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CHICAGO

MONTREAL

LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

In 1806, Thomas Lincoln and his wife, Nancy Hanks, settled in Hardin County, Kentucky, and built a rude log cabin on Nolin Creek. It was in this cabin that Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12th, 1809. Thomas Lincoln, his father, was an illiterate man, barely able to read and write, although his wife Nancy appears to have been an exceptional woman, whose tender influence on her son had great bearing on his future life.

Although but nine years old when his mother died, Lincoln had received the lasting impress of her power for good in his deepest life.

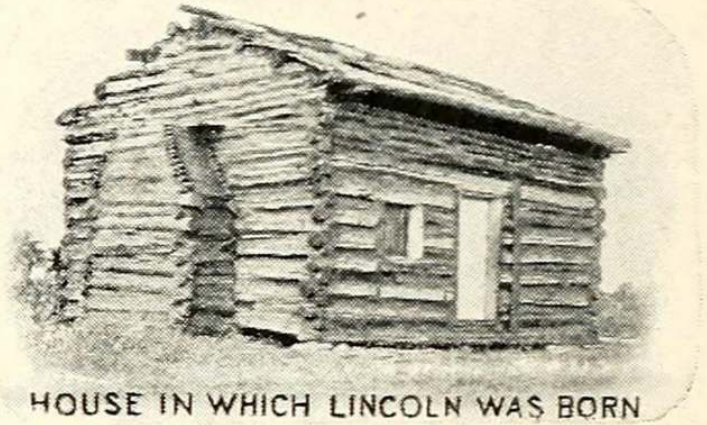
He said, when President, "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother—blessings on her memory!"

At the age of seven he attended school for five or six months, learning to write an intelligible letter in that short period.

In Abraham's eighth year, his father emigrated into Indiana and it was there that Abraham was first taught the use of the axe and helped in a small way in constructing their new log cabin home.

Schools were scarce in this new region, but he attended whenever possible and became quite skilful at writing letters, handling the correspondence of his illiterate neighbors.

His reading at that time was confined to a very small number of books, consisting of the Bible, Æsop's Fables, Pilgrim's Progress, Weem's Life of Washington and the Life of Henry Clay. These books, which he read and reread, did much to per-



