freeing the slaves. But his purpose was fixed. He early saw that the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by foreign nations would never come, if the war were to be given an anti-slavery cast. No civilized nation in the world would recognize a country which had for its main pillar an institution which was held in horror by the most of mankind.

Yet all the time disaster was following disaster to the Union cause. Everything looked black for the Northern armies. Some great act must be done to stimulate the people. Something must be done at once to arouse them to the situation.

But it was a surprise to Mr. Seward and other members of the cabinet, when in July, 1862, the President presented them with a draft of a proclamation, declaring the negroes free in every state that should be in open rebellion on the first of January, 1863. He seemed determined to issue it at once. Mr. Seward showed him that it would seem like a wail from a badly beaten party, and urged that its publication be delayed until victory had turned its tide toward the Union forces. The President accepted the suggestion and laid the paper away. The invading hosts of the South came into Maryland, and then Mr. Lincoln resolved that victory of the Union forces should be the signal for his proclamation. The battle of Antietam came on the seventeenth of September, and five days later the world was given an electric shock of surprise, when the great Emancipation Proclamation appeared, proving in the long run the last blow to the cause of slavery, and striking the shackles from millions of human beings who had grown up in bondage in the land of boasted freedom.

There were some voices of dissent; there was much talk of an "abolition war"; there were to be many days and weeks and months of weary longing for peace; but the work of Abraham Lincoln in the slavery matter was practically finished when he affixed his signature to this great charter of liberties. "I had made a vow, a covenant, that if God should give us victory in battle, I would consider it as an

indication of divine will, and that it would be my duty to move forward with emancipation. God has decided the matter in favor of the slaves. I am satisfied that I took the right course."

Thus, at last, the boy of 1831 had had a chance to hit "that institution," and he had hit it hard.

If Mr. Lincoln's life had closed then, he would still have earned a place among the heroes of the nation. But the tragic termination of his career no doubt had great influence in making his name a household word. To many there was recalled the picture of Moses, who had led his people out of bondage and up to the borders of the promised land of freedom, into which, however, he himself was not allowed to go. Never in the world's history was there such a dramatic ending of a great life. The real root of internal difficulty had been discovered and destroyed. The armies were ready for dissolution into the ranks of private citizenship. Peace had come with its sweetening influence. What remained was to bind up the wounds, and this might safely be trusted to the man who had stretched out his hands in tender entreaty a few years before, when he said: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Then the blow fell. It was swift; it was terrible. It was hard to bear. It could not be understood. "Grief and

a vague desire for revenge for this cruel and needless crime struggled for mastery. This was the feeling all over the country, when the heavy tidings of the foul and most unnatural murder went forth over the length and breadth of the land. Flags that had been flying in triumph were lowered to half-mast in sorrow. It is not a stretch of the imagination to say that a great wave of lamentation, spontaneous and exceeding bitter, swept over the Republic. Bells were tolled and minute guns were fired. For days all ordinary business, except that of the most imperative importance, was practically suspended, and the nation seemed abandoned to its mighty grief."

No one could understand it then ; no one can understand it now. Perhaps, while the whole world wept with us over Abraham Lincoln's bier, the broken bands of Union were drawn closer together in a ministry of sorrow. Perhaps the hand of the assassin saved this President from the difficulties which beset his successor, difficulties with leaders of his party which might have lessened the influence rightly earned by his noble Proclamation. It is idle to speculate, and in the gloom of that dark April morning the martyred President must be left, wrapped in that same mystery, which attends his whole career, as one attempts to tell the story of his wonderful life.

Comparisons are unfair where conditions are dissimilar, and yet the temptation is always strong to compare the two great leaders whose births came in February, and who stand at the head of American statesmen. Such comparison is courted by the words of Mr. Lowell's "Commemoration Ode" already quoted. And perhaps comparison will



show a helpful suggestion from the life of Abraham Lincoln, a suggestion why, perhaps, he holds so high a place in the hearts of his countrymen.

One picture of the boyhood of Mr. Lincoln shows "a very tall rawboned youth, with large features, dark shrivelled skin, and rebellious hair; his arms and legs long and out of proportion; clad in deerskin trousers, which, from frequent exposure to the rain, had shrunk so as to sit tightly on his limbs, leaving several inches of bluish skin exposed between their lower end and the heavy tan-colored shoes; the nether garment held usually by only one suspender, that was strung over a coarse home-made shirt; the head covered in winter with a coon-skin cap, in summer with rough straw hat of uncertain shape, without a band." Such was the overgrown youth who made his way through life as best he might, a general helper, a boatman, a country store clerk, until his homely wit, his keenness of judgment, and his clearness of view made him a local celebrity.

Years before in our history a boy had spent his early life in the wilderness. Tall and strong-limbed, active and agile, he had tramped through the forests of Virginia as a surveyor; he had learned the arts of woodcraft; he had become familiar with the habits of the red men; he had observed the fighting qualities of his countrymen; and when the time came he stepped forward, armed and equipped, his whole training apparently fitting him to lead his fellows through the trying period of national infancy. The thoughtful student of American history believes that George Washington was prepared in ways that he knew not to be the leader in the Revolution. The same thoughtful student

must find the guiding hand in the backwoods' boyhood and youth of Abraham Lincoln. Why may we not believe that the squalor and penury of his early days were his to make him tender toward the lowly and the suffering, and that the hard blows of circumstance which developed his giant frame were to strengthen the great shoulders for the time when they were to bear the worry and the woes of the nation?

We may well question whether the son of opulence, the old Virginia child of fortune, could have had his heart stirred by the wail from the cabin of the slave, as was the heart of the child of new Virginia, who had walked in the paths of poverty and privation. Each had his peculiar mission; the one to lead, when the world knew only the power of royalty; the other to prove the grandest type of a new democracy, which elevates its servants sometimes from the lowest depths of despair to the highest pinnacles of power. These men represented two distinct types of American life. The aristocratic country gentlemen, with well-filled purse, with rotund face, with velvet clothes, was the best representative of the life of the eighteenth century. The lank lawyer of the prairies, with face furrowed with care, without family tradition of greatness, a self-made man, is the ideal of the nineteenth.

When Washington ruled it was an age of privilege; it was an age of aristocracy. Then only the favored ones controlled affairs of state, only the few ruled the many. Now it is an age of democracy, where the very humblest may aspire. No longer is the popular ideal the man in knee-breeches and ruffled shirt, who was chosen for the first President of the United States at the end of the old régime, but

the "mill-boy of the slashes," the "hero of Tippecanoe," the "hero of New Orleans," the "canal-boat mule driver," and greatest of all, "Honest Old Abe, the rail-splitter of Illinois,"—men who are popular heroes because they had little sympathy with forms or ceremonies, and believed one man to be just as good as another.

A generation has passed since Abraham Lincoln died. Already he has been clothed with such romance, that the more light there is shed upon his life, the more difficult its interpretation becomes. That he will always be associated with the great charter of freedom for the slave is certain. That his tragic death will always lend additional halo to his name seems likely. And yet, more satisfactory explanation of his popularity may, perhaps, be found in the fact that he always kept close to the plain people, whom he so often mentioned, for he was a man "whose meek flock the people joyed to be, not lured by any cheat of birth, but by his clear-grained human worth, and brave old wisdom of sincerity."

## EARLY YEARS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN\*

BY GOLDWIN SMITH, D. C. L. (OXON), EX-PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, N. Y.

OUR readers need not be afraid that we are going to bore them with the Slavery Question or the Civil War. We deal here not with the Martyr President, but with Lincoln in embryo, leaving the great man at the entrance of the grand scene.

After the murder, criticism, of course, was for a time impossible. Martyrdom was followed by canonization, and the popular heart could not be blamed for overflowing in hyperbole. The fallen chief "was Washington, he was Moses, and there were not wanting even those who likened him to the God and Redeemer of all the earth. These latter thought they discovered in his early origin, his kindly nature, his benevolent precepts, and the homely anecdotes in which he taught the people, strong points of resemblance between him and the Divine Son of Mary." A halo of myth naturally gathered around the cradle of this new Moses. Among other fables, it was believed that the President's family had fled from Kentucky to Indiana to escape the taint of Slavery. Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham, was migratory enough, but the course of his migrations was not determined by high moral motives, and we may safely affirm that had he ever found himself among the fleshpots of Egypt, he would have stayed there, how-

---

\* By Permission, from "*Self-Culture*" Magazine, Edited by G. Mercer Adam.

ever deep the moral darkness might have been. He was a thriftless "ne'er do weel," who had very commonplace reasons for wandering away from the miserable, solitary farm in Kentucky, on which his child first formed a sad acquaintance with life and nature, and which, as it happened, was not in the slave-owning region of the State. His decision appears to have been hastened by a "difficulty" he got into, which is set forth in one of the biographies of his son, to which we are indebted for many of the facts in this paper.\*

Lincoln senior drifted to Indiana, and in a spot which was then an almost untrodden wilderness built a *casa santa*, which his connection, Dennis Hanks, calls "that darned little half-faced camp"—a dwelling enclosed on three sides and open on the fourth, without a floor, and called a camp, it seems, because it was made of poles, not of logs. He afterwards exchanged the "camp" for the more ambitious "cabin;" but his cabin was "a rough, rough log one," made of unhewn timber, and without floor, door, or window. In this "rough, rough" abode, his lanky, lean-visaged, awkward and somewhat pensive, though strong, hearty and patient son Abraham had a "rough, rough" life, and underwent experiences which, if they were not calculated to form a Pitt or a Turgot, were calculated to season a politician, and make him a winner in the tough struggle for existence, as well as to identify him with the people, faithful representation of whose aims, sentiments, tastes, passions and prejudices was the one thing needful to qualify him for obtaining the prize of his ambition.

"For two years Lincoln (the father) continued to live alone in the old way. He did not like to farm, and he never

got much of his land under cultivation. His principal crop was corn; and this, with the game which a rifleman so expert would easily take from the woods around him, supplied his table." It does not appear that he employed any of his mechanical skill in completing and furnishing his own cabin. It has already been stated that the latter had no window, door or floor. The son slept in the loft, "to which he ascended by means of pins driven into holes in the wall."

Of his father's disposition, Abraham seems to have inherited at all events the dislike to labor, though his sounder moral nature prevented him from being an idler. His tendency to politics came from the same element of character as his father's preference for the rifle. In after-life, we are told, his mind "was filled with gloomy forebodings and strong apprehensions of impending evil, mingled with extravagant visions of personal grandeur and power." His melancholy, characterized by all his friends as "terrible," was closely connected with the cravings of his demagogic ambition, and the root of both was in him from a boy.

In the Indiana cabin Abraham's mother, whose maiden name was Nancy Hanks, died, far from medical aid, of the epidemic called milk sickness. She was preceded in death by her relatives, the Sparrows, who had succeeded the Lincolns in the "camp," and by many neighbors, whose coffins Thomas Lincoln made out of "green lumber cut with a whip-saw." Upon Nancy's death he took to his green lumber again and made a box for her. "There were about twenty persons at her funeral. They took her to the summit of a deeply wooded knoll, about half a mile southeast of the cabin, and laid her beside the Sparrows. If there were any burial ceremonies, they were of the briefest. The

great trees were originally cut away to make a small cleared space for this primitive graveyard; but the young dogwoods have sprung up unopposed in great luxuriance, and in many instances the names of pilgrims to the burial place of the great Abraham Lincoln's mother are carved on their bark. With this exception, the spot is wholly unmarked. The grave never had a stone, nor even a board, at its head or its foot; and the neighbors still dispute as to which of these unsightly hollows contains the ashes of Nancy Lincoln." If Democracy in the New World sometimes stones the prophets, it is seldom guilty of building their sepulchres. Out of sight, off the stump, beyond the range of the interviewer, heroes and martyrs soon pass from the mind of a fast-living people; and weeds may grow out of the dust of Washington. But in this case what neglect has done good taste would have dictated; it is well that the dogwoods are allowed to grow unchecked over the wilderness grave.

Thirteen months after the death of his Nancy, Thomas Lincoln went to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and suddenly presented himself to Mrs. Sally Johnston, who had in former days rejected him for a better match, but had become a widow. "Well, Mrs. Johnston, I have no wife and you have no husband, I came a purpose to marry you. I knowed you from a gal and you knowed me from a boy. I have no time to lose, and if you are willin', let it be done straight off." "Tommy, I know you well, and have no objection to marrying you; but I cannot do it straight off, as I owe some debts that must first be paid." They were married next morning, and the new Mrs. Lincoln, who owned, among other wonderous household goods, a bureau that

cost forty dollars, and who had been led, it seems, to believe that her new husband was reformed and a prosperous farmer, was conveyed with her bureau to the smiling scene of his reformation and prosperity. Being, however, a sensible Christian woman, she made the best of a bad bargain, got her husband to put down a floor and hang doors and windows, made things generally decent, and was very kind to the children, especially to Abe, to whom she took a great liking, and who owed to his good stepmother what other heroes have owed to their mothers. "From that time on," according to his garrulous relative, Dennis Hanks, "he appeared to lead a new life." It seems to have been difficult to extract from him, "for campaign purposes," the incidents of his life before it took this happy turn.

He described his own education in a Congressional handbook as "defective." In Kentucky he occasionally trudged with his little sister, rather as an escort than as a school-fellow, to a school four miles off, kept by one Caleb Hazel, who could teach reading and writing after a fashion, and a little arithmetic, but whose great qualification for his office lay in his power and readiness "to whip the big boys." So far American respect for popular education as the key to success in life prevailed even in those wilds, and in such a family as that of Thomas Lincoln. Under the auspices of his new mother, Abraham began attending school again. The master was one Crawford, who taught not only reading, writing and arithmetic, but "manners."

Mr. Crawford, it seems, was a martinet in spelling, and one day he was going to punish a whole class for failing to spell *defied*, when Lincoln telegraphed the right letter to



a young lady by putting his finger with a significant smile to his eye. Many years later, however, and after his entrance to public life, Lincoln himself spelt *apology* with a double p, *planning* with a single n, and *very* with a double r. His schooling was very irregular, his school days hardly amounting to a year in all, and such education as he had was picked up afterwards by himself. His appetite for mental food, however, was always strong, and he devoured all the books, a few and not very select, which could be found in the neighborhood of "Pigeon Creek."

