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The Sword of Empire

The following beautiful lines appeared in a recent issue of the Fort William Times-Journal from the pen of "Gay Page," well known to many of our readers as Mrs. J. M. Sherk:—

From far Pacific ocean waves that lave
Columbia's shore,
To Nova Scotia's rugged coast resounded,
As of yore,
The lusty cheer the world might hear as
men went marching by,
Till wounded warriors staggered home to
tell how brave men die,
No sound of trumpet echoed the burden
of their tale,
But broken soldiers proudly flung its
glories to the gale,
And o'er Canadian mountains and from
prairies of the west,
From roses and from shamrocks, from
the thistle's hardy breast,
From fleur-de-lis and maple, faithful to
the sacred soil,
Came a cry to those who guarded treas-
ured blessings by their toil—
"Leave the plowshare and the harrow!
Brain and brawn must bend to yield
Greater harvest for the Empire on the
blood-red battlefield."
Then, indeed, a sound like thunder rose
from river, lake and plains,
True and clear as blood that courses
through the bold Canadian veins,
For to more than sound of battle did the
banners beckon now—
Fleur-de-lis and rose and shamrock,
maple leaf and thistle, bow
As the sword of Freedom knights them
champions of the King above,
Who hath given to their keeping peace
and joy for those they love,
Now the blessed word of Angels shall
the sword of Empire bear,
And the cross and crown and flow'rets
laud the King in praise and prayer.

Mother Graves' Worm Ejectant will drive worms from the system without injury to the child, because it acts while fully effective, is mild,

Justice Righted

How Abraham Lincoln Re- versed the Decision of a Court Martial.

By F. A. MITCHEL

President Lincoln is admired and respected for his handling of the ship of state during that four years' storm of war when he so often kept her from going on the rocks. To this admiration and respect is added an affection begotten of his tender heart, especially as evinced in his sympathy for those unfortunates who were for one cause or another condemned to die.

The following is one of those many instances wherein Mr. Lincoln interfered to save the life of a deserter, and happily in this case it was he and not a court martial who did justice to the delinquent. The family name of the parties concerned in the narrative is not at hand, therefore for convenience an assumed name will be used. But the story is none the less an actual happening, nothing having been added or taken away.

Shortly before the stirring days of 1861 John Atwater and his wife were living happily together, interested in the education of their two sons, John and Arthur. The boys had arrived at that age when they most needed a father's guidance—that is, they were in their teens—and the parents were looking forward for them to an honorable career. Then the father died, leaving his widow to shoulder all the responsibility for the completion of their education and giving them a start in life. They resided in the east.

It seemed impossible under the circumstances to keep the family together. An uncle in Missouri offered to take one of the boys and do what he could to pave the way for him to make a living. It was deemed best to accept this offer, and the older son was sent to Missouri. Another uncle, a brother of Mrs. Atwater, offered to take the younger son and release his mother of the responsibility of finding employment for him. It was a sad parting between the mother and her two boys, especially since one of them was to go so far away. But the plucky woman, considering the interest of her sons rather than her own desire to love them with her, consented to the separation.

This dividing of the family turned out very unfortunately. The war between the states came on not long after John Atwater reached his new home. Missouri was a slave state and had largely been settled by southern people. The sympathies of the inhabitants were largely with the south, and a vigorous attempt was made to hold the state to the Confederacy. Those who were in favor of the north were either compelled to leave for Federal territory or take sides with the Confederates. This resulted in Atwater's being forced, against his inclinations, into the Confederate ranks.

There was a big fight between Federals and Confederates, the one endeavoring to carry the state out of the Union, the other to retain possession of it. Both sides raised troops, and a number of battles were fought, resulting finally in victory for the Unionists, which was to have been expected, for Missouri is geographically considered a northern state. In one of the battles John Atwater was severely wounded and was taken to the home of his uncle. His mother, being informed of his condition, went to him and nursed him back to health and strength. Mrs. Atwater's sympathies being with the Union, she used her influence to persuade him to go to her brother in Boston, with whom Arthur had been before joining the northern army. In this she succeeded.

These efforts were too much for a delicate woman, and Mrs. Atwater's health broke down under them. Suffering from a fever, she was delirious. During this delirium she was constantly calling upon her younger son, Arthur, to come to her.

Arthur was at that time serving with his regiment in the Federal army at the front. Mrs. Atwater's neighbors, pitying the poor woman's distress and thinking that her life might depend upon seeing her son, sent word to him to come to her at once.

When the message reached Arthur he applied to his captain for leave to go.

"Leave of absence?" sneered the captain. "You ask for leave of absence in face of the enemy and on the eve of a battle? What you want is to skulk away and avoid a fight."

Stung to the quick, the boy replied: "Here is a letter saying that my mother is dying and calling on me to

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come to her."

"Your mother is a scheming rebel and is trying to get you away from the post of duty."

