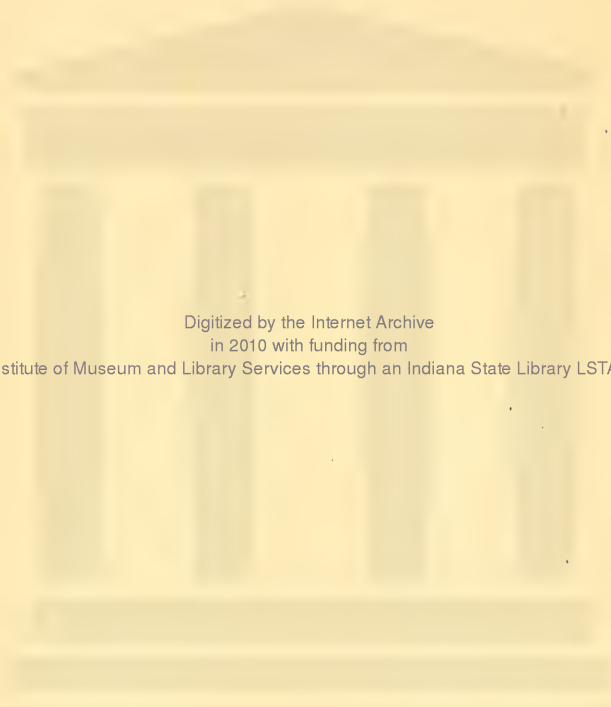
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

MAKERS OF AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES



Lincoln, the Rail-Splitter

"MAKERS OF AMERICAN HISTORY" SERIES

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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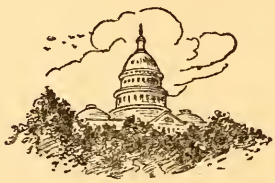
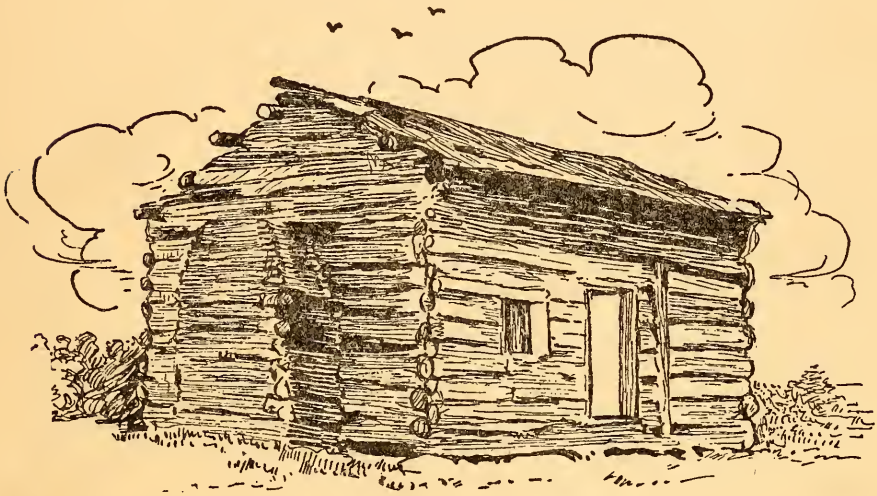
CONTENTS

LIST OF COLORED PLATES



CHAPTER I

BIRTH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND FIRST YEARS IN KENTUCKY—REMOVAL TO INDIANA—DEATH OF HIS MOTHER—EARLY STRUGGLES FOR AN EDUCATION—REMOVAL TO ILLINOIS—1809–1830



IN the heart of the State of Kentucky, near Hodgensville, a splendid granite building has been erected about an old log cabin to protect it from the wind and weather. It is an ugly little cabin, but its warped logs are dear to Americans. This strong protection has been provided about the cabin so that not only you, but the children of a hun-

dred years from now, may visit it and look upon it. Why should any one want to look at such a poor little tumble-down house? I shall tell you. It is because "This little hut was the cradle of one of the great sons of men." On the 12th of February, 1809, a little boy was born there, named Abraham Lincoln. He was the son of plain people, and was born to make men free.

For nearly two hundred years, his forefathers had been brave men, always pushing ahead into the wilderness. When we look at the great United States, with their smiling grain fields and orchards, their mighty factories and busy cities, their schools and libraries and temples of worship, we must not forget such men as the ancestors of Abraham Lincoln. They were the path-finders and scouts, running far ahead of civilization. With strength of hand and mind and heart, they struggled with nature, made their homes and built their settlements, in spite of the attacks of wild beasts and savage men. They cut trails through the trackless forests, where now we ride on steel rails or smooth-paved roads. Knowing nothing of ease, they cleared the way for comfortable homes. Untaught, they made places for schools. They were the men whose love of liberty has laid, one after another, westward to the Pacific, the foundations of the states. They lived in poverty and often met cruel and sudden death.