Equally strong was his passion for stump oratory, the taste for which pervades the New World, even in the least intellectual districts, as the taste for church festivals pervades the people of Spain, or the taste for cricket the people of England. Abe's neighbor, John Romine, says "he was awful lazy. He worked for me; was always reading and thinking; used to get mad at him. He worked for me in 1829, pulling fodder. I say Abe was awful lazy, he would laugh and talk and crack jokes all the time; didn't love work, but did dearly love his pay." He liked to lie under a shade trade, or up in the loft of the cabin and read, cipher, or scribble. At night he ciphered by the light of the fire on the wooden fire shovel. He practiced stump oratory by repeating the sermons, and sometimes by preaching himself, to his brothers and sister. His gifts in the rhetorical line were high. When it was announced in the harvest field that Abe had taken the stump, work was at an end.

Abe's first written composition appears to have been an essay against cruelty to animals, a theme the choice of which was at once indicative of his kindness of heart and practi-

cally judicious, since the young gentlemen in the neighborhood were in the habit of catching terrapins and putting hot coals upon their backs. The essay appears not to have been preserved, and we cannot say whether its author succeeded in explaining that ethical mystery—the love of cruelty in boys.

Society in the neighborhood of Pigeon Creek was of the thorough backwoods type; as coarse as possible, but hospitable and kindly, free from cant and varnish, and a better school of life than of manners, though, after all, the best manners are learned in the best school of life, and the school of life in which Abe studied was not the worst. He became a leading favorite, and his appearance, towering above the other hunting shirts, was always the signal for the fun to begin. His nature seems to have been, like many others, open alike to cheerful and to gloomy impressions. A main source of his popularity was the fund of stories to which he was always adding, and to which in after-life he constantly went for solace, under depression or responsibility, as another man would go to his cigar or snuff box. The taste was not individual but local, and natural to keen-witted people who had no other food for their wits. In those circles "the ladies drank whiskey-toddy, while the men drank it straight."

Lincoln was by no means fond of drink, but in this, as in everything else, he followed the great law of his life as a politician, by falling in with the humor of the people. One cold night he and his companions found an acquaintance lying dead-drunk in a puddle. All but Lincoln were disposed to let him lie where he was, and freeze to death.

But Abe "bent his mighty frame, and taking the man in his long arms, carried him a great distance to Dennis Hanks' cabin. There he built a fire, warmed, rubbed and nursed him through the entire night, his companions having left him alone in his merciful task." His real kindness of heart is always coming out in the most striking way, and it was not impaired even by civil war.

Lincoln had a very good constitution, but his frame hardly bespoke great strength; he was six feet four and large-boned, but narrow chested, and had almost a consumptive appearance. His strength, nevertheless, was great. We are told that, harnessed with ropes and straps, he could lift a box of stones weighing from a thousand to twelve hundred pounds. In wrestling, of which he was very fond, he had not his match near Pigeon Creek, and only once found him anywhere else. He was also formidable as a pugilist. But he was no bully; on the contrary he was peaceable and chivalrous in a rough way.

That Abraham Lincoln should have said, when a bare-legged boy, that he intended to be President of the United States is not remarkable. Every boy in the United States says it. But Lincoln was really carrying on his political education. Dennis Hanks is asked how he and Lincoln acquired their knowledge. "We learned," he replies, "by sight, scent and hearing. We heard all that was said, and talked over and over the questions heard; wore them slick and threadbare. Went to political and other speeches and gatherings, as you do now; we would hear all sides and opinions, talk them over, discuss them, agreeing or disagreeing. Abe was originally a Democrat after the order of

Jackson; so was his father, so we all were. . . . He preached, made speeches, read for us, explained to us, &c. . . . Abe was a cheerful boy, a witty boy; was humorous always; sometimes would get sad, not very often. . . . Lincoln would frequently make political and other speeches; he was calm, logical and clear always. He attended trials, went to court always, read the revised statutes of Indiana, dated 1824, heard law speeches, and listened to law trials. He was always reading, scribbling, writing, ciphering, writing poetry and the like. Abe was a good talker, a good reader, and was a kind of newsboy." One or two articles written by Abe found their way into obscure journals, to his infinite gratification. His foot was on the first round of the ladder. It is right to say that his culture was not solely political, and that he was able to astonish the natives of Gentryville by explaining that when the sun appeared to set, it "was we did the sinking and not the sun."

Abe was tired of his home, as a son of Thomas Lincoln might be, without disparagement to his filial piety; and he was glad to get off with a neighbor on a commercial trip down the river to New Orleans. The trip was successful in a small way, and Abe soon after repeated it with other companions. In the first trip the great emancipator came in contact with the negro in a way that did not seem likely to prepossess him in favor of the race. The boat was boarded by negro robbers, who were repulsed only after a fray in which Abe got a scar which he carried to the grave. But he saw with his own eyes slaves manacled and whipped at New Orleans; and though his sympathies were not far-reaching, the actual sight of suffering never failed to

make an impression on his mind. A negrophilist he never became. "I protest," he said afterwards, when engaged in the slavery controversy, "against the counterfeit logic which concludes that because I do not want a black woman for a slave I must necessarily want her for a wife. I need not have her for either. I can just leave her alone. In some respects she certainly is not my equal; but in her natural right to eat the bread which she earns with her own hands, she is my equal and the equal of all others." It would be difficult to put the case better.

While Abraham Lincoln was trading to New Orleans, his father, Thomas Lincoln, was on the move again. This time he migrated to Illinois, and there again shifted from place to place, gathering no moss, till he died as thriftless and poor as he had lived. We have, in later years, an application from him to his son for money, to which the son responds in a tone which implies some doubt as to the strict accuracy of the ground on which the old gentleman's request was preferred. Their relations were evidently not very affectionate, though there is nothing unfilial in Abe's conduct. Abraham himself drifted to Salem on the Sangamon, in Illinois, twenty miles northwest of Springfield, where he became clerk in a new store, set up by Denton Offutt, with whom he had formed a connection in one of his trips to New Orleans. Salem was then a village of a dozen houses, and the little centre of society very like that of Pigeon Creek and its neighborhood, but more decidedly western. We are told that "here Mr. Lincoln became acquainted with a class of men the world never saw the like of before or

since. They were large men,—large in body and large in mind; hard to whip and never to be fooled. They were a bold, daring and reckless set of men; they were men of their own minds,—believed what was demonstrable, were men of great common sense. With these men Mr. Lincoln was thrown; with them he lived and with them he moved and almost had his being. They were skeptics all—scoffers some. These scoffers were good men, and their scoffs were protests against theology—loud protests against the follies of Christianity; they had never heard of theism and the new and better religious thoughts of this age. Hence, being natural skeptics and being bold, brave men, they uttered their thoughts freely.”

It seems to be proved, by conclusive evidence, that Mr. Lincoln shared the sentiments of his companions, and that he was never a member of any Church, a believer in the divinity of Christ, or a Christian of any denomination. He is described as an avowed, an open free-thinker, sometimes bordering on atheism, going extreme lengths against Christian doctrines, and “shocking” men whom it was probably not very easy to shock. He even wrote a little work on “Infidelity,” attacking Christianity in general, and especially the belief that Jesus was the Son of God; but the manuscript was destroyed by a prescient friend, who knew that its publication would ruin the writer in the political market. There is reason to believe that Burns contributed to Lincoln’s skepticism, but he drew it more directly from Volney, Paine, Hume and Gibbon. His fits of downright atheism appear to have been transient; his settled belief was theism with a morality which, though he was not aware of it,

he had really derived from the gospel. It is needless to say that the case had never been rationally presented to him, and that his decision against Christianity would prove nothing, even if his mind had been more powerful than it was. Like many skeptics, he was liable to superstitions, especially to the superstition of self-consciousness, a conviction that he was the subject of a special decree made by some nameless and mysterious power. Even from a belief in apparitions he was not free.

Abe's popularity grew apace; his ambition grew with it; it is astonishing how readily and freely the plant sprouts upon that soil. He was at this time carrying on his education evidently with a view to public life. Books were not easily found. He wanted to study English Grammar, considering that accomplishment desirable for a statesman; and, being told that there was a Grammar in a house six miles from Salem, he left his breakfast at once and walked off to borrow it. He would slip away into the woods and spend hours in study and thinking. He sat up late at night, and as light was expensive, made a blaze of shavings in a cooper's shop. He waylaid every visitor to New Salem who had any pretense to scholarship, and extracted explanations of things which he did not understand. It does not appear that the work of Adam Smith, or any work upon political economy, currency, or any financial subject fell into the hands of the student who was destined to conduct the most tremendous operations in the whole history of finance.

The next episode in Lincoln's life which may be regarded as a part of his training was in the command of a company of militia in the "Black Hawk" war.

Black Hawk was an Indian chief of great craft and power, and, apparently, of fine character, who had the effrontery to object to being improved off the face of creation, an offense which he aggravated by an hereditary attachment to the British. At a muster of the Sangamon company at Clary's Grove, Lincoln was elected captain. The election was a proof of his popularity; but he found it rather hard to manage his constituents in the field. The campaign opened with a cleverly-won victory on the part of Black Hawk, and a rapid retrograde movement on the part of the militia. Ultimately, however, Black Hawk was overpowered, and most of his men met their doom in attempting to retreat across the Mississippi.

"During this short Indian campaign," says one who took part in it, "we had some hard times, often hungry, but we had a great deal of sport, especially at nights—foot racing, some horse racing, jumping, telling anecdotes, in which Lincoln beat all, keeping up a constant laughter and good humor all the time; among the soldiers some card-playing and wrestling in which Lincoln took a prominent part. I think it safe to say he was never thrown in a wrestle. While in the army he kept a handkerchief tied around him all the time for wrestling purposes, and loved the sport as well as anyone could. He was seldom if ever beat jumping. During the campaign Lincoln himself was always ready for an emergency. He endured hardships like a good soldier; he never complained, nor did he fear dangers."

Returning to New Salem, Lincoln, having served his apprenticeship as a clerk, commenced storekeeping on his own



account. An opening was made for him by the departure of Mr. Radford, the keeper of a grocery, who, having offended the Clary's Grove boys, they "selected a convenient night for breaking in his windows and gutting his establishment." From his ruins arose the firm of Lincoln & Berry.

In storekeeping, however, Mr. Lincoln did not prosper; neither storekeeping nor any other regular business or occupation was congenial to his character. He was born to be a politician. Accordingly he began to read law, with which he combined surveying, at which we are assured he made himself "expert" by a six weeks' course of study. The few law books needed for western practice were supplied to him by a kind friend at Springfield, and, according to a witness who has evidently an accurate memory for details, "he went to read law in 1832 or 1833 barefooted, seated in the shade of a tree and would grind around with the shade, just opposite Berry's grocery store, a few feet south of the door, occasionally lying flat on his back and putting his feet up the tree." Evidently, whatever he read, especially of a practical kind, he made thoroughly his own. It is needless to say that he did not become a master of scientific jurisprudence; but it seems that he did become an effective western advocate. What is more, there is conclusive testimony to the fact that he was—what has been scandalously alleged to be rare, even in the United States—an honest lawyer.

"Love of justice and fair play," says one of his professional brothers of the bar, "was his predominant trait. I have often listened to him when I thought he would state

his case out of Court. It was not in his nature to assume or attempt to bolster up a false position. He would abandon his case first. His power as an advocate seems to have depended on his conviction that the right was on his side. Mr. Herndon, who visited Lincoln's office on business, gives the following reminiscence: "Mr. Lincoln was seated at his table, listening very attentively to a man who was talking earnestly in a low tone. After the would-be client had stated the facts of the case, Mr. Lincoln replied, 'yes, there is no reasonable doubt but that I can gain your case for you. I can set a whole neighborhood at logger heads; I can distress a widowed mother and her six fatherless children, and thereby get for you six hundred dollars, which rightly belongs, it appears to me, as much to the woman and her children as it does to you. You must remember that some things that are legally right are not morally right. I shall not take your case, but will give you a bit of advice, for which I will charge you nothing. You seem to be a sprightly, energetic man. I would advise you to try your hand at making six hundred dollars in some other way.'"

There is one part of Lincoln's early life which, though scandal may fatten on it, we shall pass over lightly; we mean that part which relates to his love affairs and his marriage. Criticism, and even biography, should respect as far as possible the sanctuary of affection. That a man has dedicated his life to the service of the public is no reason why the public should be licensed to amuse itself by playing with his heartstrings. Not only as a storekeeper, but in every capacity, Mr. Lincoln was far more happy in his

relations with men than with women. He however loved, and loved deeply, Ann Rutledge, who appears to have been entirely worthy of his attachment, and whose death at the moment when she would have felt herself at liberty to marry him, threw him into a transport of grief, which threatened his reason and excited the gravest apprehension of his friends. In stormy weather, especially, he would rave piteously, crying that he could "never be reconciled to have the snow, rains and storms to beat upon her grave." This first love he seems never to have forgotten. He next had an affair not so creditable to him. Finally, he made a match of which the world has heard, perhaps, enough, though the western boy was too true a gentleman to let it hear anything about the matter from his lips. It is enough to say that this man was not wanting in that not inconsiderable element of worth, even of the worth of statesmen, strong and pure affection.

"If ever," said Abraham Lincoln, "American society and the United States Government are demoralized and overthrown, it will come from the voracious desire of office—this wriggle to live without toil, from which I am not free myself." These words ought to be written up in the largest characters in every schoolroom in the United States. The confession with which they conclude is as true as the rest. Mr. Lincoln, we are told, took no part in the promotion of local enterprises, railroads, schools, churches, asylums. The benefits he proposed for his fellow-men were to be accomplished by political means alone.

Lincoln's fundamental principle was devotion to the popular will. In his address to the people of Sangamon

County, he says, "while acting as their representative I shall be governed by their will on all subjects upon which I have the means of knowing what their will is, and upon all others I will do what my own judgment teaches me will advance their interests."

Lincoln's first attempt to get elected to the State Legislature was unsuccessful. It however brought him the means of "doing something for his country," and partly averting the "death-struggle of the world," in the shape of the postmastership of New Salem. The business of the office was not on a large scale, for it was carried on in Mr. Lincoln's hat—an integument of which it is recorded, that he refused to give it to a conjurer to play the egg trick in, "not from respect for his own hat, but for the conjurer's eggs." The future President did not fail to signalize his first appearance as an administrator by a sally of the jocularity which was always struggling with melancholy in his mind. A gentleman of the place, whose education had been defective, was in the habit of calling two or three times a day at the post-office, and ostentatiously inquiring for letters. At last he received a letter, which, being unable to read himself, he got the post-master to read for him before a large circle of friends. It proved to be from a negro lady engaged in domestic service in the South, recalling the memory of a mutual attachment, with a number of incidents more delectable than sublime. It is needless to say that the post-master, by a slight extension of the sphere of his office, had written the letter as well as delivered it.