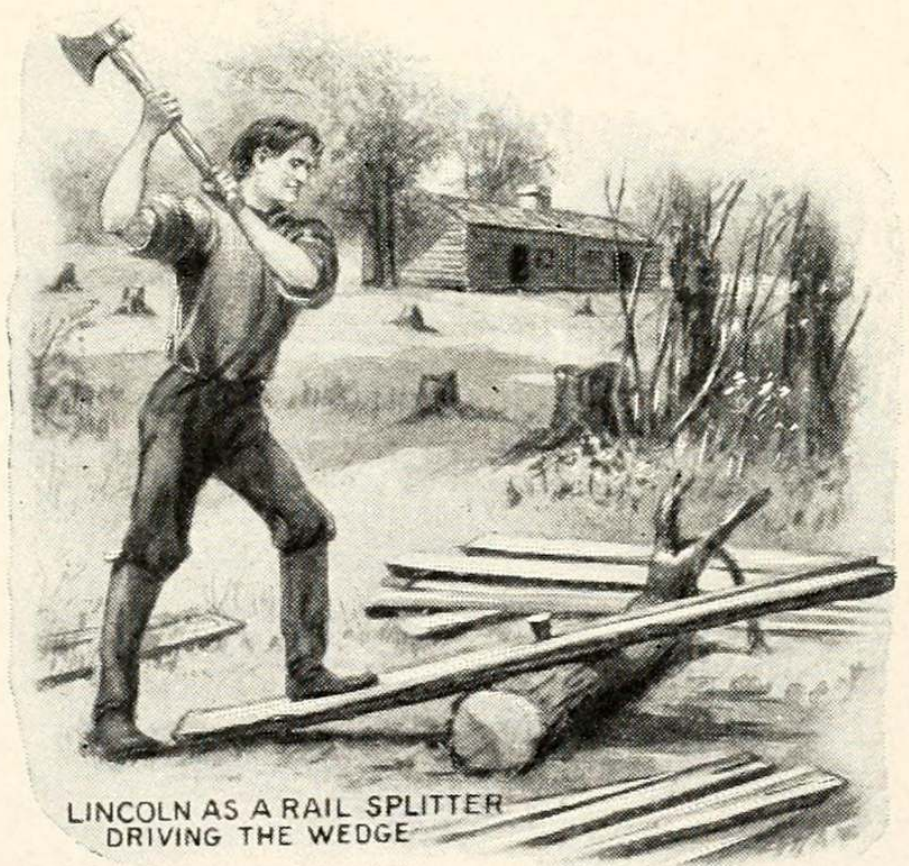
HOUSE IN WHICH LINCOLN WAS BORN

fect that which his mother's teachings had begun, and to form a character which, for quaint simplicity, earnestness, truthfulness and purity, has never been surpassed among the historic personages of the world.

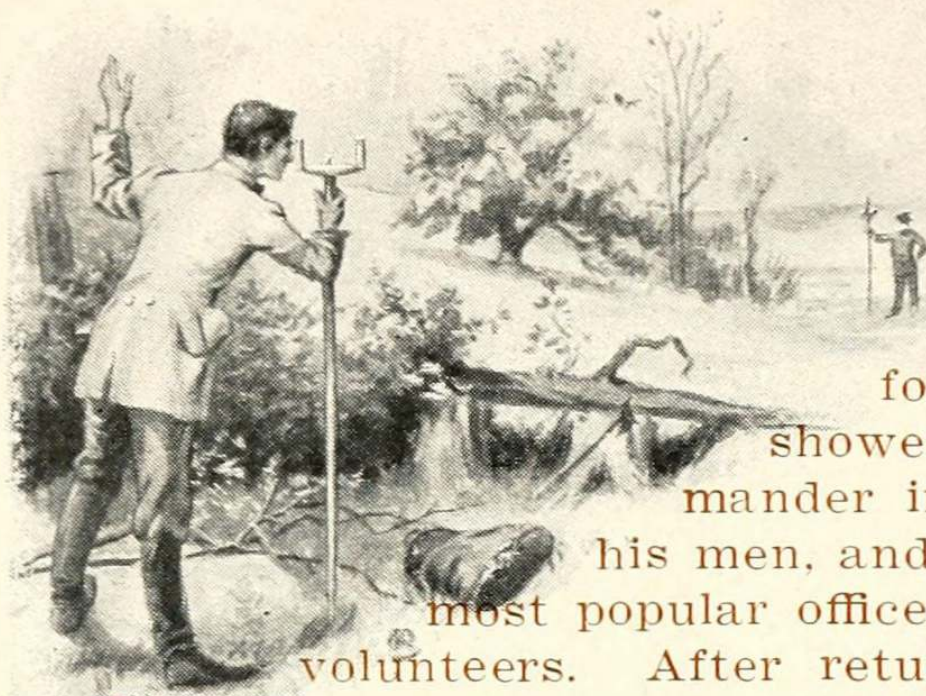
In 1830, Thomas Lincoln moved his family into Illinois, Macon County, where, with the aid of his son Abraham, he cleared a ten-acre farm space and built a log cabin. It was in this region that Abraham Lincoln became known as an expert rail splitter. He had grown to be six feet, four inches tall, and his strength was exceptional even in that country of strong, hardy men. Money was scarce and work usually was paid for in commodities and necessities; thus it is said that Lincoln made an agreement to split four hundred rails for every yard of brown jeans needed to make him a pair of trousers.

In 1831, Lincoln ran a flat boat with merchandise to New Orleans for Denton Offut. It was on this occasion that he first saw slavery in its worst form and laid the foundation for his deep anti-slavery convictions. After his return, he was engaged by Offut as clerk in his store and mill at New Salem. It was in this capacity that he gained the sobriquet of "Honest Abe."

In 1832, Offut having failed, Lincoln was now out of a position, and when volunteers



LINCOLN AS A RAIL SPLITTER
DRIVING THE WEDGE



were called for in the "Black Hawk" war, Lincoln volunteered and was elected captain of his company, and although he had no opportunity for actual warfare, he showed himself a good commander in his unfailing care of his men, and he was considered the most popular officer in the small army of volunteers. After returning from this expedition, he was induced to run for the State Legislature, but was defeated by a very small margin.