When Abraham Lincoln's grandfather, also named Abraham, came to Kentucky, the state was a pathless wilderness. He set to work to build a home. He felled trees with his strong arms and trimmed the

logs and laid them in place to form a cabin. He had three sons; Thomas, the youngest, was only six years old. Each boy had his part in building the house and clearing the farm.

One early morning, while going to their day's work, a shot rang out in the forest and the boys saw their

father fall dead. The oldest boy ran to the cabin for the gun, which always hung over the door. The second boy fled to the nearest fort for help, while little Thomas knelt beside his dead father. Running out of the cabin with the gun, the oldest boy saw an Indian in war-paint just stooping over, ready to seize

his little brother. He took quick and deadly aim at a bright ornament over the heart of the savage, fired and killed him. Thomas escaped and ran into the house, as Indians swarmed out of the woods. They were kept off by the big brother, who fired at them through cracks between the logs, until help came from the fort. The little lad, whose life was so narrowly saved, was one day to become the father of Abraham Lincoln.

Without the father, the new home had to be given up, and the mother and three boys had a hard time to make a living. As soon as Thomas was old enough to work, he drifted about wherever he could find a job. He grew up to be "a wandering laboring boy," without any education and with very little ambition. But he was sober and honest. His friends liked him for his good humor and for the good stories he told. He was tall and stalwart and successful in the athletic contests of those days. He learned the trade of a carpenter, and married the pretty niece of the man in whose shop he worked. Her name was Nancy Hanks. She, too, was an orphan and had had a hard life. She was as poor as her husband, but she knew how to read and write and taught him to sign his name.

When they were married, they had a great wedding feast of bear meat and venison, wild turkey and duck. A cake of maple sugar was swung on a string, to be bitten off for sweetening whisky or coffee. There were gourds filled with sirup and wild honey, and a whole sheep was roasted over the coals in a pit. When Thomas and Nancy were married, they owned

a cow, a feather-bed, a loom and a spinning-wheel, and they went to housekeeping in a tiny one-roomed cabin.

After awhile, a little girl was born. They named her Sarah. No one seemed to need much carpenter work, so Thomas Lincoln bought a farm on credit and moved into the cabin already built upon it. The land was poor, but had a fine spring on it, and this gave it the name of "Rock Spring Farm." In this rough and poverty-stricken home, on the banks of Nolin's Creek, Abraham Lincoln was born and here he lived for four years. Then the family moved to a somewhat better farm. The mother was of a sweet and refined nature, and wanted her children to have a better education and a better chance in life than their parents had. There were few schools in Kentucky in those days, though sometimes a school teacher would come along and teach for a few weeks in one of the cabins. Abraham and his sister went to such a teacher for a little while. They had to walk four miles through the forest to reach his cabin.

Before the children had time to learn much, their father decided to move to Indiana, a new part of the country. He sold his farm for $20 and four hundred gallons of whisky. Loading all his goods upon a raft, which he launched on the creek near his cabin, he set out alone to select a new home. He floated down to the Ohio River and landed on the Indiana shore. After exploring the forest, he chose a spot on Pigeon Creek. He could not return up-stream on his raft, so he sold it, left his goods with a settler, and walked back home to get his family. Two horses

were borrowed, for the mother and children to ride, and the family traveled a hundred weary miles to the place where their things had been left. It took three days to go from the Ohio River to the new home, a distance of sixteen miles, for the father had to cut a way with his ax so the wagon he had borrowed to haul their goods, could pass through the dense forest.

The cold nights of autumn had come and no shelter awaited them. The first thing to do was to cut down small trees and as quickly as possible make a camp. Little Abe was then only seven, but he was strong and sturdy, and could swing an ax with the rest of them, for he had played in the forest, eaten only simple food, and slept in the open air.

He helped his father to build their "half faced camp." It was closed on three sides, but the fourth, before which a fire was built, stood open to the weather. There was no floor. Wind and rain beat in between the poles. Even the bear in the forest had a cosier winter home than the Lincolns, but they lived there a whole year, while Abe helped his father chop down the big trees. They thus cleared a field for corn and used the logs for a cabin, which they had ready for the next winter. (1817.)

Sometimes, in building a cabin, the bark was left on the logs, but usually they were smoothed inside. The bedstead was made in the angle of the cabin, by sticking poles between the logs and supporting the corner by a crotched stick driven into the ground. For coverings, they used the skins of bear and deer. If there was a floor, it was made of logs hewed with an ax on one side and laid close together. A slab,

cut out of a big log, with poles for legs, formed the table, and rough, three-legged stools served as seats.