In a second candidature the aspirant was more successful, and he became one of nine representatives of Sangamon

County, in the State Legislature of Illinois, who, being all more than six feet high, were called "The Long Nine." With his Brobdingnagian colleagues, Abraham plunged at once into the "internal improvement system," and distinguished himself above his fellows by the unscrupulous energy and strategy with which he urged through the Legislature a series of bubble schemes and jobs. Railroads and other improvements, especially improvements in river navigation, were voted out of all proportion to the means or credit of the then thinly-peopled State.

It is instructive as well as just to remember that all this time the man was strictly, nay sensitively, honorable in his private dealings, that he was regarded by his fellows as a paragon of probity, that his word was never questioned, that of personal corruption calumny itself, so far as we are aware, never dared to accuse him. Politics, it seems, may be a game apart, with rules of its own which supersede morality.

Considering that this man was destined to preside over the most tremendous operations in the whole history of finance, it is especially instructive to see what was the state of his mind on economical subjects. He actually proposed to pass a usury law, having arrived, it appears, at the sage conviction that while to pay the current rent for the use of a house or the current fee for the services of a lawyer is perfectly proper, to pay the current price for money is to "allow a few individuals to levy a direct tax on the community." But this is an ordinary illusion. Abraham Lincoln's illusions went far beyond it. As President, when told that the finances were low, he asked whether the printing

machine had given out, and he suggested, as a special temptation to capitalists, the issue of a class of bonds which should be exempt from seizure for debt. It may safely be said that the burden of the United States debt was ultimately increased fifty per cent. through sheer ignorance of the simplest principles of economy and finance on the part of those by whom it was contracted.

Lincoln's style, both as a speaker and a writer, ultimately became plain, terse, and with occasional faults of taste, caused by imperfect education, pure as well as effective. His Gettysburg address and some of his State Papers are admirable in their way. Saving one very flat expression, the address has no superior in literature. But it was impossible that the oratory of a rising politician, especially in the west, should be free from spread-eagleism. In debate he was neither bitter nor personal in the bad sense, though he had a good deal of caustic humor and knew how to make an effective use of it.

Passing from State politics to those of the Union, and elected to Congress as a Whig, a party to which he had gradually found his way from his original position as a "nominal Jackson man," Mr. Lincoln stood forth in vigorous though discreet and temperate opposition to the Mexican War.

Great events were by this time beginning to loom on the political horizon. The Missouri Compromise was broken. Parties commenced slowly but surely to divide themselves into Pro-slavery and Anti-slavery. The "irrepressible conflict" was coming on, though none of the American politicians—not even the author of that famous phrase—dis-

tinctly recognized its advent. Lincoln seems to have been sincerely opposed to slavery, though he was not an Abolitionist. But he was evidently led more and more to take anti-slavery ground by his antagonism to Douglas, who occupied a middle position, and tried to gain at once the support of the South, and that of the waverers at the North, by theoretically supporting the extension of slavery, yet practically excluding it from the territories by the doctrine of squatter sovereignty. Lincoln had to be very wary in angling for the vote of the Abolitionists, who had recently been the objects of universal obloquy, and were still offensive to a large section of the Republican party.

On one occasion, the opinions which he propounded by no means suited the Abolitionists, and "they required him to change them forthwith. *He thought it would be wise to do so considering the peculiar circumstances of his case;* but before committing himself finally, he sought an understanding with Judge Logan. He told the judge what he was disposed to do, and said he would act upon the inclination if the judge would not regard it as treading on his toes. The judge said he was opposed to the doctrine proposed, but, for the sake of the cause on hand, he would cheerfully risk his toes. *And so the Abolitionists were accommodated.* Mr. Lincoln quietly made the pledge, and they voted for him." He came out, however, square enough, and in the very nick of time with his "house divided against itself" speech, which took the wind out of the sails of Seward with his "irrepressible conflict." Douglas, whom Lincoln regarded with intense personal rivalry, was tripped

up by a string of astute interrogations, the answers to which hopelessly embroiled him with the South.

Lincoln's campaign against Douglas for the Senatorship greatly and deservedly enhanced his reputation as a debater, and he became marked out as the western candidate for the Republican nomination to the Presidency. A committee favorable to his claims sent to him to make a speech at New York. He arrived "in a sleek and shining suit of new black, covered with very apparent creases and wrinkles acquired by being packed too closely and too long in his little valise." Some of his supporters must have moralized on the strange apparition which their summons had raised. His speech, however, made before an immense audience at the Cooper Institute, was most successful, and as a display of constitutional logic it is a very good speech. It fails, as the speeches of these practical men one and all did fail, their common sense and shrewdness notwithstanding, in clear preception of the great facts that two totally different systems of society had been formed, one in the Slave States and the other in the Free, and that political institutions necessarily conform themselves to the social character of the people. Whether the Civil War could, by any men or means, have been arrested, it would be hard to say; but assuredly stump orators, even the very best of them, were not the men to avert it. At that great crisis no saviour appeared.

On May 10th, in the eventful year 1860, the Republican State Convention of Illinois, by acclamation, and amid great enthusiasm, nominated Lincoln for the Presidency. One who saw him receive the nomination says, "I then thought



him one of the most diffident and most plagued of men I ever saw." We may depend upon it, however, that his diffidence of manner was accompanied by no reluctance of heart. The splendid prize which he had won had been the object of his passionate desire. In the midst of the proceedings, the door of the wigwam opened, and Lincoln's kinsman, John Hanks, entered, with "two small triangular 'heart-rails,' surmounted by a banner with the inscription, 'Two rails from a lot made by Abraham Lincoln and John Hanks in the Sangamon bottom, in the year 1830.'" The bearer of the rails, we are told, was met "with wild and tumultuous cheers," and "the whole scene was simply tempestuous and bewildering."

The Democrats, of course, did not share the delight. An old man, out of Egypt (the southern end of Illinois) came up to Mr. Lincoln, and said: "So you're Abe Lincoln?" "That's my name, sir." "They say you're a selfmade man." "Well, yes, what there is of me is self-made." "Well, all I have got to say," observed the old Egpytain, after a careful survey of the statesman, "is, that it was a d—n bad job." This seems to be the germ of the smart reply to the remark that Andrew Jackson was a self-made man, "that relieves the Almighty of a very heavy responsibility."

The nomination of the State Convention of Illinois was accepted after a very close and exciting contest between Lincoln and Seward by the convention of the Republican party assembled at Chicago. The proceedings seem to have been disgraceful. A large delegation of roughs, we are told, headed by Tom Shyer, the pugilist, attended for Seward. The Lincoln party, on the other side, spent the whole night

in mustering their "loose fellows," and at daylight the next morning packed the wigwam, so that the Seward men were unable to get in. Another politician was there nominally as a candidate, but really only to sell himself for a seat in the Cabinet. When he claimed the fulfilment of the bond, Lincoln's conscience, or at least his regard for his own reputation, struggled hard. "All that I am in the world—the Presidency and all else—I owe to that opinion of me which the people express when they call me 'honest old Abe.' Now, what will they think of their honest Abe when he appoints this man to be his familiar adviser?" What they might have said with truth was that Abe was still honest but politics were not.

Widely different was the training undergone for the leadership of the people by the Pericles of the American Republic from that undergone by the Pericles of Athens, or by any group of statesmen before him, Greek, Roman, or European. The advantages and the disadvantages of Lincoln's political education are manifest at a glance. He was sure to produce something strong, genuine, practical, and entirely in unison with the thoughts and feelings of a people which, like the Athenian in the days of Pericles, was to be led, not governed. On the other hand, it necessarily left the statesman without the special knowledge necessary for certain portions of his work, such as finance, which was badly managed during Lincoln's Presidency, without the wisdom which flows from a knowledge of the political world and of the past, without elevation and comprehensiveness of view. It was fortunate for Lincoln that the questions with which he had to deal, and with which

his country and the world proclaim him to have dealt, on the whole, admirably well, though not in their magnitude and importance, were completely within his ken, and had been always present to his mind. Reconstruction would have made a heavier demand on the political science of Clary's Grove. But that task was reserved for other hands.\*

---

The foregoing article, written a number of years ago for a volume of Lectures and Essays, originally printed for private circulation, we have the kind permission of the author to reproduce here. To bring it within the scope of our pages, the essay has been considerably abridged. Despite the latter fact, the paper will doubtless prove acceptable to our readers, as it presents some interesting phases in the early career of Lincoln not usually met with in later-day critiques.

G. M. A., ED. S. C.



## ANECDOTES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF LINCOLN.

### LINCOLN'S ADDRESS AT SPRINGFIELD BEFORE GOING TO HIS INAUGURATION.

“Then came the central incident of the morning. Once more the bell gave notice of starting; but as the conductor paused with his hands lifted to the bell-rope, Mr. Lincoln appeared on the platform of the car, and raised his hand to command attention. The bystanders bared their heads to the falling snow-flakes, and standing thus his neighbors heard his voice for the last time, in the city of his home, in a farewell address so chaste and pathetic that it reads as if he already felt the tragic shadow of forecasting fate:

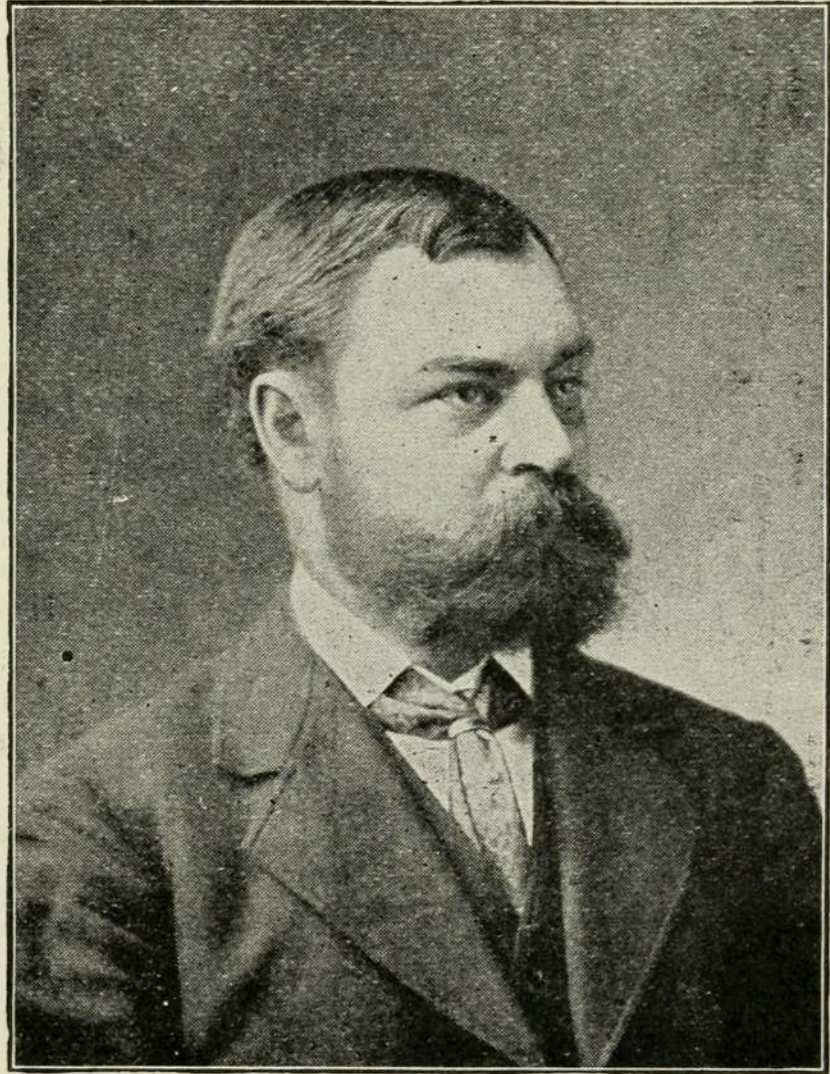
“ ‘My Friends: No one not in my situation can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of these people I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether I may ever return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I

cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.' ”—*Century Magazine*.

#### MONEY AND SELF-ISHNESS.

The following story was told by the Hon. Schuyler Colfax, who was present at the interview:

“In 1862, the people of New York City were greatly troubled, (some of them) for fear of a bombardment of the city by the confederate navy. Public meetings were held to discuss the situation, and the matter at last resulted in the appointment of a delegation of fifty men who represented, in their own right, two hundred millions of money.



Robert T. Lincoln, Son of Abraham Lincoln,  
and Ex-Secretary of War.

“These millionaires were to call on the President and induce him to send a gunboat or a warship to protect the city.

“When they called they were impressively introduced, and the fact that they owned two hundred millions of money was made especially prominent.

“The chairman of the delegation made a very earnest appeal for protection, and he also emphasized the fact that they owned two hundred million dollars worth of property.

“In his reply Lincoln stated that he would be glad to afford them the necessary protection, but the fact was that under the circumstances it was impossible for him to furnish them even a gunboat, all the boats being in use and the credit of the government at low ebb. ‘But,’ said he, ‘if I were worth half as much as you gentlemen are, and were as badly frightened as you are, I would build a gunboat and give it to the government for the protection of my own city.’

“‘The wise men of Gotham’ went away, realizing that even the money in their pockets should be one of the factors of the war.’”

