The Weckly Colonist.

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MEMOIRS OF A GREAT MAN.

The following simple but interesting sketch of the early life and gradual rise of

time in all parts of the world, but few have been greater than those seen in the United States of America. Look at that emigrant family in their rough little wagon, drawn by rougher steeds, as leaving old Kentucky, they wend their way undaunted over meadow and upland, through dense forests, across rivers and marshes, towards the north west, to Indiana, where they hope to find a new home, and to recommence a career of honest industry which they do not fear will bring its reward. Among the children is an in-telligent looking boy numbering about six summers. While the father, with sturdy steps, walks along guiding the team, he sits I put my name to a bill, and have been at his mother's knee in the wagon which ceived. This farm is no longer mine. contains all the worldly substance of the family, learning his letters. He seems, by his eagerness, to know that once on the new location there will be little time to devote to study, and he imbibes, with grateful avidity, all the instruction given him.

"Before our journey is ended, that boy, if he tries hard, will know how to read," says

The boy does try bard, and proves that his father was right. Fortunate for him that he does so; for from the time this new home in Spencer County, Indiana, is reached, and for many a long day afterwards, few moments has he, or any one around him, for study. The life of a settler in a new district is at all times hard and laborious in the extreme. Persevering, unremitting toil can alone ensure success or ward off ruin. It was so especially in the days of which we write, when the means of communication with the rest of the world were difficult and uncer-

The boy has, however, got hold of the key of knowledge. He is not one to let it grow rusty for want of use. All the books which his family, or any of the neighboring settlers possess, are read over and over again during the evenings of winter, or any moments which he can spatch from his manual occupations. If a wandering pedlar chance to come by with any literary productions, whatever their character, among his stock, they are eagerly purchased, and as eagerly perused. See that figure, with the huge bale on his shoulders, coming along the track, well beaten, though only a track, towards the log house. How he can carry auch a weight seems surprising. It is old Nick Logao, the packman. Eagerly the boy runs forward to meet him, and almost drags him on to the hut. He is warmly welcomed in the kitchen, and food is got ready for him while he unas pedlar of the district. Much he has got to say, and innumerable the articles to sell; but for what the boy looks he appears to have a very meagre supply—probably the demand is limited. One book only of the few he shows the boy does not possess; it is the life of Whittington, lord mayor of London. The boy purchases it for want of a better. Old Logan takes his departure, and that evening the boy is absorbed in the perweal of his new acquisition.
"I should like to have the chance he had,"

exclaimed the boy at length. "He was a great man. He rose to be lord mayor of London, the capital city of the old country." There is a general laugh among the young-

er members of the family.
"Why, Abe, you might as well expect some day to become president of the United States," says one of them.

"No man knows what he can do till he

tries," replied the boy, quietly looking up.

"Right, boy. Obey God, act honestly and uprightly, and never fear," says his father.

"I'll uy to do my best," says the boy.

Surely that evening, after the family bible

had been brought out, and a chapter read and explained, a prayer ascended from the heart of that boy for strength and guidance in the

YOUNG ABE'S SCHOOL DAYS.

That emigrant farmer, lately settled in his new home, is an upright, industrious, Godfearing man, who desires to bring up his may set on the institutions of his native land of one thing he is very certain, that they will not keep a man back. They may not help and never ce him to rise, but they buoy him up, and, as Almighty." does a strong swimmer in a stormy sea, he may, if he has the power and the will, cleave his way through them.

Farmer Lincoln is a simple minded man. He has not given his son any high sounding name, but, going to his bible, he has called him Abraham, though he is generally known among his friends and neighbors as Abe.