The Lincolns moved into their cabin without a floor, a door, or a window. When Abe went to bed, he had to scramble up to the loft by pegs driven into the wall, and he slept on a pile of dry leaves. When they needed meal for bread, he was sent seven miles on horseback with a bag of corn, to have it ground by a neighbor who owned a hand mill. The only meat they had was supplied by game from the woods.

They wore garments and moccasins made of deer skin. Their caps were made of raccoon skins, with the tails hanging behind. For pins, they used sharp thorns. Abe was too tender-hearted to kill the wild things in the woods. He did not like hunting, though once, when eight years old, his father being absent, he shot a wild turkey.

They wore garments and moccasins made of deer skins

The hardships of this life were too much for Nancy Lincoln. When she became ill, there was no help for her, as the nearest doctor was thirty miles away. Just before Abe's ninth birthday, she died, telling her sobbing little boy to be good and to love God. Her husband cut down

a great pine tree and sawed out rough boards for a coffin, in which her body was laid away in a clearing in the forest. The little boy's heart was grieved by this sad burial. Months later, when a traveling minister came by, the boy asked him to say a prayer above his mother's grave. Little Abe was very lonely, but he went about his work bravely, helping his father wherever he could.

Sarah was only eleven years old, and the care of even their poor household was too heavy for her small hands, but she did her best, and they struggled through the winter and the summer. Long afterward, Lincoln said, "Those were pretty pinching times."

In the autumn of 1819, the father went back to Kentucky to find some one to mother his children. He found a fine and sensible woman, Sally Bush Johnston, who consented to marry him, and go back with him to Indiana. She was a widow, with a son and two little daughters, and was so well off that a four-horse wagon was needed to carry her goods to her new home. She had homespun blankets and quilts, and, among her things, there was a bureau.

A nice feather-bed soon replaced Abe's pallet of leaves, and for the first time in his life, he had a pillow. The stepmother put a wash-stand outside the door and scrubbed these neglected little children and put decent clothing on them. She made their father hang a door, put down a floor and cut windows in the cabin and fill them with greased paper, to let in the light and keep out the rain. The "pinching

times" gave place to times of cheer and comfort. The lonely children now had playmates and a good mother. Forlorn little Abe, youngest of all, was taken right into his stepmother's warm and generous heart. She loved him dearly and encouraged him to study and improve himself. He had not been to school in Indiana and had forgotten the little he had learned in Kentucky. But whenever a traveler came by, he eagerly asked questions, often vexing his father, who could not understand his thirst for knowledge. Once a wagon broke down in the road and a woman and two little girls waited in their cabin while it was being mended. Lincoln said afterward, "The woman had books and read us stories. They were the first I ever heard." There had never been a book nor a paper in their home, so you can imagine how much Abe enjoyed the stories.

The stepmother insisted that all the children should go to school, though the father thought this unnecessary. Abe took every chance to learn, often walking many miles through the forest to the home of a teacher.

From the forest itself he learned much. He knew the stars and the winds and the trees, and the little wild things that ran across his path. He knew the notes of the birds and he knew when the slanting shadows foretold a change of season. In the forest he learned to think for himself and to think right, which is the greatest lesson the greatest school can teach.

There really was very little schooling possible, however. Abe went to school for a time when he was

To pay for it Abe pulled fodder for three days

ten, again at fourteen and later at seventeen; including these periods and the time in Kentucky, he spent, altogether, less than a year of his life in school. He never neglected his share of the family labor and worked for the neighbors whenever they needed him. But he put in all the time he could, reading and adding to what he had learned in school. He had no slate, no pencils, and paper was very scarce. To practice his arithmetic, he used the wooden fire shovel. Sitting by the fireside and working in its flickering light, he covered the shovel with sums, done with a bit of charcoal, and then he whittled it clean again for a fresh start. He had a Bible and whenever he heard of any one owning a book, he would trudge any distance to borrow it. In this way, he read "Robinson Crusoe," "Æsop's Fables," "Pilgrim's Progress," a "History of the United States" and Parson Weems's "Life of Washington." He read every book within a circle of fifty miles. Whenever he read a word or a sentence he wanted to remember, he scrawled it on the logs of the cabin or on a smooth chip, till he could write it on paper. Paper was so scarce that he wrote only the best words and

sentences that he read and those he wished most to remember. His pen was made from a turkey quill and his ink, of briar-root juice. He practiced writing until he wrote well and clearly. He learned to spell so well that he was not allowed to take part in the spelling matches, because he was so sure to out-do the other pupils.

The "Life of Washington" was so interesting to him that he carried it to bed with him one night, so as to have it to read as soon as daylight came. He put it between the logs of the cabin, but a rain came down in the night, beat into the cracks and soaked the book. Abe pulled fodder three days to pay the owner of the book for it!