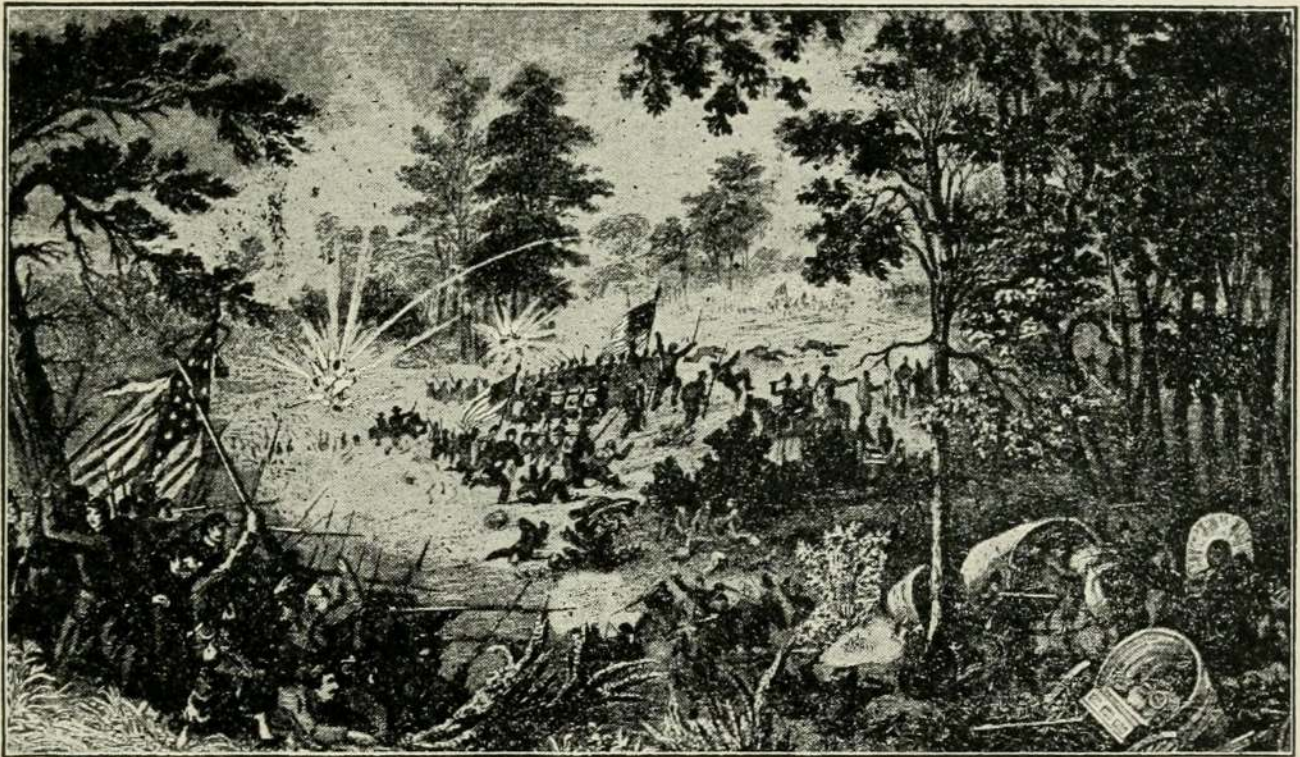
#### LINCOLN AND THE OFFICE SEEKERS.

A delegation once waited upon Lincoln to ask for the appointment of a certain party as Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands.

They argued their case earnestly, and at last made a strong point of the fact that the applicant was in poor health, and a residence in that climate would be of great benefit to him.

The President, however, closed the interview with the following remark:

“Gentlemen, I am sorry to say that there are eight other applicants for that place, and *they are all sicker than your man is.*”



The Battle of Bull Run, the First Great Battle of the Civil War, 1861.

#### LOYALTY TO FRIENDS.

The mildness of the man, and the tenderness of feeling hidden under a rugged exterior, were well known characteristics of the martyred President. But there were times when righteous indignation blazed in his eyes, and his voice was raised in defense of the cause which he had espoused.

The pressure of office seekers often annoyed him almost beyond endurance. During the first few months of the administration, the frantic horde pursued him day

and night. It jarred upon his patriotism to see men so eager for position and pelf when the country was just entering upon the awful fight for life, and not only this, but unpardonable selfishness was often revealed.

A delegation of California Republicans called on him at one time with a list of proposals covering not only the principal offices of that state, but indeed of the whole Pacific coast.

Their program was opposed in part by Senator Baker, who naturally claimed the right to be consulted respecting the patronage of his section of the Union.

After considerable discussion some of the Californians, in their eagerness to carry their point, went so far as to assail the public and private character of Senator Baker, who was an honored friend of Lincoln's.

The anger of the President was instantly aroused, and he exhibited such vehemence and intensity that the party of politicians fairly quailed before him. His wrath was terrifying when he put his foot down, and declared that Senator Baker was his friend, and that no man could assail him with impunity—if they hoped to gain anything by such nefarious conduct they were greatly mistaken.

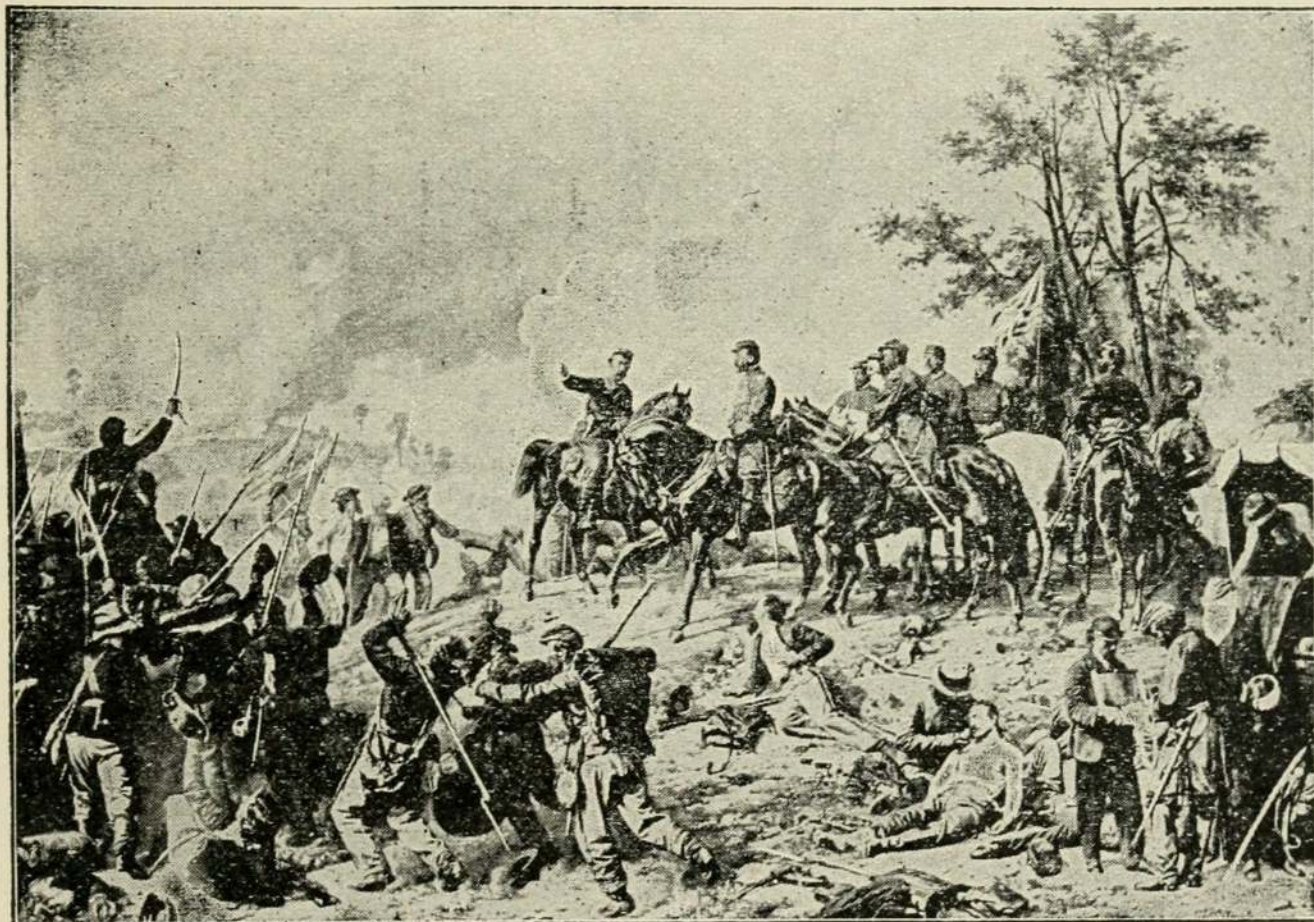
The result was that the charges against Senator Baker were retracted and ample apologies made, and such a disposition was made of the offices on the coast as satisfied Mr. Baker, while the Californians were allowed to have their own way to a great extent in their own state.

DANCE AT MIDNIGHT—HOW LINCOLN RECEIVED THE  
NEWS FROM GETTYSBURG.

“One evening at a crowded party given by Senator



Dixon, I was forced by the press into a corner and on looking around, found my next neighbor was Secretary Stanton. By-and-by Dixon came along and spying us said: 'Stanton, tell him the scene between old Abe



The Battle of Gettysburg, from the Painting by Wenderoth.

and you the night of the battle of Gettysburg.' Stanton then related the following:

"Mr. Lincoln had been excessively solicitous about the result of that battle. It was known that Lee had crossed into Pennsylvania, threatening Washington, and that a battle had commenced near Gettysburg, upon which, in all probability, the fate of Washington and the issue of the war depended. The telegraphic wires ran into the War Department and dispatches had been received of the

first day's fight, which showed how desperate was the attack, the stubbornness of the defense, and that the result was indecisive. All that day and the next Mr. Lincoln was in an agony of anxiety, running over, as was his wont, to the War Office to ascertain for himself the latest news instead of waiting for the reports to be sent him by his subordinates. Then came a long interval when nothing was heard from Meade, and the President was wrought up to an intense pitch of excitement.

"Night came on, and Stanton, seeing the President worn out with care and anxiety, persuaded him to return to the White House, promising if anything came over the wires during the night to give him immediate information. At last, toward midnight, came the electric flash of that great victory which saved the Union.

"Stanton seized the dispatch and ran as fast as he could to the Executive Mansion, up the stairs, and knocked at the room where the President was catching a fitful slumber.

"'Who is there?' he heard in the voice of Mr. Lincoln.

"'Stanton.'

"The door was opened, and Mr. Lincoln appeared with a light in his hand, peering through the crack of the door. Before Stanton, who was out of breath, could say a word the President, who had caught with unerring instinct the expression of his face, gave a shout of exultation, grabbed him with both arms around the waist, and danced him around the chamber until they were both exhausted.

“They then sat down upon a trunk, and the President, who was still in his nightdress, read over and over again the telegram, and then discussed with him the probabilities of the future and the results of the victory, until the day dawned.

“Such a scene at midnight between two of the greatest Americans whom this generation had produced, to whom all wise Providence had committed in largest measure the fate of Republican liberty in this Western world, may not afford a subject for the loftiest conceptions of the poet or the painter, but more than any other incident within my knowledge it shows the human nature of these two great men, and brings them home to the hearts and the hearthstones of the plain people of whom Mr. Lincoln was, on whom he depended, and whom he loved.

“It shows him brooding all through those three awful days, with an anxiety akin to agony which no one could share—worn and weary with the long and doubtful conflict between hope and fear—treading the wine-press for his people alone. And at last when the lightning flash had lifted the dark cloud, dancing like a schoolboy in the ecstasy of delight and exhibiting a touch of that human nature which makes all the world akin.

“As I look back over the intervening years to the great men and great events of those historic days, his figure rises before my memory the grandest and most majestic of them all. There were giants in those days, but he towered above them like Popocatepetl or Chimborazo. He was great in character, in intellect, in wisdom, in tact, in council, in speech, in heart, in person—in every-

thing.”—*Hon. A. H. Brandegee, in N. Y. Tribune.*

LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS.

In discussion Lincoln often combined wit and humor in such a way that it made his opponent ridiculous. Mr. Douglas was often the victim of these little sallies during the great debates before the people of Illinois in the year 1858.

In relation to the abolition of slavery, Douglas constantly argued or assumed that if freedom were given to the slave, it would be followed with intermarriage between the blacks and whites. He also charged that the Republican party was anxious to repeal the laws of Illinois which prohibited such marriages. At last Lincoln retorted about as follows:

“I solemnly protest against that counterfeit logic, which presumes that because I do not want a black woman for a slave, that I do necessarily want her for a wife—I have no fears of marrying a negro—it requires no law to prevent me from doing it, but if Judge Douglas needs a law of that sort I will do my utmost to retain the enactment which forbids the marrying of white people with negroes.”

PARDONS.

Many a distressed father or mother found help in appealing to Lincoln. He was the terror of his generals, who feared that by excessive use of the pardoning power he would destroy the discipline of the army, and Secretary Seward was more than indignant on many occasions when he felt that the President trespassed to an unwarrantable extent upon his own domain.

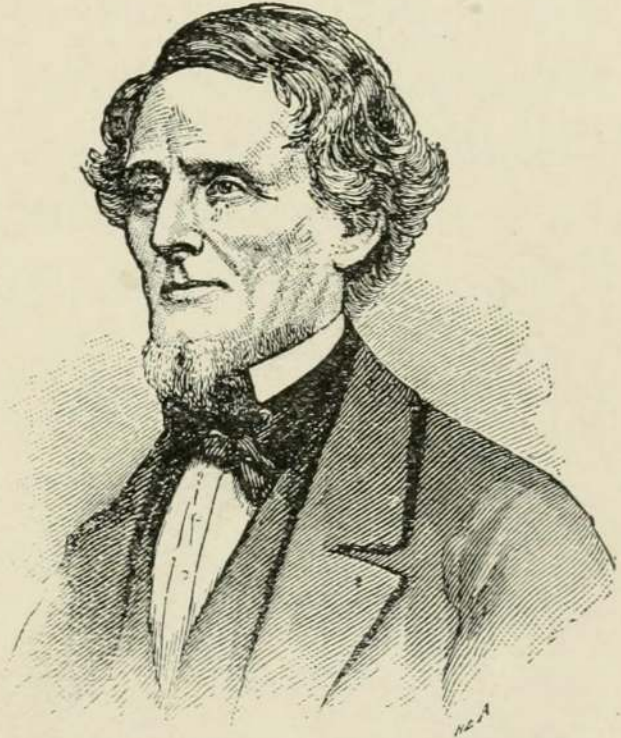
Attorney General Bates, who was a Virginian, once approached Lincoln with a special plea in behalf of a young Virginian, who had run away from a Union father, and enlisted in the rebel ranks. He had been captured, and was then held as a prisoner of war, and was in very poor health.