Several years have passed by. The delicate child has grown into a strong, tall, active lad, all bone and muscle, well inured to hard labor. Who can wield an axe, cut down a tree, or split shingles better than he?

yearns to obtain some of that wast mass of have cogitated on that subject, without arknowledge the existence of which he sus- riving at a satisfactory result. Will he? pects. Great is his delight to find that the neighboring settlers have resolved to build a stout, and his limbs are strong; but he has school. To determine is to execute in the New World. A bee is formed. All hands unite, and in a few days the log school house is erected, a competent master is installed, and young Abraham, now nearly six the log school house is erected. The has asked and asked for it without avail. There is no doubt that he has tried for it, foot high is one of the first scholars. He has sketch of the early life and gradual rise of aketch of the early life and gradual rise of had no former experience of school life. He but for this once even trying seems to have feet high, is one of the first scholars. He has tried for it, feet high, is one of the first scholars. He has but for this once even trying seems to have feet high, is one of the first scholars. He has but for this once even trying seems to have feet high, is one of the first scholars. He has but for this once even trying seems to have feet high, is one of the first scholars. He has but for this once even trying seems to have failed. Money is scarce, labour is plentiful. There is a panic of some sort. It had never forget that he is one of nature's noblemen.—
Those rough men boast of their skill with the would suffer from a monetary crisis in the would suffer from a monetary crisis in the would suffer from a monetary crisis. One knocks a bottle off a commondary, 1861, under the following title: "How wonderful avidity he takes in whatever he would suffer from a monetary crisis in the would suffer from a monetary crisis in the would suffer from a monetary crisis, but he stores is thought a good one by the men.

"You might have killed him though," says he Rose," or "Glimpses at the Career of a member of the Try School." It is from the pen of the editor, W. H. G. Kingston, Esq. to force knowledge into him, but he forces knowledge out of the master. That lad belongs to the try school. What cares he for the four or five miles' walk to and from the log school house, across the marshy waste, space of fifty years. Great have been the changes which have taken place since that can obtain. Nothing comes amiss. He reven before heard of the crisis, but he stores up the recollection in his mind. He grows somewhat faint, he takes a draught of cool water from a spring, and sits down on a fallen log. His bundle and stick are by his side. He feels in his pocket; not a cent is there. His heart might well sink within him. He fires. Do feet, shot through the high road towards the attainment of what the high road towards the attainment of what knees. It is the first time in his life perhis soul thirsts for—knowledge. Six weeks haps that it has ever been in that position. have thus passed. On returning home young Abe finds his father's house in the possession of strange men; they are the officers of the law. Tears are in his mother's eyes. His He has come out into the world to seek his tather looks almost heart brokes. At first indignation and rage swell his heart. He starvation, or something like it. He thinks proposes by main force to drive out the intruders.

He has come out into the world to seek his fortune; and this is what he has found—starvation, or something like it. He thinks on for some time; the idea amuses him. He laughs—not a pleasant laugh; it is hol-

The law was made for honest men's bene- not what I'll accept." trusted one I thought my friend and honest. I put my name to a bill, and have been demust seek another home."

find another home as good as this," says he;

" at all events we'll try." He lets not a word escape him to show his own regret at leaving school, but with cheerful countenance sets about making pre parations for the immediate departure which is contemplated. Who exhibits more alacrity; who so full of life, and spirits, and

fun? He wins many a hearty laugh from those whose eyes had but lately been shedding tears. Once more the family are on the move. Westward they go. As before, forests are traversed, streams and marshes crossed over. A cart conveys all their remaining worldly

substance. They are poorer than when, ten years ago, they first pitched their tent in Indiana. Great part of Illinois is passed through, and they do not stop till they reach Coles County. A small log but is quickly erected. It is all they can do, for they must set forth to seek for employment that they may purchase their daily food. They have

sharp axes and willing hands.

"We'll try what we can do father," says young Abraham; "if one man cannot give "When us work another will."