"You lie."

"You gave me the lie! That's mutiny. I'll attend to your case. Go to the guard tent."

The captain reported that Private Atwater had been insolent to him, and Arthur knew that he would be tried for mutiny. Night came on, and while under arrest he thought of his dying mother, who was calling on him to come to her. The strain was more than he could bear. Stealing out, he made his way through the camp without attracting attention and, dodging the pickets, was making for home when a foraging party coming in with supplies met him and took him back to camp.

What course the boy had been obliged to take to avoid being arrested by Federal troops does not appear, but the report of the officer in charge of the foraging party was that he was heading for the Confederate lines. The fact that he had had a brother in the Confederate army also told against him. He was tried by court martial for desertion and sentenced to be shot.

One morning while Mr. Lincoln was talking with a visitor at the White House an attendant entered and handed the president a card. A pained expression crossed Mr. Lincoln's face as he recognized the name of Julia Atwater. The papers in the case of her son's court martial had been forwarded to him, and his signature was necessary before the death sentence could be carried out. The visitor offered to give way to the newcomer, but Mr. Lincoln urged him to remain where he was, at the same time giving an order that the woman was to be admitted.

Presently the door was opened, and a pale faced woman entered. "My son has been condemned to die," she said, "and will be executed unless you will save him."

"What is he charged with, madam?"

"Desertion."

"Was he not regularly tried by court martial?"

"Yes, but—"

"And was he not arrested passing toward the Confederate lines?"

"Yes, but there is another side to the story."

"I have heard the story, and I am sorry to say to you that I cannot possibly interfere with the sentence of the court."

Mr. Lincoln turned away from the woman, but was recalled to her by the sound of a falling body. She had fainted.

The president hastened to her, raised her and called an attendant. Together they worked over her till she was restored to consciousness.

At the time the secretary of war, Mr. Stanton, and the generals of the army were complaining bitterly of Mr. Lincoln's interference with their efforts to maintain discipline by punishing those who were sentenced, especially for desertion. It was these complaints that had moved him to put a curb on his sympathies and refrain from interference. Papers in the case of Arthur Atwater had passed through the war de-

partment, and Mr. Stanton had forestalled any action on the part of Mr. Lincoln in the doomed man's favor.

When the woman had recovered she begged so hard that the president would hear her side of the story that he finally consented to do so. "If you really come here for justice," he said, sitting down beside her, "you shall have it, and it will make me happy to give it, but if you merely wish to work on my sympathies in order to blind me to my duty you will make me miserable without making yourself less miserable."

"God bless you, Mr. President!" was the reply. "I only ask that you will hear what I have to say, and if you can be convinced my story is true that you will interpose in my son's behalf."

The widow then told Mr. Lincoln the story as it has been told here. When she had finished Mr. Lincoln said to her:

"You may go now, madam, with a good heart. I promise you that proceedings shall be stayed and that you shall have an opportunity to prove the truth of your statement. If you do so you have nothing to fear."

The president repressed the expressions of gratitude of the woman he had made happy, interrupting her to say that he was only doing his duty, and she went out weeping tears of relief and joy.

Arthur Atwater was preparing himself to meet his fate when a telegram was received by him that his execution had been ordered delayed by the president for an investigation of his case. His mother made good her statement, and he was returned to duty. His life was saved by the appeal of his mother to one who mingled a kindly nature with a sense of justice.

There is no record at hand of what the secretary of war said when it was announced to him that a stay had been granted in the case of Private Arthur Atwater. It is quite likely, however, that he frowned and muttered, "Another case of chicken heartedness on the part of the president."

There is a sequel to the story which gives it a fitting ending. When the truth came out that the officer to whom Arthur had applied for leave had in face of the evidence at hand, accused the boy of cowardice and had called his mother a scheming rebel, the captain was taken to task by his colonel, who preferred charges against him. While the case was pending the captain got on a spree and while drunk was thrown from his horse and killed.

If Mr. Lincoln's tender heartedness was a weakness it was not the kind of a weakness that his lieutenants in the big war attributed to him. It was not the kind of a weakness that leads one to do an injustice for fear of displeasing some one. Mr. Lincoln himself said:

"I do not mind crossing or even defying the whole world when I can do so as a champion for the wronged. In that case I feel as if I had the strength of a giant. No, my cowardice comes in when I allow my sense of humanity to obscure my sense of duty. Then I am a veritable coward and only hold myself together by the thought that much will be forgiven a man in doubt who errs on the side of mercy."

And yet with all this tender heartedness and his modesty in giving his orders Mr. Lincoln held the rudder of the ship of state in his own hand for the whole period of his incumbency.

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Forest.....	"	26-27
Glencoe.....	"	27-28
Brigden.....	Oct	2
WATFORD.....	"	2-3
Wyoming.....	"	4-5
Florence.....	"	4-5
Alvinston.....	"	9-10

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