The President pondered on the matter for a moment, and then replied: "Bates, I have almost a parallel case in which the son of an old friend of mine ran away from his home in Illinois and entered the rebel army.

"The young fool has been captured, and his poor old father has appealed to me to send him home, promising of course, to keep him there. I have not seen my way clear to do it, but if you and I unite our influence with this administration, I believe we can manage to make two loyal fathers happy." And he did.

Schuyler Colfax once told a pathetic story of going to Lincoln for a pardon for the son of a former constituent.

He said Lincoln listened to the story with his usual patience, although he was even then tired out with incessant calls and demands upon his time, and then said: "Some of my generals complain that I impair discipline by my frequent pardons and reprieves, but after



Jefferson Davis, President of the  
Southern Confederacy.  
Born 1808. Died 1889.

a hard day's work it *rests me*, if I can find some excuse for saving a poor fellow's life, and I shall go to bed to-night thinking happily of the joy that the signing of my name will give to that poor fellow and his family."

And with the tender smile which so often illumined those care-worn features, he signed his name and saved that life.

#### NO PARDON FOR SLAVE STEALERS.

The great clemency of the Chief Executive was so well understood that many demands were made upon him for unworthy objects. The Hon. John B. Alley says that while he was in congress a petition was sent him, numerously signed, for the pardon of a man who had been convicted of illegal slave trading as the commander of a vessel engaged in kidnapping the natives of Africa, and bringing them to a life of bondage in the United States.

The President courteously read the letter and petition, then drawing his lank figure up to its full height, he said: "I believe I am kindly enough to pardon almost any criminal, but the man who for paltry gain can rob Africa of her children to sell them into bondage will get no pardon from me. He may lie in jail forever so far as I am concerned." Lincoln evidently thought that men of this stamp could serve their country better while in jail, than they could if they had their freedom.

#### A FATHER'S EXPERIENCE.

A Congressman went up to the White House one morning on business, and saw in the anteroom, always crowded with people in those days, an old man, crouched

all alone in a corner, crying as if his heart would break. As such a sight was by no means uncommon, the Congressman passed into the President's room, transacted his business, and went away.

The next morning he was obliged again to go to the White House, and he saw the same old man crying, as before, in the corner. He stopped, and said to him, "What's the matter with you old man?"

The old man told him the story of his son; that he was a soldier in the Army of the James—General Butler's army—that he had been convicted by a court-martial of an outrageous crime and sentenced to be shot next week; and that his congressman was so convinced of the convicted man's guilt that he would not intervene.

"Well," said Mr. Alley, "I will take you into the Executive Chamber after I have finished my business, and you can tell Mr. Lincoln all about it."

On being introduced into Mr. Lincoln's presence, he was accosted with, "Well, my old friend, what can I do for you to-day?" The old man then repeated to Mr. Lincoln what he had already told the Congressman in the anteroom.

A cloud of sorrow came over the President's face as he replied, "I am sorry to say I can do nothing for you. Listen to this telegram received from General Butler yesterday: 'President Lincoln, I pray you not to interfere with the courts-martial of the army. You will destroy all discipline among our soldiers.—B. F. BUTLER.' "

Every word of this dispatch seemed like the death knell of despair to the old man's newly awakened hopes.

Mr. Lincoln watched his grief for a minute, and then exclaimed, "By jingo, Butler or no Butler, here goes!"—writing a few words and handing them to the old man. The confidence created by Mr. Lincoln's words broke down when he read—"Job Smith is not to be shot until further orders from me.—ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

"Why," said the old man, "I thought it was to be a pardon; but you say, 'not to be shot till further orders,' and you may order him to be shot next week." Mr. Lincoln smiled at the old man's fears, and replied, "Well, my old friend, I see you are not very well acquainted with me. If your son never looks on death till further orders come from me to shoot him, he will live to be a great deal older than Methuselah."

#### LINCOLN AND STEVENS.

Thaddeus Stevens, who so often criticised Mr. Lincoln very severely for not being aggressive and destructive enough, used to tell, with great gusto, this story of his own personal experience.

Mr. Stevens had gone with an old lady from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (his district), to the White House, to ask the pardon of her son, condemned to die for sleeping on his post. The President suddenly turned upon his cynical Pennsylvania friend, whom he knew had so often assailed him for excessive lenity, and said, "Now, Thad, what would you do in this case if you happened to be President?"

Mr. Stevens knew how many hundreds of his constituents were waiting breathlessly to hear the result of that



old woman's pilgrimage to Washington. Of course, congressmen who desired to be re-elected liked to carry out the desires of their constituents. Stevens did not relish the President's home-thrust, but replied that, as he knew of the extenuating circumstances, he would certainly pardon him.

"Well, then," said Mr. Lincoln, after a moment's writing in silence, "here, madam, is your son's pardon." Her gratitude filled her heart to overflowing, and it seemed to her as though her son had been snatched from the gateway of the grave.

She could only thank the President with her tears as she passed out, but when she and Mr. Stevens had reached the outer door of the White House she burst out, excitedly with the words, "I knew it was a lie! I knew it was a lie!" "What do you mean?" asked her astonished companion. "Why, when I left my country home in old Lancaster yesterday, the neighbors told me that I would find that Mr. Lincoln was an ugly man, when he is really the handsomest man I ever saw in my life." And certainly, when sympathy and mercy lightened up those rugged features, many a wife and mother pleading for his intervention had reason to think him handsome, indeed.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS ON THE INAUGURATION OF  
LINCOLN.

"I was present at the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, the 4th of March, 1865. I felt then that there was murder in the air, and I kept close to his carriage on the way to

the Capitol, for I felt that I might see him fall that day. It was a vague presentiment.

“At that time the Confederate cause was on its last legs, as it were, and there was deep feeling. I could feel



Frederick Douglass.

it in the atmosphere here. I got in front of the east portico of the Capitol, listened to his inaugural address, and witnessed his being sworn in by Chief Justice Chase.

“When he came on to the steps he was accompanied by Vice-President Johnson. In looking out in the crowd he saw me standing near by, and I could see he was pointing me out to Andrew Johnson. Mr.

Johnson, without knowing perhaps that I saw the movement, looked quite annoyed that his attention should be called in that direction. So I got a peep into his soul. As soon as he saw me looking at him, suddenly he assumed rather an amicable expression of countenance. I felt that, whatever else the man might be, he was no friend to my people.

“I heard Mr. Lincoln deliver this wonderful address. It was very short; but he answered all the objections raised to his prolonging the war in one sentence—it was a remarkable sentence.

“Fondly do we hope, profoundly do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war shall soon pass away, yet if God

wills it to continue until all the wealth piled up by two hundred years of bondage shall have been wasted, and each drop of blood drawn by the lash shall have been paid for, by one drawn by the sword, we must still say, as was said three thousand years ago, the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'

"For the first time in my life, and I suppose the first time in any colored man's life, I attended the reception of President Lincoln on the evening of the inauguration. As I approached the door I was seized by two policemen and forbidden to enter. I said to them that they were mistaken entirely in what they were doing, that if Mr. Lincoln knew that I was at the door he would order my admission, and I bolted in by them. On the inside I was taken in charge of two other policemen, to be conducted as I supposed to the President, but instead of that they were conducting me out of the window on a plank.

"Oh," said I, "this will not do, gentlemen," and as a gentleman was passing in I said to him, "Just say to Mr. Lincoln that Fred. Douglass is at the door."

"He rushed in to President Lincoln, and in about half a minute I was invited into the East Room of the White House. A perfect sea of beauty and elegance, too, it was. The ladies were in very fine attire, and Mrs. Lincoln was standing there. I could not have been more than ten feet from him when Mr. Lincoln saw me; his countenance lighted up, and he said in a voice which was heard all around: 'Here comes my friend Douglass.' As I approached him he reached out

his hand, gave a cordial shake, and said: 'Douglass, I saw you in the crowd to-day listening to my inaugural address. There is no man's opinion that I value more than yours: what do you think of it?' I said: "Mr.

Head Quarters Armies of the United States.

*City Point, Apr. 7. 11. Am. 1865*

*Gen. Grant.*

*Gen. Sherman says "If the thing is pressed I think that Lee will surrender." Let the thing be pressed.*

*A. Lincoln*

*The original dispatch sent by  
Mr. Lincoln to me, Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> 1865.  
A. A. Grant*

The Famous Last Dispatch of Lincoln to Grant with appended statement by Grant, certifying to its genuineness.

Lincoln, I cannot stop here to talk with you, as there are thousands waiting to shake you by the hand;" but he said again again: 'What did you think of it?' I said: "Mr. Lincoln, it was a sacred effort," and then I walked off. 'I am glad you liked it,' he said. That was the last time I saw him to speak with him."

#### LINCOLN AND REPORTERS.

Joseph Medill, the veteran editor of the *Chicago Trib-*

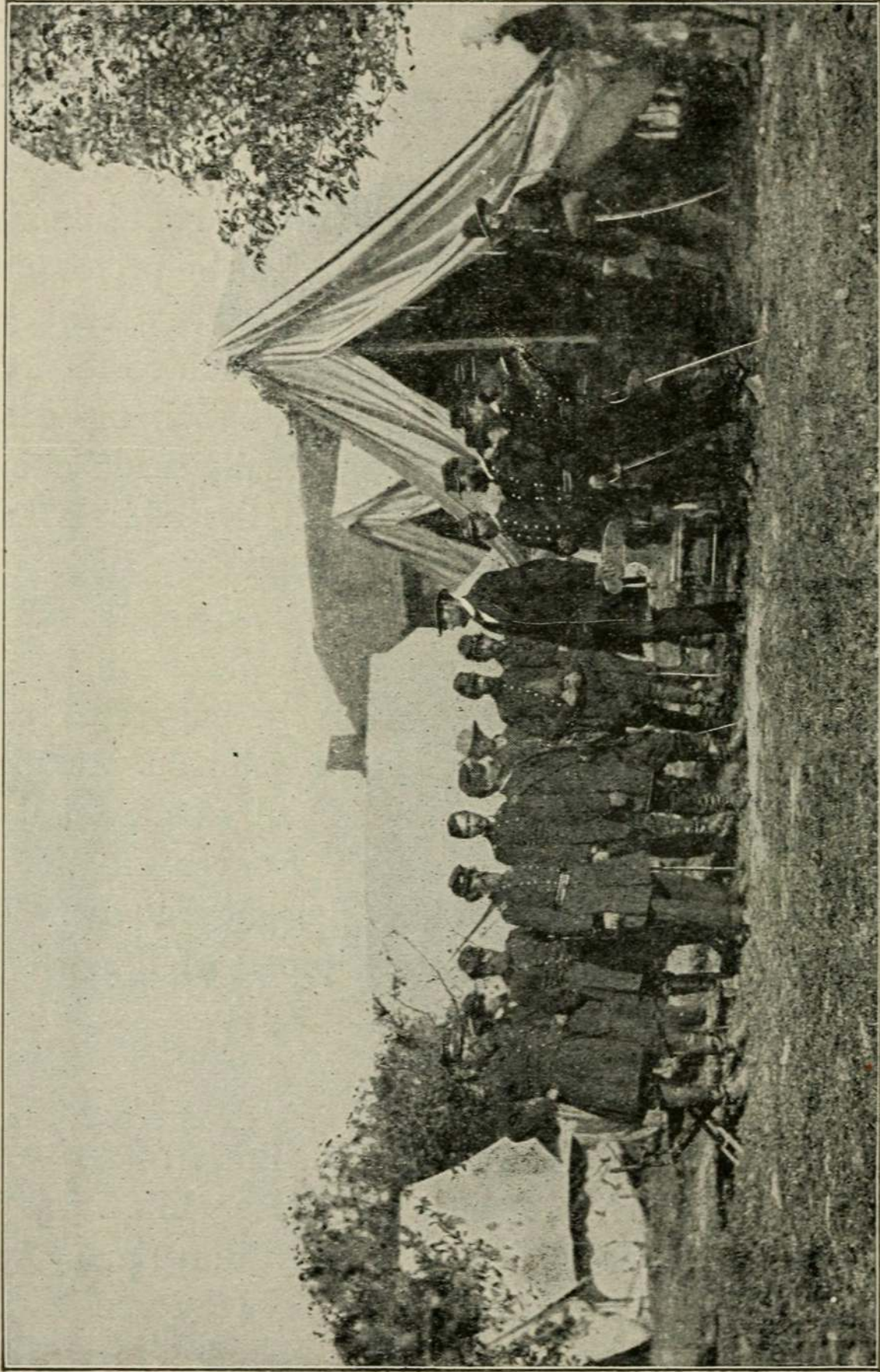
*une*, who was one of the corps of reporters, who followed Lincoln in the great debates with Douglas, tells the following story:

“You will remember that after Lincoln had been nominated he was asked to speak at Cooper Union, in New York. The eastern people knew nothing about him and they desired to see and hear him. Lincoln prepared a speech and gave copies to quite a number of us, requesting that we study it carefully and make such corrections and suggestions as we saw fit. Well, I took my copy and went over it very carefully, and finally made about forty changes. The others to whom the address had been submitted were equally careful, and they made several amendments. When the speech was finally delivered it was exactly word for word with the original copy which Lincoln gave us. Not a change suggested had been adopted. I never knew whether Lincoln intended to play a joke on us, or whether he really believed that the alterations were not effective. I never mentioned the matter to him, and he said nothing more to me. To tell the truth, I was not exactly proud of the part I played in the matter.”