despair. Abe cheers him and says, "We'll try again." Work is at length obtained; does not faint or thy knees tremble? Thou but wages are low, for money is scarce and wilt do, lad. Come up here; and we'll treat," food dear. Still the emigrant and his family says the old man.
can live, but very hard living it is. "Better The old man po times will come," says Abe cheerfully. Day after day they work on with steady persemeet him, and almost drags him on to the hut. He is warmly welcomed in the kitchen, family can live and save a little money. Abe tract to cut and split 3000 rails for his entertainer. He does not under the mighty Mississippi: He does not under the mighty Mississippi in a rough his meals, to read his treasures. Often with book in one hand, he studies while he eats. shanty near his employer's hut. He works not he. He works his way as a deck hand. He knows not that the food is coarse and early and late. He rests at mid-day, though It is honest, and not over hard work, to pull hard. He hungers for mental nourishment. not as do his companions, lying idly on their and haul, and to make fast to the piers, as He gets just then little of that either. Day after day he toils away felling timber. What their sides. Abe quickly despatches his frugal is he but a hewer of wood and drawer of meal, a draught from the nearest stream his to read and to talk. He meets another deck water to common eye? Few would say that he was on the high road to anything but a life of physical toil. There seems but little prospect of his becoming lord mayor of Lon-somewhat miscellaneous. No matter; none among his fellow men.

ABE GOES INTO THE WORLD TO SEEK HIS

for their simple wants. Though intellect of contract, and pockets his well-gained wages. answers Abe laughing. no mean order rules in that family, they are He feels richer than he has ever before been content with their lot; peasants in appearance, there is polish in their manners—there a friend of the old man, his employer. "I've fields are extended, and a few laborers are the speculation?"

"Abe, my boy," says his father to him one ready for it, whatever it may be," answers day, "the world is wide; you have read Abe. children in the way they should go. His about it, and I know your dreams and "Do you understand ship-building and thoughts are about it. You wish to go into navigation?" asks his new friend, with a name is Lincoln; a name pleasant to the ear, not unsuited to a romance, and borne by a noble family in the old country. But he little prides himself on his family or his name. Other qualifications, and totally different, are required to obtain success in the New North However high or low a value he with thoughts are about it. You wish to go into navigation? Asks his new friend, with a navigation? Asks h

"Father, I will," says young Abe, starting up and seizing his father's hand. "I do want to go into the world; I feel as if I had a work to do there ; I don't want to be a eager to hear what his iriend had got to say ; great man, or a rich man, but I want to who continued :work with head as well as hand." So the old man blesses Abe his son, and his mother and all the rest of the family gather round him. They do not weep; they are not people addicted to weeping, though their hearts are tender enough. If a poor black man comes that way, flying from a brutal master, they treat him kindly as a brother, and send him Nothing daunts him. Slight progress has he on his way with aid and sympathy. Often made in learning; yet he has not altogether has Abe thought of the misery and degradastood still. The books he possesses have tion of the slaves in his native land. His heart sen made to yield their utmost stores. He has swelled with indignation as he has heard has sucked them dry—that is, to him—just as of their sufferings, and he has thought and a good book ought to be sucked. He has thought how the system of slavery may be thought over them, too. His knowledge is altered—how the wrong may be mitigated and down the Sangamon river into the lines, abolished at last without suits to him. The boat is rough enough, but suited to the purpose. She is strong, for she has many hundred miles to go, right down the Sangamon river into the lines,

"Stay thy hand, my son," says his father. low, though loud. He starts up. "That's

hood in his look. He is in Macon countyhands of nature.

ABE BECOMES A WOOD-CUTTER.

"Whither bound, stranger?" says a voice Abe looks up, and sees a stout elderly man the price of merchandise in general, but esstanding on the other side of a snake fence. pecially of the articles he has to sell. He There is a log hut rising in a nook of the finds that he has brought his goods to a proforest. Some acres of land with the timber mising market. He does not sell to the first felled in front of it, but black stumps rise up bidder, nor to the second, ner to the highest on every side.

" In search of work," answers Abe.

" Ay, that I can," says Abe, brightening help in that city of tever and slavery. Honest at the prospect of obtaining work.

" Canst cut and split rails?" asks the old

"I guess I can," says Abe with a smile.
"Hast come far, lad?" enquires the old map.

" Some twenty miles, maybe more," re-"Some twenty miles, maybe more," re-should claim the right of keeping the other in perpetual bondage. "Certainly the law of Christ forbids so foul a wrong," says Abe

asks the old man.

