

Going Slow.

"Go slow and go easy" was one of President Lincoln's maxims. That it was taught him by his father is hardly probable, for Thomas Lincoln, according to the biographers, was a thriftless "ne'er do weel." He certainly didn't "go slow and go easy" in his courting, for when he presented himself before Mrs. Sally Johnston he briefly pressed his suit, saying: "Well, Mrs. Johnston, I have no wife (Mrs. Lincoln had been dead thirteen months) 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," said the widow, "I know you well and have no objections to marrying you; but I cannot do it straight off, as I owe some debts that must first be paid." Neither did the widow go slow, for they were married next day. But Abe owed to his good step-mother what other heroes have owed to their mothers. It was due doubtless to her sensible Christian life that he was enabled to lay down these other precepts: "Do not worry." "Eat three square meals a day." "Say your prayers." "Be courteous to your creditors." "Keep your digestion good." "Steer clear of the biliousness." "Exercise." "May be," said Lincoln in the letter containing these wise words, "there are other things that your especial case requires to make you happy, but, my friend, these, I reckon, will give you a good lift." Although none of these rules brought prosperity to him as a storekeeper, they were, nevertheless, potent maxims in his life as a statesman, and could be profitably framed and followed by the storekeepers and others of to-day.



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