After an unsuccessful business venture, he was appointed Postmaster of New Salem, which gave him an opportunity to read the newspapers of the day, of which he availed himself freely. The financial benefits of the office were practically nothing, and, therefore, Lincoln gladly accepted the post of deputy to the Sangamon County Surveyor at wages of \$3.00 a day. Although absolutely ignorant of the duties of his new position, by hard study he soon made himself familiar with the work, and the surveys made by him were models of accuracy, and none of his decisions have ever been questioned. His extreme poverty at the time compelled him to use a grapevine instead of a chain for his first surveys.

From this time on, he gradually worked himself into politics and the study of law, his success in both instances being due entirely to his own efforts. He was essentially a self-made man. His father an illiterate, his mother lost to him at an early age, it was all through hard study and constant application, and in spite of the drawback of extreme

poverty, that he perfected himself in his chosen vocation.

Elected to the Illinois State Legislature in 1834, 1836, 1838 and 1840 successively, he became a leader in the Whig party and a power in State politics. He was honest in his convictions and strong in supporting them. It was during his term in the Legislature that he first met his future opponent, Stephen A. Douglas.

He had previously read the Statutes of Indiana, which contained the Declaration of Independence, which latter document became his political chart and inspiration. In 1834, he took up the study of law in earnest, was admitted to the bar in 1836 and commenced to practice in Springfield, which became his permanent home, in April, 1837.

As a lawyer he had few equals in his earnest study of his clients' interests. He would not take a case, however, unless convinced himself that he was on the side of justice, and when once convinced, rarely failed to make the jury see matters in his light. His pleadings were made in plain language that the average jury could not misunderstand. His fees were moderate in the extreme; in fact, so much so, that he was criticised by his contemporaries.

In 1846, Lincoln was nominated to represent his district in Congress on the Whig ticket. He was elected, and in 1847 took up his duties in Washington. He made several remarkable speeches and became a strong

