

MARCH 6, 1909.

more hopeful and confident being from that time.

At nineteen came his first experience of the outside world; a Mr. Gentry sent him with a load of produce to New Orleans, Lincoln going as tow hand, to work the front cars, at eight dollars a month and his passage back. When he was twenty-one his father moved to central Illinois. The memories that Abraham left behind him in Indiana were pleasant ones. The man or woman in trouble never failed to receive all the help he could give. Even a weakling drunkard of the village, Lincoln, having faith as well he might, from the road-side where he lay freezing, and carried him on his back a long distance to a shelter and a fire. The thoughtless cruelty to animals so common among country children revolted the boy. He wrote essays on "cruelty to animals." He arranged his playmates protested whenever he saw any wanton abuse of a dumb creature. "This gentleness made a lasting impression on his mates, compounded as it was, with the physical strength and courage to enforce his doctrines. Stories of his good heart and useful life might be multiplied, but they are summed up in what his stepmother said of him:—

"Abe was a good boy, and I can say what scarcely one woman—a mother—can say in a thousand: A'be never gave me a cross word or look, and never refused, in fact or appearance, to do anything I requested him. I never gave him a cross word in my life. His mind and mine, what little I had—seemed to run together. He was before me after he was elected president. He was a dutiful son to me always. I think he loved me truly.

"Abe was the best boy I ever saw or ever expect to see." This excellent stepmother lived to be ninety-three years of age, to outlive in fact, the dutiful son who loved her truly.

When Abraham Lincoln, twenty-one years old, went empty-handed from his home, to work for himself, one of the first things he did was "to split four hundred rails for every yard of brown jeans dyed with white-walnut bark that would be necessary to make him a pair of trousers." He was, we are told, without trade, profession, land, patron or influence; but standing six feet four, he could out-lift, out-sport and out-wrestle any man he came in contact with. His strength won him popularity; but his good nature, his wit, his skill in debate, his stories, were still more efficient in winning him good will. Yet such were the conditions of his life at this time, that, in spite of his popularity, nothing was open to him but the most of the year. To take the first hard manual labor. He was, we are told, which he happened upon, and make the most of it. Thankful if thereby he earned his bed and board and yearly suit of jeans, was apparently all there was before Abraham Lincoln in 1830, when he started out for himself. He was a farm-hand, rail-splitter, river boatman, stockkeeper, pilot, and then captain of militia in the Black Hawk Indian War, in the year 1832. In that war, his men learned that he would not permit dishonorable practices. One day, a helpless Indian took refuge in the camp, and the soldiers determined to kill him, although he had a safe conduct from General Cass; but Lincoln boldly took the man's part, and though he risked his life in doing it, he saved the company and saved the Indian.

Lincoln the Lawyer.

While Mr. Lincoln was still a deputy surveyor, he was elected to the legislature, and in the third period, he says: "During the canvass, in a private conversation, Major John T. Stuart (one of his fellow candidates) encouraged Abraham to study law. After the election he borrowed books of Stuart, took them home with him and went to them in good earnest. He moved to Springfield, twenty miles away, to get his law books, he read sometimes forty pages or more on the way. The subject seemed to never out of his mind. It was the great absorbing interest of his life." He was the exemplification of the rule he gave later, to a young man who wanted to know how to become a lawyer: "Get books and read them carefully. Work, work, work, is the main thing." But how did he, who himself tells us that he never went to school for more than a year in his whole life, have the courage to choose a learned profession? He had had few books in his youth, but he read them thoroughly,—the Bible, a History of the United States, a Life of Washington, Pugin's Progress, Esop's Fables, and he borrowed many others and made long extracts from everything he read.

Difficulties that would put many another lad off the track did not hinder him. He had a turkey-buzzard pen and briar root ink, and when he had no paper he would write on a board and carry it somehow. He used the wooden fire-shovel for a slate, and covered the legs and boards around him with figures and quotations; and he kept a book in the crack of the logs in his loft, to read as soon as daylight came. Indeed he rarely went to work without a book, and he utilized his spare moments, even when, for reading. His father gave him little encouragement, but his stepmother did all that lay in her power to advance him, and he rarely copied anything that he did not take to her and ask her opinion.