#### LINCOLN'S BRAVERY.

The following story is told by Gen. Butler:

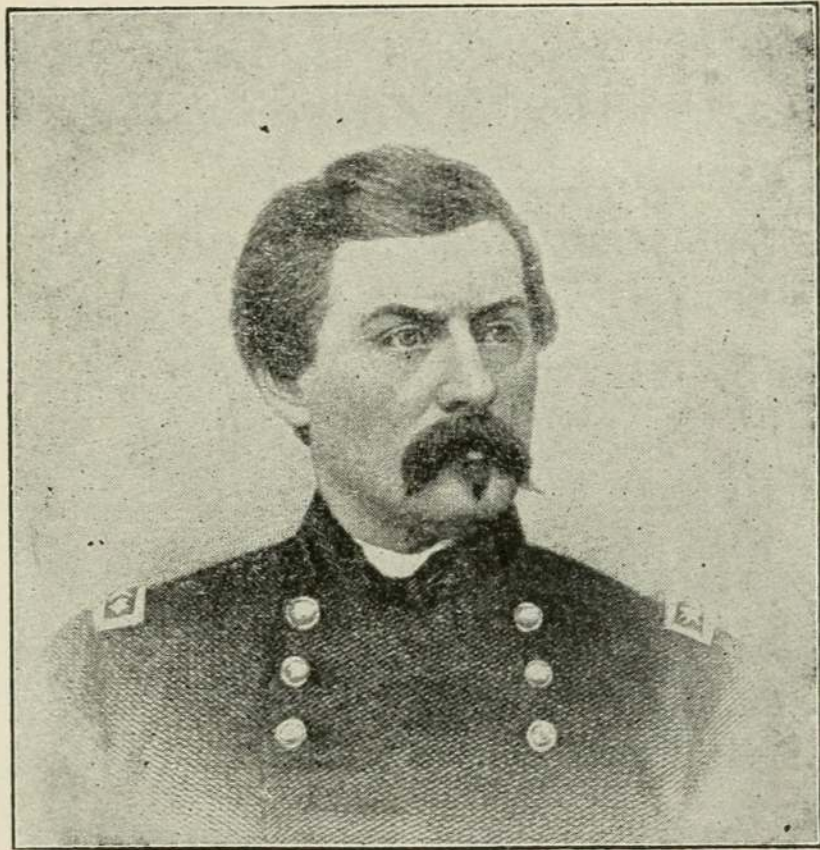
“Lincoln visited my department twice while I was in command. He was personally a very brave man, and gave me the worst fright of my life. He came to my head-quarters and said: ‘General, I should like to ride along your lines and see them, and see the boys and how



President Lincoln Visiting the Army of the Potomac, September, 1862.  
Being Received by Gen. Geo. B. McClellan.

they are situated in camp.' I said, "Very well, we will go after breakfast."

"I happened to have a very tall, easy-riding, pacing horse, and as the President was rather long legged, I tendered him the use of him, while I rode beside him on a pony. He was dressed, as was his custom, in a black suit, a swallow-tail coat, and tall silk hat. As there rode on the other side of him at first, Mr. Fox, the Secretary of the Navy, who was



Gen. Geo. B. McClellan, Commander of the Army  
of the Potomac.  
Born 1826. Died 1865.

not more than five feet six inches in height, he stood out as a central figure of the group. Of course the staff officers and orderly were behind.

"When we got to the line of intrenchment, from which the line of rebel pickets was not more than three hundred yards, he towered high above the works, and as we came to the several encampments the boys all turned out and cheered him lustily. Of course the enemy's attention was wholly directed to this performance, and with the glass it could be plainly seen that the eyes of their offi-

cers were fastened upon Lincoln; and a personage riding down the lines cheered by the soldiers was a very unusual thing, so that the enemy must have known that he was there.

“Both Mr. Fox and myself said to him, ‘Let us not ride on the side next to the enemy, Mr. President. You are in fair rifle-shot of them, and they may open fire; and they must know you, being the only person not in uniform, and the cheering of the troops directs their attention to you.’”

“‘Oh, no,’ he said laughing, ‘the commander-in-chief of the army must not show any cowardice in the presence of his soldiers, whatever he may feel.’”

“And he insisted upon riding the whole six miles, which was about the length of my intrenchments, in that position, amusing himself at intervals, when there was nothing more attractive, in a sort of competitive examination of the commanding-general in the science of engineering. This greatly amused my engineer-in-chief, General Weitzel, who rode on my left, and who was kindly disposed to prompt me while the examination was going on. This attracted the attention of Mr. Lincoln, who said, ‘Hold on, Weitzel, I can’t beat you, but I think I can beat Butler.’”

“I give this incident to show his utter unconcern under circumstances of very great peril, which kept the rest of us in a continued and quite painful anxiety. When we reached the left of the line we turned off toward the hospitals, which were quite extensive and kept in most admirable order by my medical director, Surgeon McCor-



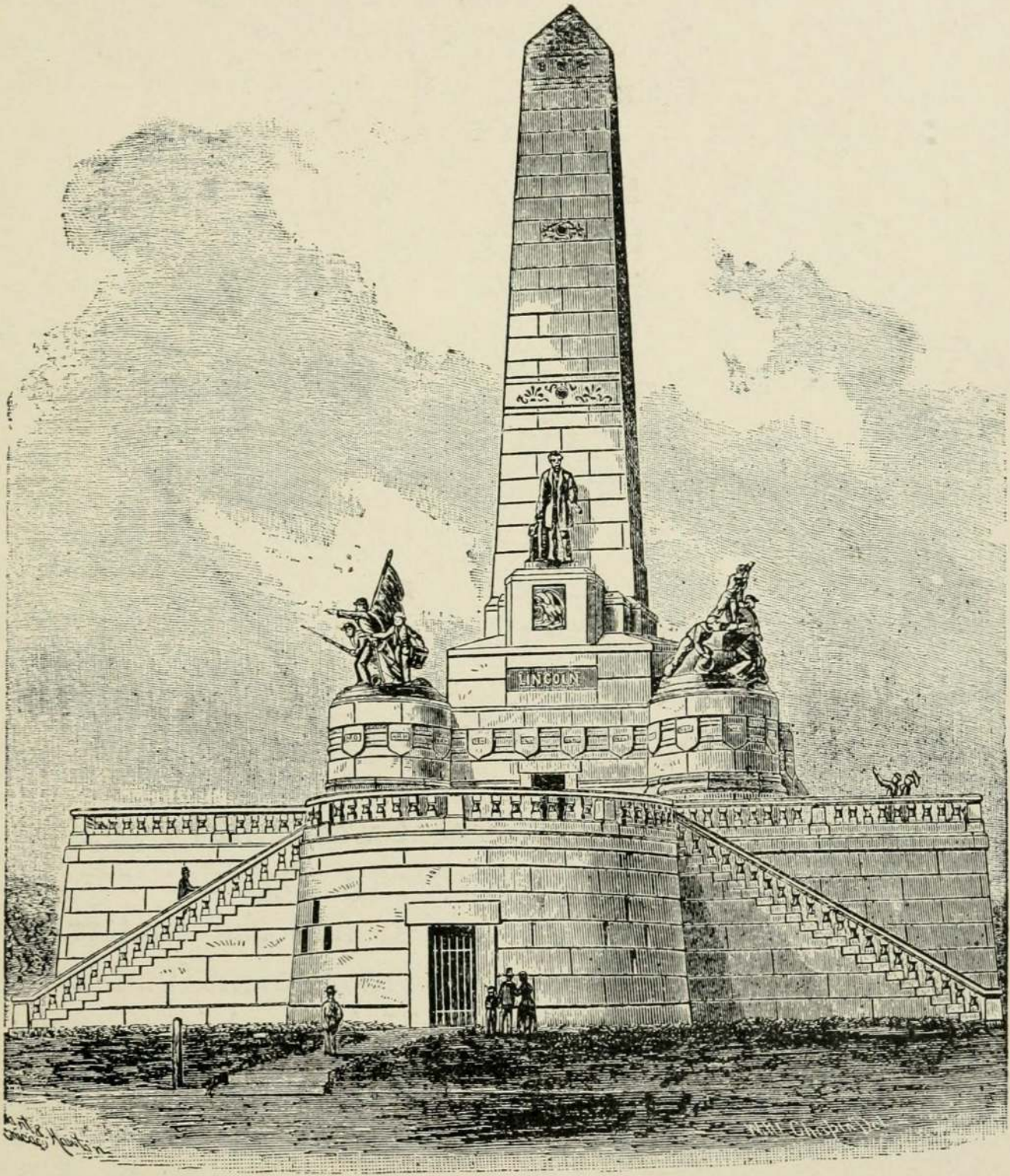
mack. The President passed through all the wards, stopping and speaking very kindly to some of the poor fellows as they lay on their cots, and occasionally administering a few words of commendation to the ward master. Sometimes when reaching a patient who showed much suffering the President's eyes would glisten with tears. The effect of his presence upon these sick men was wonderful, and his visit did great good, for there was no medicine which was equal to the cheerfulness which his visit so largely inspired."

#### ERECTION OF THE LINCOLN MONUMENT AT SPRINGFIELD.

The movement for the erection of a national Lincoln monument was begun immediately after the assassination of President Lincoln, but it was not until Oct. 15, 1874, that the Springfield memorial was dedicated, that city being chosen because it was Lincoln's home when he was elected to the Presidency. The monument stands in the middle of six acres of high ground in Oak Ridge cemetery. It is of massive proportions, of bronze and granite, and was designed by Larkin G. Mead, Jr., an American artist. Thirty-one artists of national repute competed for the design, among them being Leonard Volk, Harriet Hosmer, and Vinnie Ream. Some of the designs submitted would have cost \$5,000,000, but all were adjudged as being of artistic merit, and it was only after considerable difficulty in making a choice that the design submitted by Larkin G. Mead of Brattleboro, Vt., was accepted. Whatever may be said in criticism, it cannot be denied that the Lincoln monument is an im-

posing structure. It consists of a central granite shaft, or obelisk, rising from a massive, square base to a height of ninety-eight feet. Allegorical figures in bronze crown the four corners of the pedestal. A bronze statue of Lincoln standing in relief against the shining granite forms the central figure of the groups of statuary. The monument is located on probably the highest ground in Springfield, overlooking the capital and wide stretches of Illinois prairie. The statue of Lincoln had been commended as one of the most natural and lifelike representations of the martyred President. He is represented in the attitude of making a public address, grasping the emancipation proclamation in one hand. He stoops a little, he is angular, his cheeks are thin, his forehead deeply wrinkled. Old Illinoisans who had known Lincoln from his boyhood pronounced it an excellent likeness. The front of the pedestal on which the statue rests, bears the coat of arms of the United States in bronze. The American eagle on the shield is represented as having broken the chain of slavery, some of the links being grasped in his talons, and the rest held aloft in his beak. An olive branch, spurned, is thrust aside at his feet.

Memorial hall, in the base of the monument, is filled with various Lincoln relics and souvenirs. One of the most interesting of these is a stone from the wall of Servius Tullius, presented to President Lincoln by citizens of Rome in 1865. It is a large, irregular slab of sandstone, on which is carved the following inscription in Latin:



The Lincoln Monument at Springfield, Ill.

“To Abraham Lincoln, President for the second time of the American republic, citizens of Rome present this stone from the walls of Servius Tullius, by which the memory of each of those brave asserters of liberty may be associated. Anno, 1865.”

After Lincoln's death this stone was found in the basement of the capital at Washington. It is supposed that the President, not caring to have a furore raised over the incident, had ordered the stone stored away without saying anything about receiving it. The body of Lincoln was removed to the crypt in the monument from a temporary tomb in the public vault Oct. 9, 1874. The marble sarcophagus bears the inscription: “With malice toward none, with charity for all.—Lincoln.” The bodies of Mrs. Lincoln and the three sons, William, Edward, and Thomas (Thad), have also been placed in the monument. Two crypts are left for the two remaining members of the family.

The national Lincoln monument was built by popular subscription. Ex-Governor Richard J. Oglesby was the president of the association which had the matter in charge. Contributions toward the monument fund came from every city and state in the Union and from every country in the world.

#### LINCOLN'S SADNESS.

The Honorable Schuyler Colfax, in his funeral oration at Chicago, said of him:—

“He bore the nation's perils, and trials, and sorrows, ever on his mind. You know him, in a large degree, by

the illustrative stories of which his memory and his tongue were so prolific, using them to point a moral, or to soften discontent at his decisions. But this was the mere badinage which relieved him for the moment from the heavy weight of public duties and responsibilities under which he often wearied. Those whom he admitted to his confidence, and with whom he conversed of his feelings, knew that his inner life was checkered with the deepest anxiety and most discomfoting solicitude. Elated by victories for the cause which was ever in his thoughts, reverses to our arms cast a pall of depression over him. One morning, over two years ago, calling upon him on business, I found him looking more than usually pale and careworn, and inquired the reason. He replied, with the bad news he had received at a late hour the previous night, which had not yet been communicated to the press—he had not closed his eyes or breakfasted; and with an expression I shall never forget, he exclaimed, ‘How willingly would I exchange places to-day with the soldier who sleeps on the ground in the Army of the Potomac!’ ”