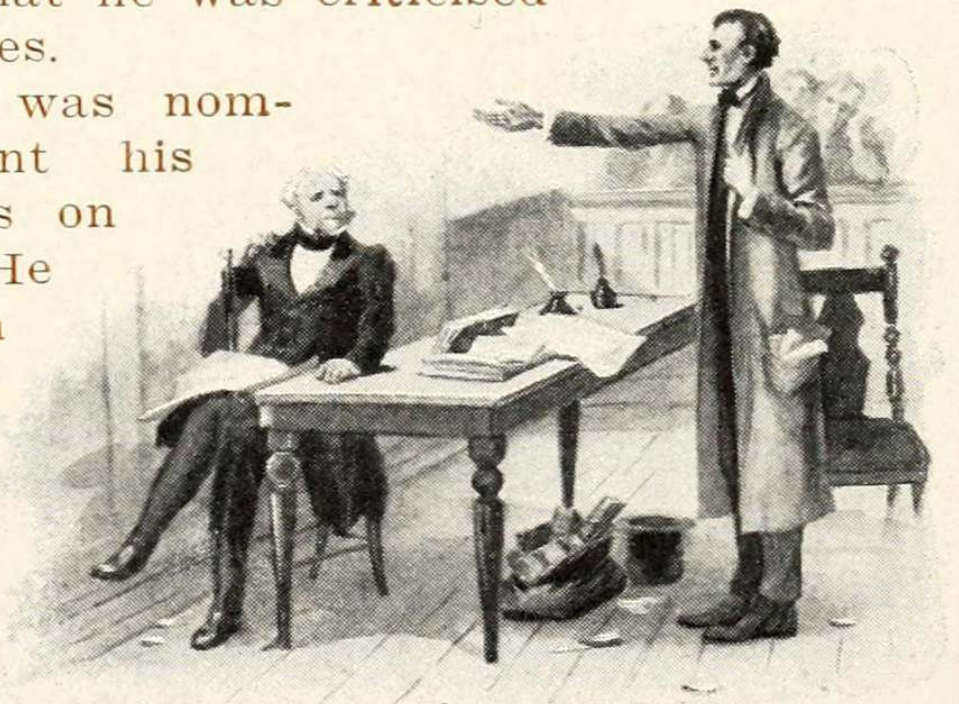
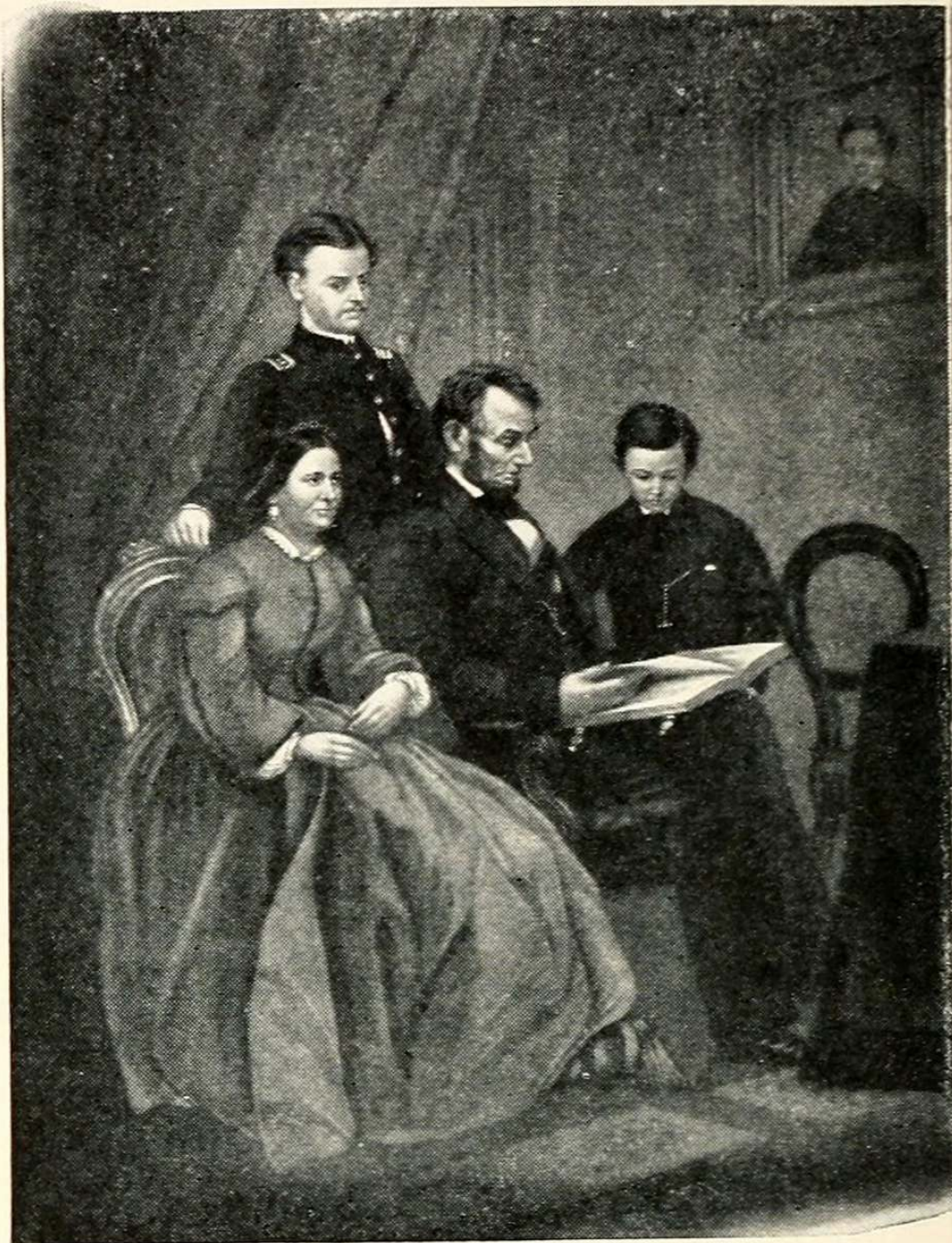


figure in the national politics of his party. After his term expired he did not seek renomination.

During the next few years he continued his law practice, while keeping in touch with national politics, and devoting himself to his family, which, besides his wife, included four children, among them Robert Todd, who still survives, and his youngest son Thomas, familiarly known as "Tad," the pet of the White House.



PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND HIS FAMILY.

In 1855, he first met Douglas in debate on the question of State Sovereignty. In 1858, at the first Republican State Convention at Illinois, where Lincoln was nominated for the U. S. Senate, he made his famous speech, which ended as follows: "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."