The old man points to the hut. Abe is lon, or of his assuming any exalted position of them come amiss to Abe. He knows not others are doing nothing-killing time-he sits on a log making use of time—storing his mind with wealth, which he intends to em-Two years wear on. Money has been ploy to good profit some day, he knows not saved. Land is sold by a wise government at him—sneer: but he does not listen to tellect. At length they part. Abe has to go and once more young Abe sees his father them. He waits till it is time to labour; with a habitation and farm which he may then, while his gleaming axe is stordily at call his own. With redoubled energy he work, he laughs with them, tells them many toils on to aid his father in bringing the wild a merry story suited to their tastes, some few land under cultivation. Comforts begin to things out of the books he has been reading,

is true nobility within. A garden blooms a notion by which I guess some dollars are round that log but; a dairy is built, the corn to be made. What say you to joining me in

" If it's honest and straight-forward I'm

will protect and support those who trust ic a fearless heart and firm resolution, able to quors. People cannot well call him a milk-Him and try to do their best. Be sober, be govern a rough lawless lot of fellows, and prudent, be honest, owe no man anything, and never cease to pray for help from the not going to propose to set off to dig for gold, or to seek for diamonds. It's a practical notion I've got in my head; none of your

"I do "That will suit me," says Abe, growing

" Provisions at New Orleans cost about twenty times as much as they do up here. Now, I'm for building a flat boat, loading her, and sending her down there. Will you take command ?' "Will a hungry fish bite?" says Abe.

It will suit me exactly."

his hand at ship building, but nothing comes but suited to the purpose. She is strong, for she has many hundred miles to go, right sound, as far as it goes, but not extensive.

There are numberless subjects of which he find themselves dependent for their very existand so on to New Orleans. Away sails Abe, knows nothing; his books are altogether tence on the institution. Many other heads captain, for the first time, of a boat with a silent on them. Of that he is aware, and he not less thoughtful than that of young Abe, full cargo. He had several men under him,

wild fellows; how they sing and dance, and drink at times, and fight; not among them-selves, but with any they meet. He has to keep them in order; he does so in his own fashion. He stands six feet four inches, the tallest man among them. He shows them that what they can do he can do, and then he speaks to them in his pleasant friendly way, and his tales and anecdotes, though not coarse

"You might have killed him though," says Abe, taking his rifle. An eagle is passing His eye, mates, remember, I aim at," he

observes quietly. He fires. Down comes the bird at their feet, shot through the head. No one boasts after that of their shooting before the captain It is grand to see Abe standing at the helm of his boat, calm and collected, guiding her through rapids, with the rushing water foaming around him, and dark rocks rearing up their threatening heads on every side. The rapids are passed, and now who would recognise the man who lately stood at the helm, guiding the boat amid the tumultuous waters with nerves of iron? There he sits, uncon-"That's scious of all that takes place about him. A book is on his knee; he is absorbed in it.

Another and another is produced, and then read and re-read. His crew wonder; they "I'll try again," exclaims Abe, shoulders cannot understand, though they admire him. The mouth of the Illinois is reached, and his belt. He trudges on—not with much now the flat boat enters the mighty Missis-The lad takes his father's hand — spring in his step. People with empty sippi, the queen of waters. Hundreds of "Well, father, it will be hard if we cannot another home as good as this." says he: countenance is cheerful, and there is mansippi, the queen of waters. Hundreds of fever. Huge steamers come puffing by on not a spot where the arts and sciences are their upward voyage. Abe must now keep much cultivated. People are chiefly em his eyes and wits about him. He never fails ployed in winning the soil from the rude to do that when there is occasion. New

Orleans is reached, and now Abe turns trader. He goes here and there, and ascertains perhaps, but to one whom he believes will "In search of work," answers Abe.
"Thou can'st hew down a tree, or thou would'nt carry an axe, I guess," says the old thinks of turning his steps homeward. He has no fancy to remain longer than he can Abe has no maudlin sentiments about slaves; but he has read his Bible, and he believe that all men, whatever their color, whether their fathers come from Africa or the far-off shores of Asia, are his fellow-creatures, and he cannot understand on what plea one race

to himself. " These slaveowners surely are They try in many places to find work, but for long in vain, till the old man is almost in frankly.