#### HIS RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE.

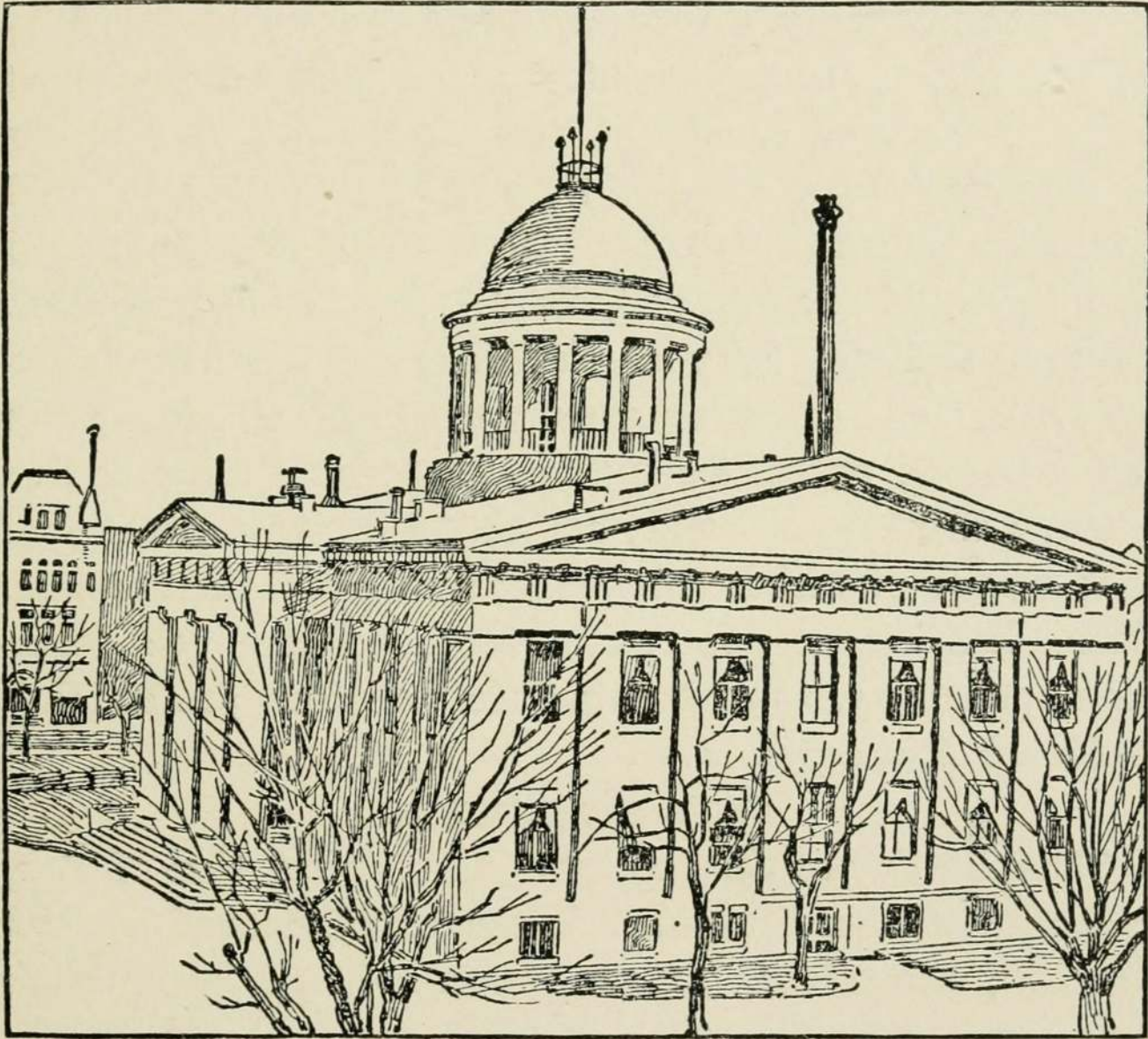
There is a very natural and proper desire, at this time, to know something of the religious experience of the late President. Two or three stories have been published in this connection, which I have never yet been able to trace to a reliable source, and I feel impelled to say here, that I believe the facts in the case—if there were such—have been added to, or unwarrantably embellished. Of all

men in the world, Mr. Lincoln was the most unaffected and truthful. He rarely or never used language loosely or carelessly, or for the sake of compliment. He was the most utterly indifferent to, and unconscious of, the effect he was producing, either upon official representatives, or the common people, of any man ever in public position.

Aside from emotional expression, I believe no man had a more abiding sense of his dependence upon God, or faith in the Divine government, and in the power and ultimate triumph of Truth and Right in the world. In the language of an eminent clergyman of this city, who lately delivered an eloquent discourse upon the life and character of the departed President, "It is not necessary to appeal to apocryphal stories, in circulation in the newspapers—which illustrate as much the assurance of his visitors as the simplicity of his faith—for proof of Mr. Lincoln's Christian character." If his daily life and various public addresses and writings do not show this, surely nothing can demonstrate it.

But while inclined, as I have said, to doubt the truth of some of the statements published on this subject, I feel at liberty to relate an incident, which bears upon its face unmistakable evidence of truthfulness. A lady interested in the work of the Christian Commission had occasion, in the prosecution of her duties, to have several interviews with the President of a business nature. He was much impressed with the devotion and earnestness of purpose she manifested, and on one occasion, after she had discharged the object of her visit, he said to her: "Mrs.——, I have formed a very high opinion of your

Christian character, and now, as we are alone, I have a mind to ask you to give me, in brief, your idea of what constitutes a true religious experience." The lady re-



The Old State House, Springfield. Completed in 1840, Afterwards used as the Sangamon County Court House. The Capitol was located at Springfield through the efforts of "The Long Nine," so-called because the combined height of these men was 54 feet. Lincoln was a member of this delegation.

plied at some length, stating that, in her judgment, it consisted of a conviction of one's own sinfulness and weakness, and personal need of the Saviour for strength and support; that views of mere doctrine might and would differ, but when one was really brought to feel

his need of Divine help, and to seek the aid of the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance, it was satisfactory evidence of his having been born again. This was the substance of her reply. When she had concluded, Mr. Lincoln was very thoughtful for a few moments. He at length said, very earnestly, "If what you have told me is really a correct view of this great subject, I think I can say with sincerity, that I hope I am a Christian. I had lived," he continued, "until my boy Willie died, without realizing fully these things. That blow overwhelmed me. It showed me my weakness as I had never felt it before, and if I can take what you have stated as a *test*, I think I can safely say that I know something of that *change* of which you speak; and I will further add, that it has been my intention for some time, at a suitable opportunity, to make a public religious profession!"—*Frank B. Carpenter.*

#### LEE'S SURRENDER.

"On the day of the receipt of the capitulation of Lee, as we learn from a friend intimate with the late President Lincoln, the cabinet meeting was held an hour earlier than usual. Neither the President nor any member was able, for a time, to give utterance to his feelings. At the suggestion of Mr. Lincoln all dropped on their knees, and offered, in silence and in tears, their humble and heartfelt acknowledgments to the Almighty for the triumph He had granted to the National cause."—"The Western Christian Advocate."

#### LINCOLN AND HIS ADVISERS.

At the White House one day some gentlemen were



present from the West, excited and troubled about the commissions or omissions of the Administration. The President heard them patiently, and then replied:—"Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold, and you had put it in the hands of Blondin to carry across the Niagara River on a rope, would you shake the cable, or keep shouting out to him—"Blondin, stand up a little straighter—Blondin, stoop a little more—go a little faster—lean a little more to the north—lean a little more to the south? No, you would hold your breath as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he was safe over. The government officials are carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can. Don't badger them. Keep silence, and we'll get you safe across."

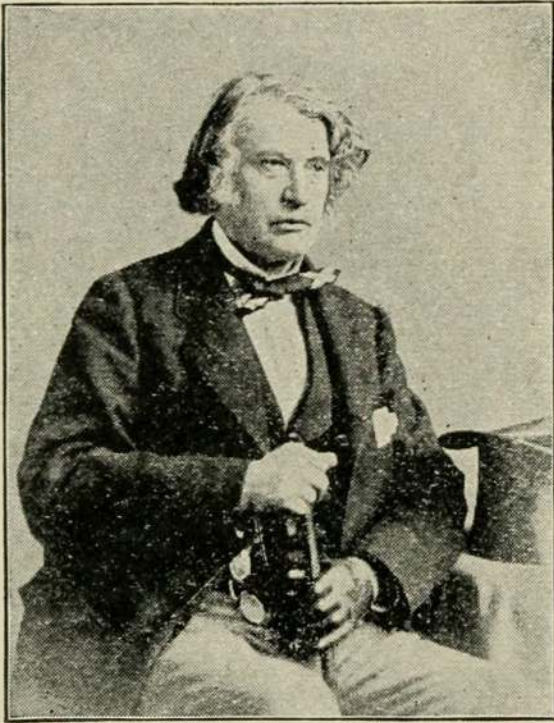
#### HIS FIRST DOLLAR.

On one occasion, in the Executive chamber, there were present a number of gentlemen, among them Mr. Seward.

A point in the conversation suggesting the thought, Mr. Lincoln said: "Seward, you never heard, did you, how I earned my first dollar?" "No," said Mr. Seward. "Well," replied he, "I was about eighteen years of age. I belonged, you know, to what they call down South, the 'scrubs;' people who do not own slaves are nobody there. But we had succeeded in raising chiefly by my labor, sufficient produce, as I thought, to justify me in taking it down the river to sell.

"After much persuasion, I got the consent of mother to

go, and constructed a little flatboat, large enough to take a barrel or two of things, that we had gathered, with myself and little bundle, down to New Orleans. A steamer was coming down the river. We have, you know, no wharves on the Western streams; and the custom was, if



Chas. Sumner, a Supporter of Lincoln during his Administration.

passengers were at any of the landings, for them to go out in a boat, the steamer stopping and taking them on board.

“I was contemplating my new flatboat, and wondering whether I could make it stronger or improve it in any particular, when two men came down to the shore in carriages with trunks, and looking at the different boats singled out mine, and asked, ‘Who owns this?’ I answered, somewhat modestly, ‘I do.’ ‘Will you,’ said one of them, ‘take us and our trunks out to the steamer?’ ‘Certainly,’ said I. I was very glad to have the chance of earning something. I supposed that each of them would give me two or three bits. The trunks were put on my flatboat, the passengers seated themselves on the trunks, and I sculled them out to the steamboat.

“They got on board, and I lifted up their heavy trunks, and put them on deck. The steamer was about to put on steam again, when I called out that they had forgotten to pay me. Each of them took from his pocket a

silver half-dollar, and threw it on the floor of my boat. I could scarcely believe my eyes as I picked up the money. Gentlemen, you may think it was a very little thing, and in these days it seems to me a trifle; but it was a most important incident in my life. I could scarcely credit that I, a poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day—that by honest work I had earned a dollar. The world seemed wider and fairer before me. I was a more hopeful and confident being from that time.”

---

### SAYINGS OF LINCOLN.

When the white man governs himself, that is self-government; but when he governs himself, and also governs another man, that is more than self-government—that is despotism.

Little by little, but steadily as man's march to the grave, we have been giving up the *old* for the *new* faith. Near eighty years ago we began by declaring that all men are created equal; but now from that beginning we have run down to the other declaration that for *some* men to enslave *others* is a “sacred right of self-government.” These principles cannot stand together. They are as opposite as God and Mammon; and whoever holds to one must despise the other.

So I say, in relation to the principle that all men are created equal, let it be as nearly reached as we can. If we cannot give freedom to every creature, let us do nothing that will impose slavery upon any other creature.

All honor to Jefferson—to the man who, in the concrete pressure of a struggle for national independence by

a single people, had the coolness, forecast, and capacity to introduce into a merely revolutionary document an abstract truth, applicable to all men and all times, and so to embalm it there, that to-day and in all coming days it shall be a rebuke and stumbling-block to the harbingers of reappearing tyranny and oppression.

Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, in the best way, all our present difficulties.

I would despise myself if I supposed myself ready to deal less liberally with an adversary than I would be willing to be treated myself.

In a storm at sea, no one on board can wish the ship to sink; and yet, not unfrequently, all go down together, because too many will direct, and no single mind can be allowed to control.

I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views.

We will speak for freedom and against slavery, as long as the Constitution of our country guarantees free speech, until everywhere on this wide land, the sun shall shine and the rain shall fall and the wind blow upon no man who goes forth to unrequited toil.

There are two ways of establishing a proposition. One is, by trying to demonstrate it upon reason; and the other is, to show that great men in former times have thought so and so, and thus to pass it by the weight of pure authority.

Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the Government, nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty, as we understand it.

I hold that in the contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution, the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments.

If the Almighty Ruler of nations, with his eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North, or on your side of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail by the judgment of this great tribunal, the American people.

---

### EXTRACTS FROM LINCOLN'S SPEECHES.

#### FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

“The Union is much older than the Constitution. It was formed, in fact, by the Articles of Association in 1774. It was matured and continued in the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It was further matured, and the faith of all the then thirteen States expressly plighted and engaged that it should be perpetual, by the Articles of Confederation, in 1778; and finally, in 1787, one of the declared objects for ordaining and establishing the Constitution was to form a more perfect Union. But if the destruction of the Union by one or by a part only of the States be lawfully possible, the Union is less than before, the Constitution having lost the vital element of perpetuity.

“It follows from these views that no State, upon its own mere motion, can lawfully get out of the Union; that resolves and ordinances to that effect, are legally void; and that acts of violence within any State or States against the authority of the United States, are insurrectionary or revolutionary, according to circumstances. . . . .

“Physically speaking we cannot separate; we cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divorced, and go out of the presence and beyond the reach of each other, but the different parts of our country cannot do this. They cannot but remain face to face; and intercourse, either amicable or hostile, must continue between them. Is it possible, then, to make that intercourse more advantageous or more satisfactory after separation than before? Can aliens make treaties easier than friends can make laws? Can treaties be more faithfully enforced between aliens than laws can among friends? . . . .

“Intelligence, patriotism, christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, in the best way, all our present difficulties.

“In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assai! you.

“You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the Government; while I shall have the most solemn one to ‘preserve, protect, and defend’ it.

“I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

“The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

#### DEDICATORY ADDRESS AT GETTYSBURG.

The version here given is a literal transcript of the speech Mr. Lincoln wrote out for a fair in Baltimore, Nov. 19, 1863.

“Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as the final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that

that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

“But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate,—we cannot consecrate,—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who have fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

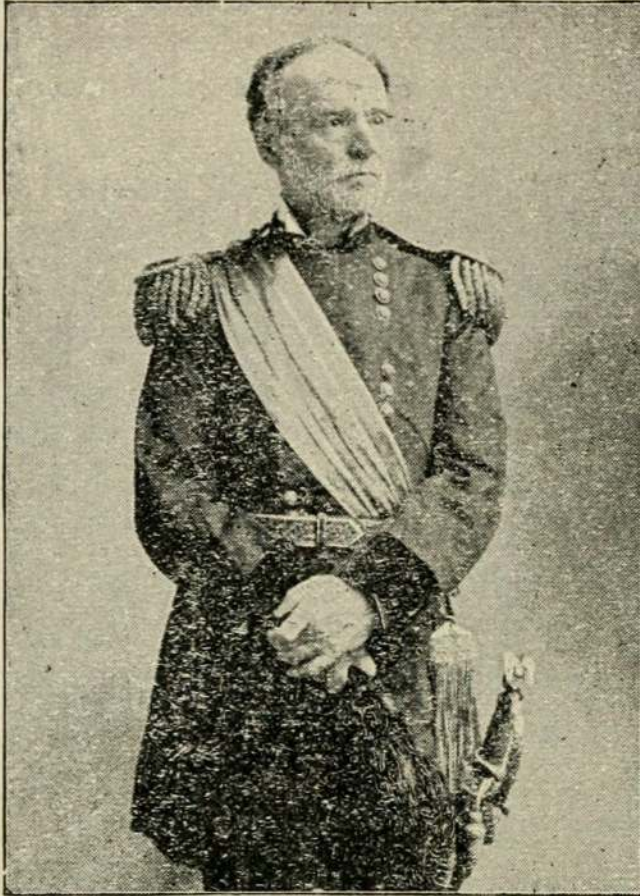
“It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain,—that this nation under God, shall have a new birth of freedom,—and that the government of the people, by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

FAST DAY PROCLAMATION, MARCH 30, 1863.