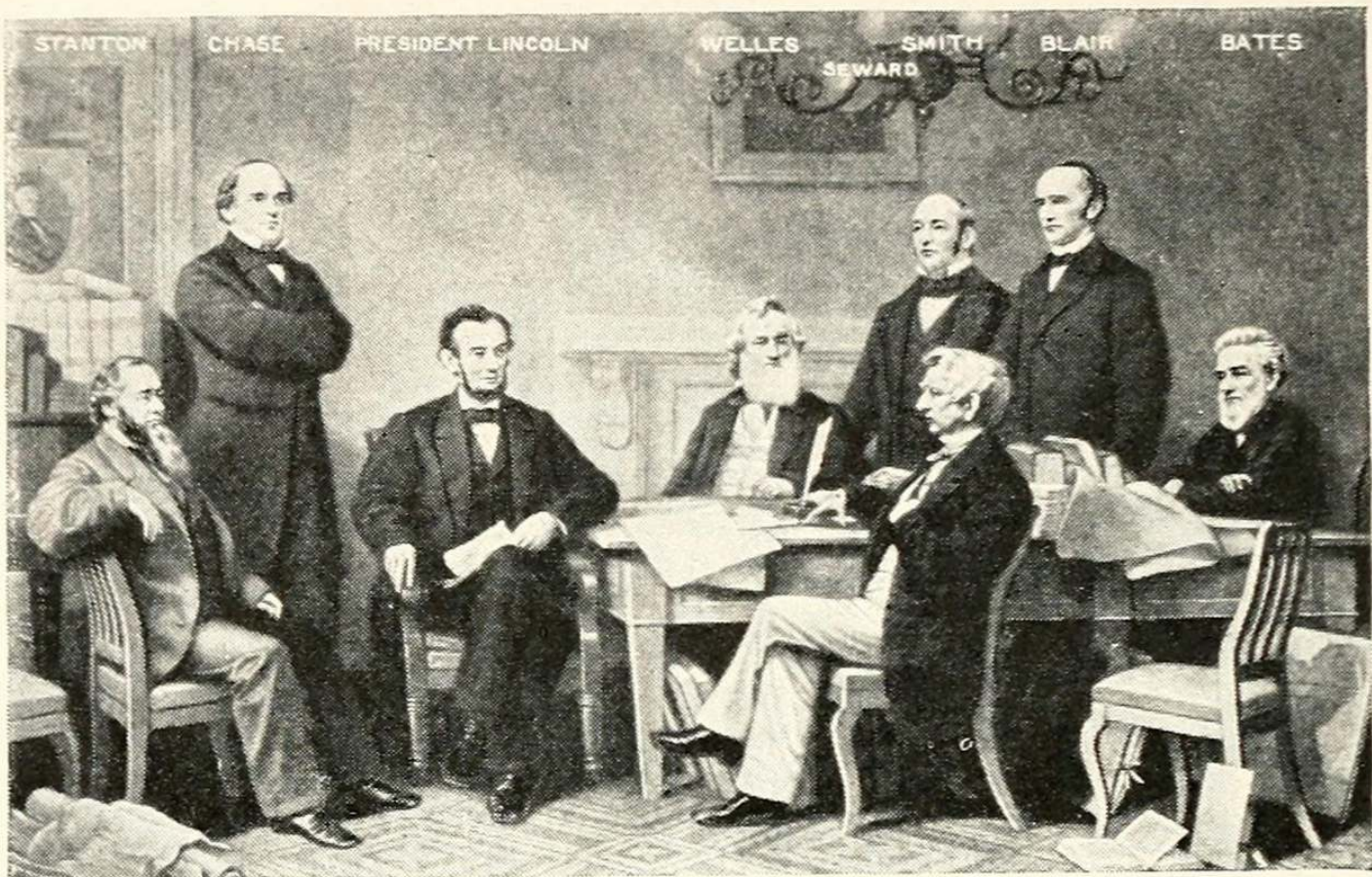
During this campaign occurred his seven famous debates with Douglas, and, in addition, Lincoln made numerous other speeches, which firmly established his national reputation. He was defeated by Douglas for the Senatorship, owing to the apportionment of districts, although his popular vote was greater.

In February, 1860, at Cooper Union, New York City, he made a speech on the subject of slavery, which wound up with the following stirring words: "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."

In May of the same year, at the Republican National Convention at Chicago, Mr. Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency, and the following November was elected to that high office and inaugurated at Washington, March 4th, 1861.