"Not since yesterday, I guess," says Abe, no more to be pitted that any the world. They are truly inheritors of a dreadful curse. By one means only can they are truly inheritors of a dreadful curse. By one means only can they remove it. Let them with heart and soul set to work to educate their slaves, to prepare them for freedom, and the evils which menace them and their children may be turned

soon seated at a plentiful board, and shows side." Abe is evidently a man of single that his teeth are not out of practice from mind. He has not learned to make wrong

hand, who borrows one of his books. new acquaintance can not only read, but understands the work. They converse about it somewhat miscellaneous. No matter; none of them come amiss to Abe. He knows not what he may want in the world. While and thought elicits thought. They recognize each other as brethren of no common order. What is it makes them feel at once above up the Illinois.
"Good bye, Du Bois," says Abe; "we'l meet again no doubt in one of our voyages.'

land under cultivation. Comforts begin to things out of the books he has been reading, surround them; they have sheep and oxen and horses—not many though—but enough pleasanter companion: So Abe fulfils his "Oh, I don't aspire to so high a post." "I hope so, for we've had a pleasant time

"I'm not so moderate in my wishes, then

as you are," says Dubois; "But I've not made up my mind exactly what to aim at." "Aim at," thought Abe, in his usual calm way. "Why, let me see; try to do my duty to the best of my power in that station of life to which I may be called."

Abe's partner in that flat boat speculation is highly delighted with its result; and another and another, till Abe has no small number of dollars in his pocket. People call Abe a very lucky fellow. Abe says that he has only tried to make the best use he could of his faculties. He has not irritated his stomach or his lungs by smoking, nor has he ever muddled his brains by intoxicating lisop, for he stands six feet four inches in his stockings, and has an eye a glance of which alone can silence impertinence.

ABE TURNS STOREKEEPER.

Abe now finds himself a rich man. He has no great fancy to return to New Orleans. It is a place he cannot love. A settlement has lately been formed. It will become a city shortly, people say. New Salem is its name. Abe, with the dollars he has saved in his boating expeditions, opens a store. Undoubtedly he will become one of the first merchants in New Salem. It was a store. It was difficult enough to say what was not in it, and more difficult to catalogue what it did contain. Abe suspects that he has So Abe and his new friend set to work to build a flat boat. Abe has never before tried so he takes a partner. Abe makes friends though. Many are the people who come to his store, and if they do not buy they listen to his stories and jokes, and yow as others have often before done, that there are not many men like him. Abe does not seem exactly just now to be in a fair way of making his fortune. When New Salem increases, matters will of course improve. That is his consolation. He still

does his best, and few can do up pounds of sugar more rapidly than he, while he never fails to give full weight.

ABE AN OFFICER OF MILITIA

News now reaches New Salem that the Indians have attacked the settlements further west. They are a fierce tribe, the Black Hawks, so called from some noted chief. Fears are entertained that they may extend their ravages. One thing is certain that they must be put down. The country is up in arms. The citizens of New Salem must send their quota of men; a company of mi-litia is to be formed. A captain must be choseu. Who is the best man? A Major Gudgeon says that he himself is. Who wears a larger moustache, or a coat so fully braided? who looks fiercer, and can talk of warlike deeds done long ago in a louder tone of voice? who taller or bigger, who more likely to suit the post? in short, who so fit a man? The Major says that he is confident that he shall gain the election. There are many other candidates—some fifteen or more. Abe is tending his store, and has no ambition to go out and fight the Black Hawks. The day of election arrives. It is agreed that each candidate for the post of honor shall march across the city quare, some might call it the village green, followed by supporters, and he who has the longest train shall be elected. Abe at the appointed hour comes to look on. The candidates and their friends have assembled. Just then a stout fellow seizes Abe and says he must be the captain. Abe laughs and says that there are many things that he knows about, but that fighting and military matters he has no taste for. He has read Cæsar's "Commen-taries," and Marlborough's battles, and the War of Independence, and Wellington's battles; but that he does not fancy this reads ing will have made him a soldier, and as to drilling, he has no notion scarcely of the goose step, much less of the platoon exercise. Still his friends insist. They doubt if the Major knows even who Cæsar and Mariborough were, and certainly he thinks himself fully as great a man in his way as the Duke of Wellington, or any general alive. So Abe consents to stand as a candidate, not believing that he will be chosen, and his friends gather behind him in a long line. They beckon and shout to their friends, " Come along, come along, join us. Abe Lincoln's the boy to lead us." The Major stands up, with head erect and chest swelling out, to marshal his followers, nothing doubting that they will outnumber his competitors. Other candidates come forth, and several lines are formed. The umpires take their posts, the open space is cleared, the time is up, the word to march is given. Off steps the Major. left foot first, with martial strut, glancing his eyes scornfully around him. He has a long line, he feels confident of success. Now Abe must march. Away he goes. Right or left foot first he scarcely knows; not very erect in his carriage either, but with a firm bold step, which might make an enemy in front quake, if it does not the ground. His friends follow closely after, touching each other's backs, many laughing and shouting. They do not keep step very well they allow. No matter, the drill sergeant will show them how to do that by and by. It looks as if some game were being played by boys—biggish boys to be sure. Abe's line files past the umpire, who begins to count. The Major halts altogether, and stamps with disappointment on the ground. Abe's followers number more than his by two. The Major feels as if he could eat those two if he were to try; but they naturally wont let him, so he marches home in high dudgeon, and little

