

BOYS AND GIRLS

Abraham Lincoln.

SOME BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

(The Intelligencer.)

Abraham Lincoln was born on Feb. 12, 1809, in a log shanty on a lonely little farm in Kentucky. When 'Abe,' as he was called, was seven years old, his father, Thomas Lincoln, moved with his family to Indiana; there the boy and his mother worked in the woods and helped him build a new home.

'Abe's' father got a large log, split it in two, smoothed off the flat side, bored holes in the under side, and drove in four stout sticks for legs; that made the table. They had no chairs—it would have been too much trouble to make the backs—but they had three-legged stools, which Thomas Lincoln made with an axe, just as he did the table.

In one corner of the loft of this cabin the boy had a big bag of dry leaves for his bed. Whenever he felt like having a new bed, all

walnut rails, and fenced in fifteen acres of land for a cornfield. The year after young Lincoln became of age, he hired out to tend a grocery and variety store in New Salem, Illinois. In his work in the store Lincoln soon won everybody's respect and confidence. He was faithful in little things, and in that way made himself able to deal with great ones.

When twenty-three years old he served as captain in the Black Hawk War. On his return he was nominated for the State Legislature, but failed of election. About this time he was made postmaster. The office was too small to be used as a political prize, and was given to the young man because everybody liked him, and because he was the only one willing to take it who could make out the returns.

Lincoln also found time to do some surveying and to begin the study of law. On hot summer mornings he might have been seen lying on his back on the grass, under a big

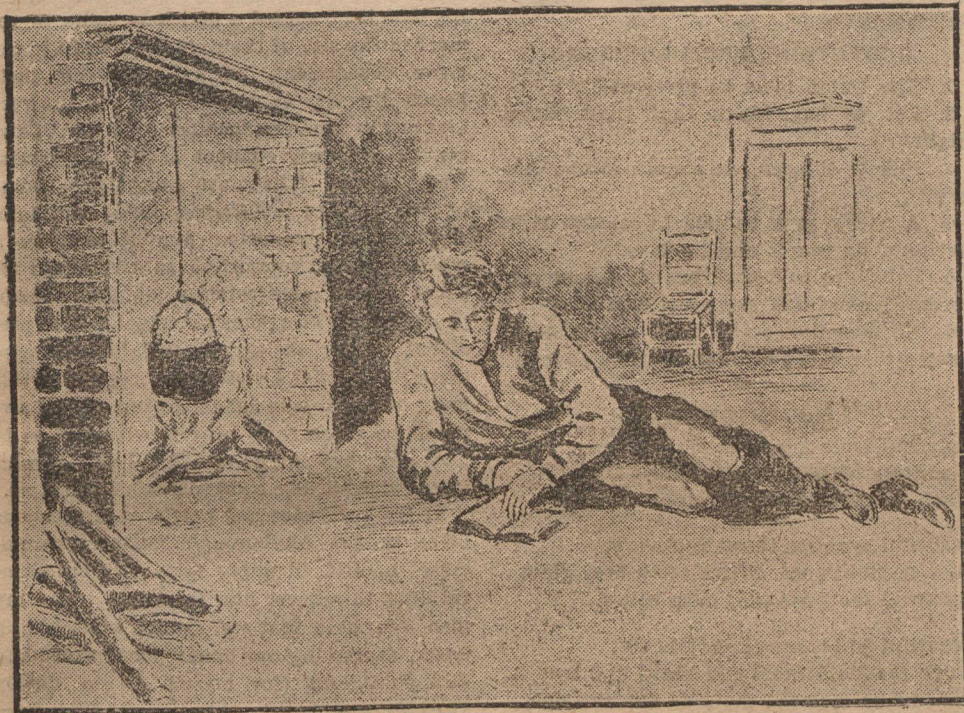
it, and asked, when the opportunity came, 'What is your height?' 'Six feet three,' replied Judge Kelly. 'What is yours, Mr. Lincoln?' 'Six feet four,' was the reply. 'Then, sir,' said the Judge, 'Pennsylvania bows to Illinois. My dear man,' he continued, 'for years my heart has been aching for a President that I could look up to; and I've found him at last, in the land where we thought there were none but little "giants."'

In November of 1860, Abraham Lincoln, 'the Illinois rail-splitter,' as he was called during the campaign, was elected President. In less than six weeks after his inauguration in the spring of 1861, a terrible war broke out between the North and the South. It lasted four years and many dreadful battles were fought, and thousands of brave men were killed on both sides.