When he was about eighteen years old, a copy of the "Revised Statutes of Indiana," with the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence prefixed to it, came into his possession, and he read and re-read it. Later, he found a copy of Blackstone's Commentaries in a barrel of rubbish. "I began to read those famous works," he said. "The more I read the more intensely interested I became. Never in my life was my mind so thoroughly absorbed in reading until I devoured them." While his autobiographical notes tell us that he never studied law with anyone, he had attended court sessions, and once he heard Breckenridge in a hotly contested murder case, in the Booneville court house, Indiana, and long afterwards in the White House he

told that famous lawyer: "I felt that if I could ever make as good a speech as that, my soul would be satisfied, for it was the best that I had ever heard." Experience made him realize how much a man's power over his fellow men was dependent on knowledge. He took up the study of grammar. He walked seven or eight miles to debating clubs. In short, he was self-educated, and he never finished his education; to the night of his death he was a learner, an inquirer, a seeker after knowledge, never too proud to ask questions, never afraid to admit that he did not know. Even after he was admitted to the Bar and became a member of the Legislature, he continued a regular course of study, including mathematics, logic, rhetoric, astronomy, literature and other branches, devoting a certain number of hours to it every day.

He was admitted to the Bar in 1836; and on April 15, 1837, he took up his residence in Springfield and soon became junior partner in the firm of Stuart and Lincoln. Later, he became partner of Stephen Logan, the leading lawyer of the circuit. If not of the State, he had a positive genius for developing legal talents, and whose example and instruction had probably an important and lasting influence on Lincoln's subsequent career. In 1841, however, they separated and Mr. Lincoln started out as the head of a law firm with W. H. Herndon as his junior partner. It was to Herndon that Lincoln gave advice: "Don't show any high aim lower and the common high. Give lower and the common high. You will never get to reach—the ones you want to reach—are the ones you ought to reach. The educated and refined people will understand you anyway. If you aim too high, you will go over the heads of the masses and the only hit those who need no hitting."

In Lincoln's notes to a law-lecture, left among his papers, he writes: "The matter of fees is important, far beyond the mere question of bread and butter involved. Properly attended to, fuller justice is done to both lawyer and client. An exorbitant fee should never be claimed. As a general rule, never take your whole fee in advance, nor any more than a small retainer. When fully paid beforehand, you are more than a common mortal, you are more than a common maxim, if you can feel the same interest in the case, as if something was still in prospect for you, as well as for your client. And when you lack interest in the case, the job will very likely lack skill and diligence in the performance. Settle the amount of fee and you are sure to do your work faithfully and well. Never sell a fee note—at least not before the consideration service is performed. It leads to negligence and dishonesty—negligence by losing interest in the case, and dishonesty in refusing to reform a client who has allowed the consideration to fail."

He had no patience with honesty was not compatible with his chosen and beloved profession and his words in this regard are worthy to be written in gold on the walls of our law-courts:

"Let no young man choosing the law for a calling yield to that popular belief, (that honesty is not compatible with his practice.) If, in your judgment, you can not be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation rather than one in the choosing of which you do, in advance, consent to be a knave."

In those notes to a law-lecture, prepared about 1839, he said: "Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser—in fees, expenses, and the opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough."

"Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than one who does this. Who can be more nearly a fiend than he who habitually overhauls the register of deeds in search of defects in titles, whereon to stir up strife, and put money in his pocket? A moral taint ought to be infused into the profession which should drive such men out of it."

He carried this out in his practice. "Who was your guardian?" he asked a young man who came to him to complain that a part of the property left him had been withheld. "Enoch Kingsbury," replied the young man.

"I know Mr. Kingsbury," said Lincoln, "and he is not the man to have cheated you out of a cent. I can't take the case, and I advise you to drop the subject." "And it was dropped."

"We shall not take your case," he said to a small notary who had shown that by a legal technicality he would win property worth \$400. "You must remember that some things legally right are not morally right. We shall not take your case, but will give you a little advice, for which we will charge you nothing, for which we will charge you nothing, you seem to be a sprightly, energetic man; we would advise you to try your hand at making \$600 in some other way."

He knew how to try a case without making it a personal issue between counsel. He could utter effective replies without insulting his opponent, and during his practice he never made an enemy in the ranks of the profession. No one but a lawyer can appreciate what this means; but it requires generosity, patience, tact, courtesy, firmness, courage, self-control, and a big-mindedness which few men possess. Yet, day after day and year after year Lincoln met all sorts and conditions of lawyers at a time when they were all yours, and he kept them from becoming embittering any one or forfeiting his self-respect. Not many members of the profession can show an equal record; certainly none of the Springfield has left a similar reputation.