Abe is now captain of a company of fight-ing men. Before he goes to the war, he wishes to set his house in order. His partner in the store insists that the store will not flourish unless whiskey and other spirits are sold. Abe says stoutly that spirits are the ruin of men's bodies and souls, and that he will be no party to any such transaction. Money might be made or might not by selling spirits; that is not the question; is it right, or is it wrong? The partner holds to the first opinion, so Abe finally says that he will wipe his hands of the whole concern, if his partner will undertake to pay over the value of his share of the goods.

Abe believes that all is right, and away he marches with his company to the Black Hawk

wat. Abe sets to work to fight, as he does every thing else in earnest: War is a serious matter, no child's play, and the Indians learn that to their cost. They are cunning, but they find that they are opposed to one who possesses qualities which are superior to cunning, by which all their stratagems are counteracted, all their wiles discovered. Abe and his men do not find that the drill sergeant's lessons are of any great use in the sort of warfare in which they are engaged, except so far as it has taught them to trust to each other's support. A quick eye, firm nerves, sharp intelligence are the qualities they require and possess. Their deadly rifles are well so called. The enemy before long discover that war with the white man is a very losing game, so when their tribes are nearly exterminated the remnant sue for peace. It is granted and tranquillity is restored on the

All his followers declare that Abe has great military genius. He is already a man of note among them, no longer a hewer of wood and drawer of water. Under other circumstances he might have served his country as a soldier, and many even now say it is a pity he does not; he would rise to command a regiment, perhaps to become a general.-He laughs, and says that he had tried to do his duty, and that is all; he is not ambitious. The militia return to their homes, and thus ends Abe's military career.

ABE RUINED, BUT RESOLVES TO TRY AND REPAIR HIS LOSSES, AND BECOMES A SURVEYOR.

Abe gets back to New Salem. He repairs to his former store to see his late partner, who owes him considerable sums. Unplease ant suspicions come across Abe's mind; the store is closed, the late partner is no where to be found. Abe learns too soon that the said late partner not only sold whiskey, but drank it, and perhaps drank more than he sold, and had now some days since disappeared, leaving the concern a thousand dole lars and more in debt, for which he, Abe, honest, hard-working, hard-fighting Abe, must be answerable. Abe has been poor before, without a dollar in his pocket, not knowdollars, seems won't do it, that sorry that he did whiskey. He th he proposes one but he does not not despair, but near his wit's en walking here a who has some another. Ther takes it up a se tical treatise, w ally intending rows the book mind on the pa takes in all the sucks it. The haps new to h Even when f time to read s sessed himself surveying. "To make lars is difficult, ful voice, " but never have for who did not h him, no matter the accomplis start." Memo ten by any wi Honest Abe to pay them if t -not coined There is truthf Salem is not e would advise moves to Spri Here he forth

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