“Whereas, It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures, and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

“And, insomuch as we know that, by his Divine laws, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our National reformation as a whole people?

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.”



Gen. W. T. Sherman.  
Born 1820. Died 1891.



Gen. Philip H. Sheridan.  
Born 1831. Died 1888.

## THE STORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

FOR A SCHOOL OR CLUB PROGRAMME.

Each numbered paragraph is to be given to a pupil or member to read, or to recite, in a clear, distinct tone.

If the school or club is small, each person may take three or four paragraphs, but should not be required to recite them in succession.

1. Abraham Lincoln was born Feb. 12, 1809, in the county of LaRue, in the state of Kentucky.

2. He first attended school at Little Pidgeon Creek in the winter of 1819.

3. Three or four years later he attended Crawford's school in the same locality.



4. In 1826, he received his last schooling under the tuition of Mr. Swaney. To reach this "institution of learning," he walked four miles and a half each way.

5. Later, as a "hired boy," he taught himself as best he could with his rude surroundings, often "ciphering" on a wooden fire shovel or anything else that came in his way.

6. His reading was very limited, being confined to two or three books, but fortunately he had access to the great fountain of Biblical literature.

7. Obtaining access to the "Revised Statutes of Indiana," which could not be loaned from the constable's office, he early laid the foundation for legal study.

8. In 1831, he went to New Orleans on a flat-boat, with a little cargo of pork, hogs and corn. It was here that he first saw some of the abominations of slavery and the slave trade. The workings of the system greatly depressed him, and drew from him the emphatic and almost prophetic exclamation, "*If I ever get a chance to hit slavery, I'll hit it hard.*"

9. It was after his return from this trip that he found an English grammar, and mastered it by the light of pine knots during the long winter evenings.

10. The Black Hawk war broke out in 1832, and Lincoln enlisted. Although without military experience, his personal popularity made him the captain of his company.

11. After the war was over he became a candidate for the State Legislature, and although he was defeated, the campaign was of great service to him in the way of experience.

12. He began the study of law with borrowed books, and put his own knowledge into practice by drawing up legal papers, and also conducting small cases without remuneration.

13. Many volumes pertaining to the sciences now found their way into his hands, and also some of the standard works of literature.

14. He then sought and obtained the position of deputy surveyor of Sangamon County, and in this work he became an expert. He was often sought for as a referee when trouble arose concerning boundary lines, etc.

15. From 1833 to 1836 he was the postmaster of New Salem, having received the appointment as a Jackson democrat.

16. It was during this time that he again became a candidate for the Legislature. His campaign was personally conducted, and this time he was the victorious candidate.

17. It was at this session of the legislature that he met his great opponent, Stephen A. Douglas. In time, he fully accorded him the title of "The Little Giant."

18. In August of 1835, Lincoln met with a terrible loss, being no

less than the death of Anne Rutledge, the beautiful girl to whom he was betrothed. Nearly thirty years afterward he spoke lovingly of her to an old friend. "The death of this fair girl," said Mr. Herndon, "shattered Lincoln's happiness. He threw off his infinite sorrow only by leaping wildly into the political arena."

19. In 1836, he was again a candidate for the legislature. He was self-nominated, for this was before the days of caucuses and conventions. In the *New Salem Journal* he announced his platform, which contained a suffrage plank to the effect that all men and women who either bore arms, or paid taxes, should be allowed to vote.

20. Lincoln was elected in triumph. Sangamon County, which had usually gone Democratic, voting the Whig ticket by more than four hundred majority.

21. In 1837, Mr. Lincoln moved to Springfield, where his active life as a lawyer began, the State Capital having been moved about that time from Vandalia.

22. In November of 1842, he was married to Miss Mary Todd.

23. Mr. Lincoln was first elected to Congress in 1846.

24. One year later he took his seat as a member of the Thirtieth Congress. Other notable members at this time were Ex-President John Quincy Adams, Andrew Johnson, Alex. H. Stephens, besides Robert Toombs, Robert B. Rhett, and others. In the Senate were Daniel Webster, Simon Cameron, Lewis Cass, John C. Calhoun and Jefferson Davis.

25. At the close of his Congressional services in 1849, Mr. Lincoln returned to Springfield and resumed the practice of law, although his fees were considered by his legal brethren "ridiculously small."

26. During the contest in Kansas, in 1855, Lincoln's views on the subject of slavery were fully expressed in a radical letter to Mr. Speed.

27. In 1858, Lincoln held his notable debates with Stephen A. Douglas.

28. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln received the nomination of the Republican party for the presidency, Stephen A. Douglas was the nominee of the Democratic party and these two prominent men were again rivals.

29. Threatening times succeeded his election with the whole country aroused by threats of secession.

30. In March of 1861, he was inaugurated amidst the most ominous conditions that a new president was ever called upon to face.

31. He delivered an inaugural address which for wisdom, and consistency has never been surpassed.

32. Following the fall of Fort Sumter, Mr. Lincoln issued on the 15th of April a call for 75000 volunteers.

33. Four days later he issued a proclamation for the blockade of Southern ports.

34. In 1862, he met with the terrible loss by death of his son Willie. In the midst of this great trial his thoughts reverted to his own mother whom he lost when a child, "I remember her prayers," he said "they have always followed me—they have clung to me all my life."

35. During the long war he was everywhere busy doing everything possible for the comfort of the soldiers, especially the sick and wounded.

36. On Jan. 1st, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.

37. Following logically the policy of the Emancipation Act, he began the experiment of introducing colored troops into the armies of the United States.

38. In December of 1863, he made General Grant the commander-in-chief of all the Union armies.

39. In 1864, Abraham Lincoln was again elected president of the United States.

40. About the middle of August 1864, an attempt was made upon Lincoln's life one evening as he was riding back from the Soldier's Home. The bullet of the would-be assassin passed through the silk hat which the president wore, but at his request the matter was kept very quiet.

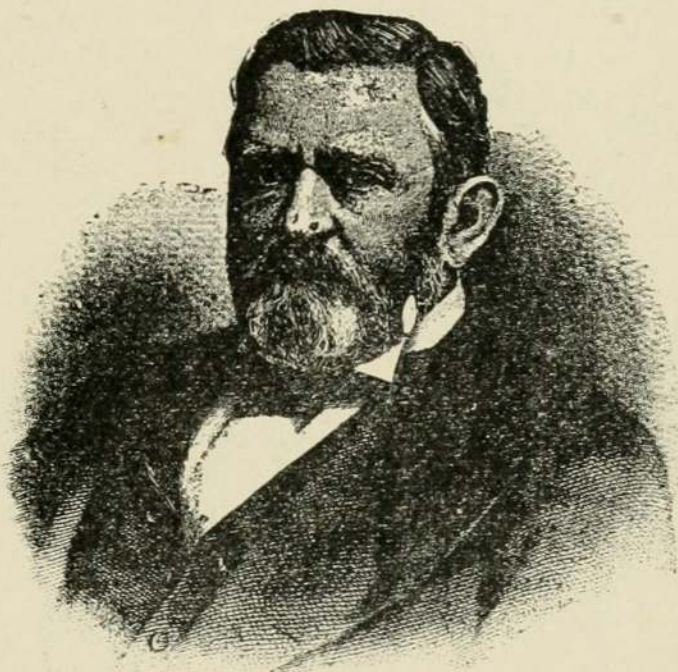
41. Early in December he submitted to Congress his fourth annual message, and this was followed by the passage of the Constitutional Amendment forever prohibiting slavery in the territory of the United States.

42. On March 4th, 1865, Mr. Lincoln was again inaugurated as President of the United States.

43. The great rebellion was brought to a successful close with great rejoicing over General Lee's surrender.

44. On the afternoon before his death he signed a pardon for a soldier who was under a death sentence. This act of mercy was his last official order.

45. On the 14th of April he fell by the hand of an assassin and the nation was in mourning.



Gen. U. S. Grant.  
Born 1822. Died 1885.

**PROGRAMME FOR A LINCOLN ENTERTAINMENT.**

1. Music—"The Red, White and Blue."
2. Recitation—Mr. Lincoln's favorite poem, "Oh why should the Spirit of Mortal be Proud?"
3. Essay—Early Life of Lincoln and the books that he read.
4. Recitation—Extracts from first Inaugural Address.
5. Dramatic Scene—Uncle Sam and Miss Columbia receiving the Presidents. (A boy dressed as Uncle Sam and a girl as Columbia, should stand on the platform receiving the Presidents as they arrive, dressed in the costume of their period, Washington being the first. They may be introduced by some one representing a hero of the War of the Rebellion.)
6. Recitation—Bryant's Abraham Lincoln.
7. Music—"We are Coming Father Abraham, Three Hundred Thousand Strong."

**ALTERNATE PROGRAMME.**

1. Music—"Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching."
2. Recitation—Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg.
3. Anecdotes of Lincoln.
4. Music—"Marching Through Georgia."
5. Recitation—Lowell's Commemorative Ode.
6. Music—"John Brown's Body."
7. Tableau—Lincoln Freeing the Slave.
8. Music—"Hail Columbia."

**QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW.**

*Where and when was Abraham Lincoln born? What can you say of his own mother? What can you say of his step-mother? What sort of a man was his father? What were the early educational advantages of Abraham Lincoln? Describe his early home? What books furnished his early reading? From whence did he derive his first knowledge of law? What can you say of his boyish character? How did he earn his first dollar? What was his first business venture? What was his experience in the Black Hawk War? What can you say of his first political work? When and where was he a postmaster? Describe his first political canvass? Describe his personal appearance?*

*Describe his second political campaign? When and where did he first meet Stephen A. Douglas? What can you say of his relation to national politics in connection with the legislature of 1836-37?*

*"What were his early views on the subject of slavery? What can you say of Elijah P. Lovejoy? What relation did Lincoln sustain to the cam-*

*paign of 1844? What can you say of the Wilmot Proviso? What did Caton say of Lincoln? What can you say of Lincoln's eulogy upon Henry Clay?*

*Describe the long rivalry between Douglas and Lincoln? Describe his relation with the republican convention of Illinois in 1858? Describe his address at Cooper Institute in Feb. of 1860? Describe his first nomination for the presidency? Give a synopsis of his last farewell to citizens of Springfield? Give an account of his first inaugural? Recite briefly the principal events connected with his first term? Give a synopsis of his second inaugural address? Give a brief synopsis of his address at Gettysburg?*

*Describe his character and also his personal appearance while he was president? In what way did he usually exercise executive clemency? Mention a few instances of this? What was his last official act? When and how did he die? What can you say of the national grief? Describe some of the scenes connected with the passing of his body from the Capital to the tomb?*

*In reviewing his career what do you consider the most important of his official acts? What is the general verdict of history upon the character of the man?*

### SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL STUDY

1. *The Nebraska Controversy.*
2. *The humor of Lincoln.*
3. *The eloquence of Lincoln.*
4. *Contrast between Douglas and Lincoln.*
5. *The Emancipation Proclamation.*
6. *Lincoln and Seward.*
7. *Lincoln and Horace Greeley.*
8. *Lincoln and Stanton.*
9. *Lincoln as a Statesman.*

### CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF LINCOLN.

1809. Born in LaRue County, Kentucky, Feb. 12.
1816. Moved with his parents to Indiana.
1830. Moved with his father and step-mother to Macon County, Ill.
1831. Constructed a flat-boat and made a successful trip to New Orleans and back.
1832. Served as clerk in the store of Mr. Offutt. Captain of Volunteers in Black Hawk War.
1833. Embarked in politics and studied law. Defeated for the legislature. Appointed postmaster at New Salem, Ill.
- 1834-1840. Elected successively to the legislature. Making Springfield his home.
1842. November, married Mary Todd, daughter of the Hon. Robert S. Todd of Lexington, Ky.
1846. Elected to Congress over his competitor, Rev. Peter Cartwright.

1848. Made speeches in favor of General Taylor for the Presidency.
1854. Made earnest speeches in favor of the Anti-Nebraska movement.
1855. Defeated for the United States Senate by Lyman Trumbull. Declined the offered nomination for Governor of Illinois.
1856. Headed the Electoral ticket for General Fremont as President.
1858. Engaged in the famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas.
1860. Delivered his speech in Cooper Institute, New York City, Feb. 27. Received the Republican Nomination for the Presidency, at Chicago, May. Elected to the Presidency November 6.
1861. Delivered his wonderful inauguration address at Washington, D. C., March 4. Called for 75000 men to preserve the Union April 15. Blockade of Southern ports declared April 19. Called for 42,034 Volunteers May 3. First Message to Congress July 4. Appointed a Fast Day on August 12, for the last Thursday in September.
1862. Sent special Message to Congress for the gradual abolishment of slavery, March 6. Signed bill for the abolishing of slavery in the District of Columbia April 16. Preliminary Proclamation of Emancipation issued September 22. Annual Message to Congress Dec. 1.
1863. Final Proclamation of Emancipation made Jan. 1. Sent reply to the testimonial of Sympathy and Confidence from the workmen of Manchester, England Jan. 19. Inaugurated the custom of setting apart a common day throughout the land for thanksgiving—the last Thursday in November. The renowned dedicatory address at the consecration of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Nov. 19. Annual Message to Congress Dec. 9.
1864. Re-elected President, November 8.
1865. Delivered second inaugural address, one of the greatest state papers that history has preserved. Entered Richmond with the Union Army, April 11. Assassinated by J. Wilkes Booth, April 14. Buried at Springfield, Illinois, May 4.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY.

For those who wish to read more extensively, the following works are especially commended:

- "Life of Lincoln," by Nicolay & Hay. Ten vols. The Century Co.
- "Life of Lincoln," by Herndon & Weik. Two vols. Appleton & Co.
- "Life of Lincoln," by Ward H. Lamon. J. R. Osgood & Co.
- "Life of Lincoln," by Isaac N. Arnold. A. C. McClurg & Co.
- "Life of Lincoln," by John T. Morse, Jr. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
- "Life on the Circuit with Lincoln," by Henry C. Whitney. Estes & Lauriet.
- "Life of Lincoln," by Wm. O. Stoddard. Fords, Howard & Hulbert.
- "Life of Lincoln," by J. G. Holland.





Nancy  
Hanks  
Lincoln  
Public  
Library