Shortly after his election, the "Confederate States of America" were organized and the War of Secession had begun, in spirit, if not in fact. In his inaugural address, Mr. Lincoln declared his belief that the Union was perpetual and inviolate and that the acts of Secession were void. He said: "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors."

The story of the long conflict that followed is well known, and the attitude taken by Mr. Lincoln throughout is clearly expressed in his letter to Horace Greeley, August 22d, 1862. "My paramount object is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves, I would do it; if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone,



SIGNING OF THE PROCLAMATION OF EMANCIPATION.

I would also do that." It was this same principle which actuated him when he drew up and signed the Proclamation of Emancipation on January 1st, 1863.

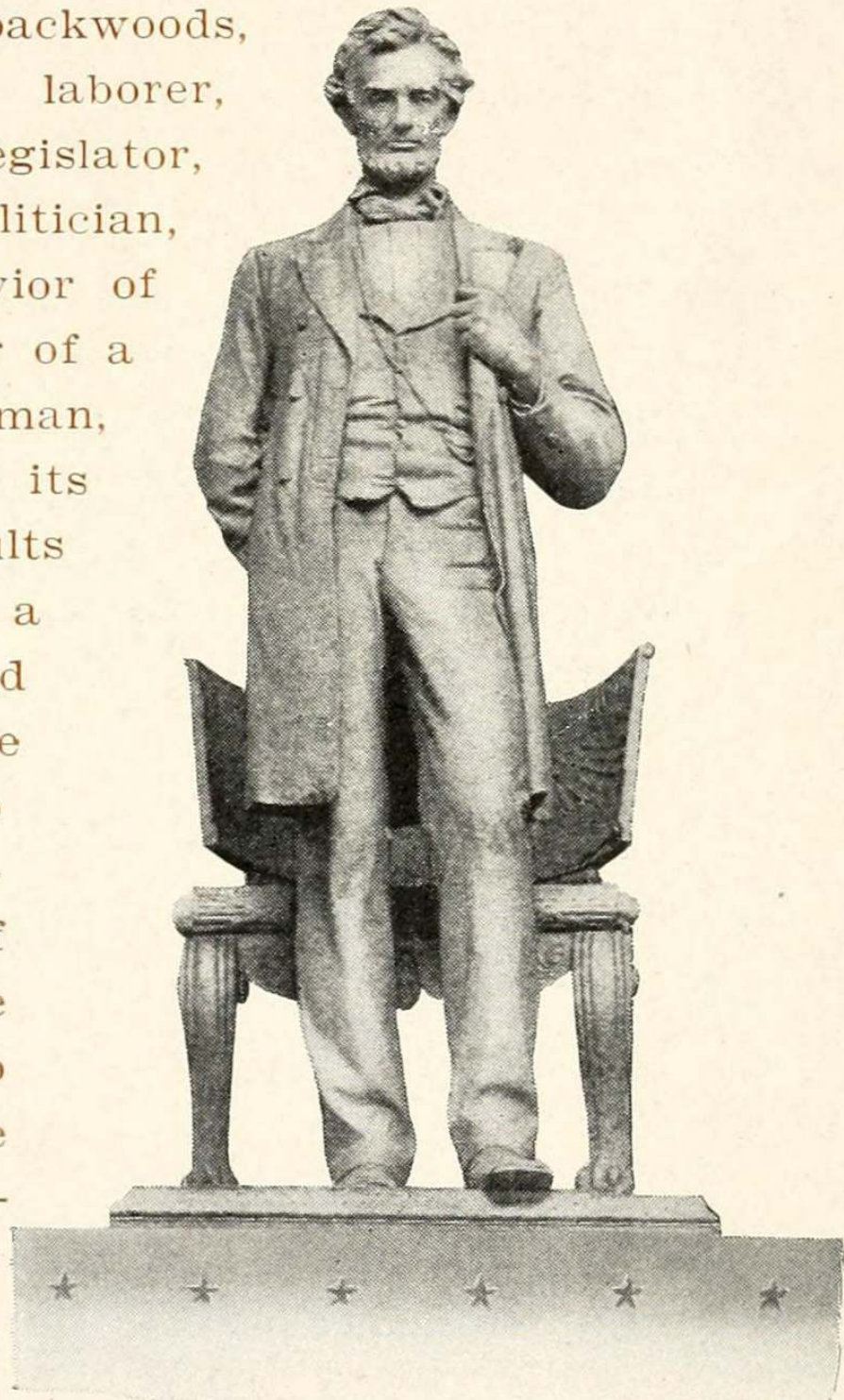
At the dedication of the cemetery on the Gettysburg battlefield, he made the famous address which has since become a classic, and is known to the nation as the Gettysburg Address.