In the preceding speech of an opponent, and had stood near silently with folded arms. When his opponent, who had changed his politics and been appointed Register of the land office, ceased to speak, Lincoln replied:

"The gentleman commenced his speech by saying that this young man would have to be taken down, and he was sorry the task devolved on him. I am not so young in years as a politician; but the tricks and trade of a politician, I live long or die young, I would rather die now than, like the gentleman, change my politics and simultaneously with the change receive an office worth \$3,000 a year, and then have to erect a lightning rod over my house to protect a guilty conscience from an offended God. It so happened that Lincoln's opponent had, over his house, the only lightning rod in town, and Lincoln had seen it for the first time only the night before. His ready wit seized on the opportunity offered to point his reply; victory was complete, and his friends bore him from the court-house on their shoulders.

In that Assembly, to which he was then elected, were a future President, and also a future candidate for the Presidency of the United States; six United S. Senators, eight future members of the National House of Representatives, a future Secretary of the Interior, and three future Judges of the Supreme Court; and it was during that session that Lincoln made a powerful speech in which he said: "You can burn my body to ashes, and scatter them to the winds of heaven; but you will never get me to support a measure which I believe to be wrong, although by doing so I may accomplish that which I believe to be right." In this session also he showed his deep feeling about slavery, a feeling that would arise when witnessing the horrors of a slave-auction in New Orleans, though we may rather say that it was inbred, for Thomas Lincoln emigrated to Indiana in 1816 "partly on account of slavery."

In the campaign of 1840, Mr. Lincoln was one of the five Whig presidential electors in Illinois, and throughout the State did much to widen his reputation. In 1842, he became a candidate for Congress, frankly announcing his desire and managing his own canvass in the State. It was not, however, until 1847 that his wish was granted him, and he went to Washington to enter Congress; but by Taylor's inauguration, March 4, 1849, his career there ended, for he had again, for a few years he gave almost his whole time to his profession, but in 1854 he came back to the political field.

When only twenty-two years old, Lincoln had made a statement which he was to repeat in personal practice in 1856. Presenting himself as a candidate for the legislature, in 1832, he had said: "Considering the great amount of modesty which should always attend youth, it is probable I have already been more presuming than becomes me. However, upon the subjects of which I have treated, I have spoken as I thought. I may be wrong in regard to any or all of that, but holding it to be sometimes to be right than at all times to be wrong, so soon as I discover my opinions to be erroneous I shall be ready to renounce them." And now in 1856, Lincoln, finding that he could not fight against the extension of slavery under the name of a Whig party and openly announced that political party and openly declared that he should work with the Republican party. And that speech, whose burning eloquence made it literally impossible for the reporters of that day to take notes, and men and women were weeping while they cheered, "that speech in which Lincoln said: "We will say to the southern States, we won't. Slavery must be kept and you don't. Slavery shall be free, and you shall be free." That speech, so men declared, put Lincoln on the track for the Presidency.

In 1856 he was proposed for the vice-presidency. He had begun to attract the attention of all the thinking men in the country. He spoke in New England, New York, and Ohio. His campaign against Stephen Douglas for the Illinois Senatorship had brought him very prominently before the public eye.

The country, amazed at the rare moral and intellectual character of Lincoln, began to ask questions about him, and his history came out; a pioneer home, little schooling, a few books, hard life at all the many trades of the frontier, a profession mastered of nights by the light of a friendly cooper's fire, an early entrance into politics and law, and then twenty-five years of incessant poverty and struggle. The honest story gave a touch of mystery to the figure which looked so large. Men felt a sudden reverence for a mind and heart developed to those noble proportions in such unfriendly surroundings. He became a national figure when fifty years of age; and in 1860, he was nominated candidate for the presidency by the entire Republican Party, and won the day.

But the southern States were against him. With Lincoln's election, came the news of disruption. On Nov. 10, the U. S. senators from South Carolina resigned, and six weeks later that State passed an ordinance of secession and began to organize an independent government. Before the year closed, the small garrison at Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor, under Major Anderson's command, was all that remained in South Carolina under the Stars and Stripes.