In the summer of '62, after the Northern army had suffered some severe reverses, Lincoln prepared the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. His advisers persuaded him to defer its issue until the army had been more successful, fearing the effect on the country of its publication at the time of such depression. Soon after, came the battle of Antietam. At a Cabinet meeting immediately after this battle, Mr. Lincoln announced his purpose to issue the Proclamation at once, adding, 'I made a solemn vow before God that if General Lee should be driven back, I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slave.'

In 1864 Lincoln was re-elected to the Presidency, the people of the loyal States feeling that his wisdom and foresight had been 'tried and proved,' and could be relied upon.

April 14, 1865,—the fourth anniversary of the surrender of Fort Sumpter,—was appointed by the President as a day of thanksgiving for the close of the war. In the evening of that day, yielding to the wishes of his friends, Mr. Lincoln attended the theatre in Washington. In the midst of the play he was shot by John Wilkes Booth, a drunken actor. He died the next morning amid the horror and indignation of all loyal citizens. He is buried at his old home in Springfield Ill.



YOUNG LINCOLN STUDYING BY FIRELIGHT.

that he had to do was to go out into the woods and gather more leaves.

'Abe's' mother was not strong and before they had been in their new log cabin a year, she fell sick and died. It was the first great sorrow that ever touched the boy's heart. After he had grown to be a man, he said, with eyes full of tears, to a friend with whom he was talking: 'God bless my mother; all that I am or ever hope to be I owe to her.'

There was a log schoolhouse in the woods quite a distance off, and there 'Abe' went for a short time. At the school he learned to read and write a little, but after a time he found a new teacher, that was—himself. When the rest of the family had gone to bed, he would sit up and read his favorite books by the light of the great blazing logs heaped upon the open fire. He had no more than half a dozen books in all. They were 'Robinson Crusoe,' 'Pilgrim's Progress,' 'Aesop's Fables,' the Bible, a Life of Washington, and a small history of the United States.

When young Lincoln was about 20 years of age, his father moved to Macon County, Illinois. It was a two weeks' journey through the woods with ox-teams. Abraham helped his father to build a comfortable log cabin; then he and a man named John Hanks split

tree, reading a law book. When he began to practice law, everybody who knew him had confidence in him. He was elected to the Legislature in 1834. When the time for the opening of the session came, he dropped his law books, shouldered his pack, and went on foot to the capital, a distance of about one hundred miles. At the close of the session he walked back. Lincoln was elected to the Legislature several times. Later he moved to Springfield, Illinois, and made that his home for the rest of his life.

As a lawyer, he was still 'Honest Abe.' In 1842 he married Miss Mary Todd, a Kentucky lady. In '47 he was sent to Congress, where he soon proved himself master of the great political questions of the day.

In '58 Mr. Lincoln took part in a spirited contest for the United States senatorship, his opponent being Stephen A. Douglas. Lincoln would probably have been elected on a popular vote, but the constitution of the Legislature was such that he was defeated.

In 1860 Lincoln was nominated for President of the United States. Judge Kelly, one of the committee sent by the Convention to officially announce his nomination to Mr. Lincoln, was a very tall man. He looked at the candidate, up and down, before it came his turn to take his hand. Mr. Lincoln saw

THE HARD-WORK PLAN.

From the lowest depths of poverty
To the highest heights of fame,
From obscurity of position
To a bright and shining name;
From the mass of human beings,
Who compose the common clan,
You can earn your way to greatness
By the Hard-Work Plan.

'Twas the key to Lincoln's progress,
'Twas the route to Webster's fame,
And Garfield, by this method,
To distinction laid his claim;
And all earth's noblest heroes,
Since this old world first began,
Have earned their way to honor
By the Hard-Work Plan.

—'Success.'

LITTLE BLOSSOM'S VISIT TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

'Well, my little child,' he said, in his pleasant, cheerful tone, 'what do you want, so bright and early in the morning?'

'Bennie's life, please, sir,' faltered Blossom. 'Bennie? Who is Bennie?'

'My brother, sir. They are going to shoot him for sleeping at his post.'

'Oh, yes;' and Mr. Lincoln ran his eye over the papers before him. 'I remember. It was a fatal sleep. You see, child, it was a time of special danger. Thousands of lives