In June, 1864, he was nominated to succeed himself, and was re-elected in November, 1864. His inaugural speech, in 1865, closed with the well-known passage: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widows and his orphans; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and all nations."

On the night of April 14th, 1865, Mr. Lincoln attended a performance at Ford's Theatre in Washington. It was here that he was shot by J. Wilkes Booth.

He was carried to a lodging house across the way, where he died the following morning at seven o'clock.

“Humble child of the backwoods, boatman, axman, hired laborer, clerk, surveyor, captain, legislator, lawyer, debater, orator, politician, statesman, President, savior of the Republic, emancipator of a race, true Christian, true man, —we receive thy life and its immeasurably great results as the choicest gifts that a mortal has ever bestowed upon us; grateful to thee for thy truth to thyself, to us and to God; and grateful to that ministry of Providence and grace which endowed thee so richly and bestowed thee upon the nation and mankind.”



ST. GAUDEN'S LINCOLN STATUE, CHICAGO.
TAKEN FROM AMERICAN MASTERS OF SCULPTURE.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.

“Fourscore and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated on 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 a 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 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 that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

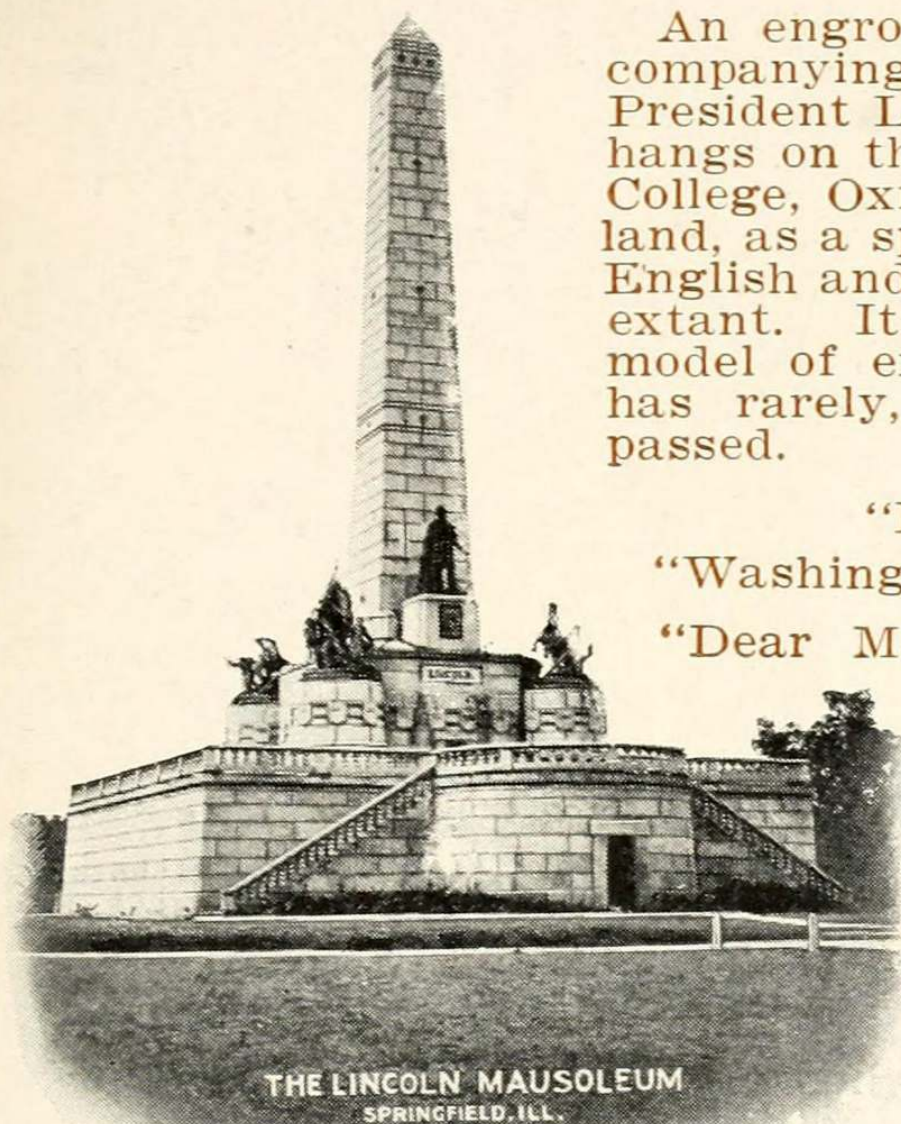
The above address was written on a sheet of foolscap paper in such odd moments as he could command, and delivered at the dedication of Gettysburg cemetery, November 19th, 1863.