The Confederacy was forming, and the President-elect could not yet take action. He made preparations for his leaving home; settled up his law business, saying to his partner, "How long have we been together?" "Over six years," was the reply. "We've never had a cross word during all that time, have we?" Lincoln said. He went to Coles County, to bid farewell to his aged stepmother. On Feb. 11, 1861, he left Springfield. His townsmen had gathered to bid him farewell. A strong emotion shook him. Lifting his hand to command silence, he said:

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"My friends, no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and to the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from the arms of my mother into those of my foster mother. Here my children have been born and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing where or whether I ever may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of those who are now gathered around me, I could not do this duty. I have no other resource, and am dependent on your prayers and assistance. I can do but one thing. I can only go with you, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, and let us emphatically hope that all will yet be well. To his care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

A sob went through the crowd as Mr. Lincoln's broken voice asked questions of the people, and a choked exclamation, "We will! We will!" answered him. All over the country the people were touched, as the speech was telegraphed to them. He had appealed to one of man's deepest convictions, the belief in a divine Providence. Who would help is given to those who ask it in prayer. This new man who had struggled in life like ordinary people but he was a man who believed, like them in God, and who was not ashamed to ask for prayers.


Lincoln the Master of Men.

The President-elect reached Washington, Feb. 23, 1861. On March 4, he was inaugurated. In the inaugural address, Mr. Lincoln 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, unless you first assail it. You can have no conflict, without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it." He ended with the now famous words, "I am loathe to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory stretch from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, and will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as they surely will, by the better angels of our nature."

A simple act of courtesy that occurred on that occasion must not pass unnoticed. As Mr. Lincoln came forward on the platform erected on the east portico of the Capitol, he was carrying a cane and a little roll that contained the manuscript of his address, and he looked vainly for a spot on which to place his high silk hat. Mr. Douglas, the political antagonist of his whole public life, the man who had pressed him hardest in the campaign of 1858, in 1860, was seated just behind him, and now stepped forward and took the hat from his hand. "If I can't be the President," he whispered with a smile to a cousin of Mrs. Lincoln in the party. "I can at least hold his hat. It seems that Douglas has already put himself so low, so prominently forward in the ceremonies as to leave no doubt on anyone's mind of his determination to stand by the new Administration in the performance of its first great duty to maintain the Union. Only little more than one month later, the bombardment of Fort Sumter was begun, and therewith began the Civil War. Lincoln's wonderful characteristics of command over himself and command over his fellow-men.

President Lincoln had called about him, for the members of his first Cabinet, William H. Seward of New York, his Secretary of State; Edward Bates of Missouri, Attorney-General; Caleb B. Smith of Indiana, Secretary of the Interior; Gideon Welles of Connecticut,

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Secretary of the Navy; Montgomery Blair of Maryland; Postmaster-General; Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, Secretary of the Treasury; and Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania, the most influential politician of that State, Secretary of War, Cameron, however, left at the close of 1861, and his place in the Cabinet was taken by Edwin M. Stanton, a war Democrat. Stanton gave way to John P. Usher of Indiana; Bates resigned in the last year of the Administration and was succeeded by James Speed of Kentucky; and, about the same time, William Dennison of Ohio succeeded Blair.

Simple and modest as Lincoln was in his demeanor, he was one of the most self-respecting of rulers. Although his kindness was proverbial, although he was always glad to please and unwilling to offend, few Presidents have been more sensible of the dignity of their office, and more prompt to maintain it against encroachments. He was at all times unquestionably the head of the Government, and though not inclined to interfere with the routine business of the departments, he tolerated no insubordination in important matters. At one time, being conscious that there was an effort inside of his Cabinet to force the resignation of one of its members, he read in open Cabinet, a severe reprimand of what was going on, mentioning no names and ordering peremptorily that no questions should be asked, and no allusions be made to the incident then or thereafter. But the relations between several of the members were always unfriendly, and no President without the tact, patience and forbearance of Lincoln could have controlled them. He treated them all with unvarying kindness. Four had been his rivals for the Presidential nomination—Seward, Chase, Cameron and Bates; and the entire Cabinet, when first planned, included no intimate friends, no personal adherents, not one individual with whom he ever had confidential relations. It took time for these men to understand that they had a master in the western "child of the soil," the rail-splitter, the self-educated lawyer who was at their head. Seward, for instance, at one assumed that he was himself a sort of Prime Minister with independent and autocratic powers; he sent agents on foreign missions, he made pledges on behalf of the President without consulting him, he did not hesitate to permit the public general and even the Southern States' official representatives to presume that he, and not Lincoln, was the final authority. At last, on April 1, 1861, he submitted what has been called the most extraordinary proposition that appears among the archives of the Department of State, "Some Thoughts for the President's Consideration," and requesting one of the President's most famous aphorisms: "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time; but you can not fool all the people all the time."