HIS SYMPATHY.

An engrossed copy of the accompanying fac-simile letter of President Lincoln to Mrs. Bixby, hangs on the walls of Brasenose College, Oxford University, England, as a specimen of the purest English and most elegant diction extant. It is said that as a model of expressive English, it has rarely, if ever, been surpassed.

“Executive Mansion,
“Washington, Nov. 21st, 1864.

“Dear Madam:—I have been shown, in the files of the War Department, a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons, who have died gloriously on the field of battle.



I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming, but I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

“Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

“ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

“To Mrs. Bixby, Boston, Massachusetts.”

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S FAVORITE POEM.

From "The Songs of Israel." By William Knox.

Mortality.

Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?
Like a swift-fleeting meteor, a fast-flying cloud,
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,
Man passeth from life to his rest in the grave.

The leaves of the oak and the willow shall fade,
Be scattered around and together be laid;
And the young and the old, and the low and the high,
Shall moulder to dust and together shall lie.

The infant a mother attended and loved;
The mother that infant's affection who proved;
The husband that mother and infant who blest,
Each, all, are away to their dwellings of rest.

The maid on whose cheek, on whose brow, in whose
eye,
Shone beauty and pleasure, her triumphs are by;
And the memory of those who loved her and praised,
Are alike from the minds of the living erased.

The hand of the king that the sceptre hath borne;
The brow of the priest that the mitre hath worn;
The eye of the sage and the heart of the brave,
Are hidden and lost in the depth of the grave.

The peasant whose lot was to sow and to reap;
The herdsman, who climbed with his goats up the
steep;
The beggar, who wandered in search of his bread,
Have faded away like the grass that we tread.

The saint who enjoyed the communion of heaven,
The sinner who dared to remain unforgiven,
The wise and the foolish, the guilty and just,
Have quietly mingled their bones in the dust.

So the multitude goes, like the flower or the weed
That withers away to let others succeed;
So the multitude comes, even those we behold,
To repeat every tale that has often been told.

For we are the same our fathers have been;
We see the same sights our fathers have seen—
We drink the same stream and view the same sun,
And run the same course our fathers have run.

The thoughts we are thinking our fathers would
think;
From the death we are shrinking our fathers would
shrink;
To the life we are clinging they also would cling;
But it speeds for us all like a bird on the wing.

They loved, but the story we cannot unfold;
They scorned, but the heart of the haughty is cold;
They grieved, but no wail from their slumbers will
come;
They joyed, but the tongue of their gladness is dumb.

They died, ay! they died: and we things that are now,
Who walk on the turf that lies over their brow,
Who make in their dwelling a transient abode,
Meet the things that they met on their pilgrimage
road.

Yea! hope and despondency, pleasure and pain,
We mingle together in sunshine and rain;
And the smiles and the tears, the song and the dirge,
Still follow each other, like surge upon surge.

'Tis the wink of an eye, 'tis the draught of a breath,
From the blossom of health to the paleness of death,
From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud—
Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

CHARACTERISTIC SAYINGS.

“Don't swap horses when crossing a stream.”

“With malice toward none, with charity for all.”

“When you can't remove an obstacle, plow around it.”

“God bless my mother. All I am, or hope to be, I owe to her.”

“When you have written a wrathful letter—put it in the stove.”

“Don't shoot too high—aim low, and the common people will understand.”

“Gold is good in its place; but loving, brave, patriotic men are better than gold.”

“That government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

“I want it said of me, that I plucked a thistle, and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.”

“You may fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.”



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