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

WIT AND HUMOR.

A FAIR OFFER.

"No," snapped the sharp-faced woman at the door, "I ain't got no food for you, an' I ain't got no old clothes. Now, git!"

"Lady," replied Harvard Hasben, "I could repay you well. Give me a square meal and I'll give you a few lessons in grammar."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Auto manufacturer—Yes, sir; you can depend on it; the machine we make is all right. We stand right back of every one we turn out.

Customer—Do, eh? Well, believe that is safer than standing in front of one.

A clergyman thought it his duty to speak to a lady who unhappily lost her faith in Christianity, and after a few arguments he ended by saying: "Well, you will go to hell, you know, and I shall be very sorry, indeed, to see you there."

Mrs. Lomas.—I don't see what she wanted to marry him for; he has a cork leg, a glass eye, as well as a wig and false teeth.

Mrs. Smith.—Well, my dear, you know that woman always did have a hankering after remnants.

SUSPICION.

"On his return home one night a lawyer said sadly to his wife: 'People seem very suspicious of me. You know old Jones? Well, I did some work for him last month, and when he asked me for the bill this morning I told him out him anything. He thanked me cordially, but said he'd give a receipt.'—Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times.

UNNECESSARY NOISES.

The celebrated soprano was in the middle of her solo when little Johnny said to his mother, referring to the conductor of the orchestra, "Why does

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that man hit at the woman with his stick?"

"He is not hitting at her," replied his mother. "Keep quiet."

"Well, then, what is she hollerin' so for?"

WHERE JUDGMENT COUNTS.

"Pete," the White House bulldog, had a habit of going away with a nonechalant manner and re-appearing all choked up. One day last summer he returned from one of these trips while the President was at a tennis game with the French ambassador, Assistant Attorney-General Cooley, and Secretary Garfield. Pete limped up to the wire-netting, looking for sympathy. He got it from M. Jusserand. "Mr. President," said the ambassador, peering through the netting, "your dog seems to be a poor fighter."

"No," replied Mr. Roosevelt, looking thoughtfully at his lacerated pet, "he's a splendid fighter, but he's a poor judge of dogs."

FATHER WOULD HELP.

Twenty years ago a discouraged young doctor in one of our large cities was visited by his father, who came up from a rural district to look after his boy.

"Well, my son," said he, "how are you getting along?"

"I'm not getting along at all," was the disheartened answer. "I'm not doing a thing."

The old man's countenance fell, but he spoke of courage and patience and perseverance. Later in the day he went with his son to the "Free Dispensary," where the young doctor had an unsalaried position, and where he spent an hour or more every day.

The father sat by, a silent but intensely interested spectator, while twenty-five poor unfortunates received help. The doctor forgot his visitor while he bent his skilled energies to his task; but hardly had he closed the door on the last patient when the old man burst forth:

"I thought you told me you were not doing a thing! Why, if I had helped twenty-five people in a month as much as you have done in one morning I would thank God that my life counted for something."

"There isn't any money in it, though," explained the son, somewhat abashed.

"Money!" the old man shouted, still severely. "Money! What is money in comparison with being of use to your fellow men? Never mind about your money; go right along at this work every day. I'll go back to the farm and gladly earn money to support you as long as you live—yes, and sleep sound every night with the thought that I have helped you to help your fellow men."

"Stands Scotland Where it Did."

No, happily; even Scotland is changing in religious matters, the old bigotry and intolerance being largely things of the past. The Government has made a graceful acknowledgment of the changed conditions and of the growing importance in numbers and wealth of the Catholics of Scotland by appointing the first Catholic judge in Scotland since the "Reformation" in the person of Mr. Campbell, K. C. Mr. Campbell was a distinguished student of Edinburgh Academy and University, and has practised at the Scottish Bar for over thirty-five years. His appointment is very popular among the lawyers of Edinburgh, and is sure to give much gratification to the Scots Catholics.—Catholic News.

It is a fact verified by many bitter experiences that a Catholic cannot be happy or fortunate who neglects the Church and her sacraments.

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Uses of Bile Digestion.

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Of bile as something disordered, something that is the blood the bile is not harmful, but the liver get out of the blood and pours out, where it fulfills its mission.

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