By the time he was fourteen, Abe walked every week into the village of Gentryville to read the Louisville papers.

When he had read all the books he could find, he began on the Statutes of Indiana, which belonged to the constable. In this book of the state laws, he found the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the Ordinance (law) forbidding slavery in the Northwest Territory. An old dictionary at this time found its way into his hands and he even read that, page by page. Now all this sounds as though Abe were only a "dig" or a book-worm. As a matter of fact, he was full of fun and jokes, and, because of his reading and good memory, he became the best of story-tellers, adding greatly to the pleasure of any gathering of people. His neighbors all liked to hear Abe talk.

He was always pleasant at home. His stepmother

said, "Abe never gave one a cross word or look, and never refused to do anything I asked him. He was the best boy I ever saw or expect to see." He was always gentle and kind and polite. No doubt his mother's sweet nature lived again in her backwoods boy.

House-raisings and corn huskings and athletic contests were among Abe's pleasures. By the time he was nineteen, he had grown to be six feet, four inches tall and had long arms and legs. The country folks called him "Long Shanks" and laughed at his shins showing below his outgrown trousers. But he could outrun and outwrestle all the boys and split more rails and lift heavier logs than any of them. He was proud of his great strength, but in his heart he wanted to learn to talk like the preachers and lawyers; to read and spell like the school teachers and to write like the men who made books and newspapers. He loved to stand on a stump and make a speech, or to imitate the sermon of some traveling preacher, or keep a crowd roaring with laughter at his jokes and stories.

Until he was twenty-one years old, his time belonged to his father. He either worked on the farm, or was hired out to a neighbor, his wages going to his father. A "day" was from sunrise to sunset, and for a day's work he received twenty-five cents, unless he had missed a little time and was "docked" for it!

When he was about sixteen, he had a chance to work on a ferry-boat on the Ohio River for thirty-seven cents a day. He enjoyed this, for he saw many travelers passing east and west. A lawyer became so

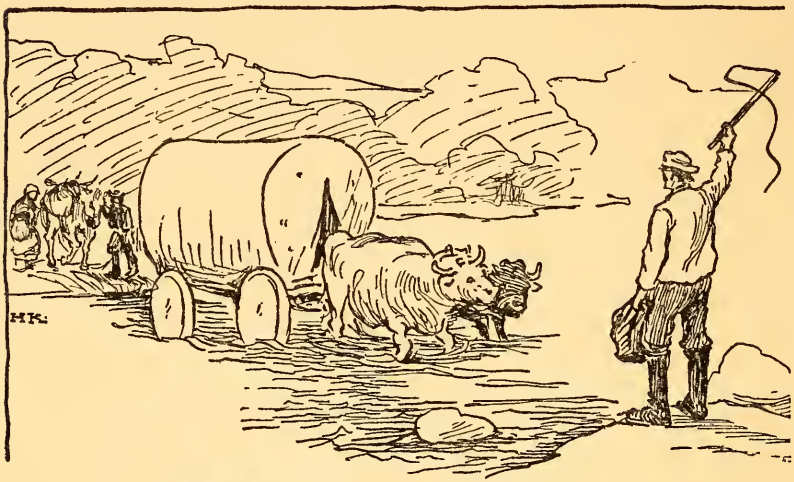
interested in him that he wanted to take Abe into his office. It was just what he longed to do, but the boy said his parents were too poor and needed all the money he could earn. While working on the river, he earned a whole dollar one day by rowing two men and their trunks out to a steamboat waiting for them in midstream. He had never before earned so much money in a day and it gave him new hope and courage.

About this time, Mr. Gentry (the storekeeper and founder of Gentryville, Indiana), loaded a flat-boat with pork and corn, bacon and flour. He wanted to find a strong, honest, intelligent young man to take the boat a thousand miles down the Mississippi River, sell the cargo at the cotton plantations and bring back the money. It did not take him long to select young Lincoln, to whom he paid $8 a month and his fare home on the steamboat. Allan Gentry, the storekeeper's son, went with him and the voyage was successfully made. Lincoln learned a thousand new things from all he heard and saw.

By the time Abe was grown up, their home was no longer on the frontier. Hundreds of canvas-covered wagons had come over the mountains from the East, and Indiana was now full of people. Settlers were pushing westward and as Thomas Lincoln watched these "prairie schooners" disappear toward the setting sun, he longed to follow them. He seemed to forget all the hardship of making a home in the wilderness and he decided to go on to Illinois. Abe was almost twenty-one, at which time he would be free to work for himself, but he helped his father "move."

His sister had died, and the neighbors were sorry to lose Abe. One of his friends planted a cedar as a token of remembrance.

An ox-cart carried their scanty possessions. The cart wheels were formed of round blocks cut from a big oak log, and the roads were muddy trails.



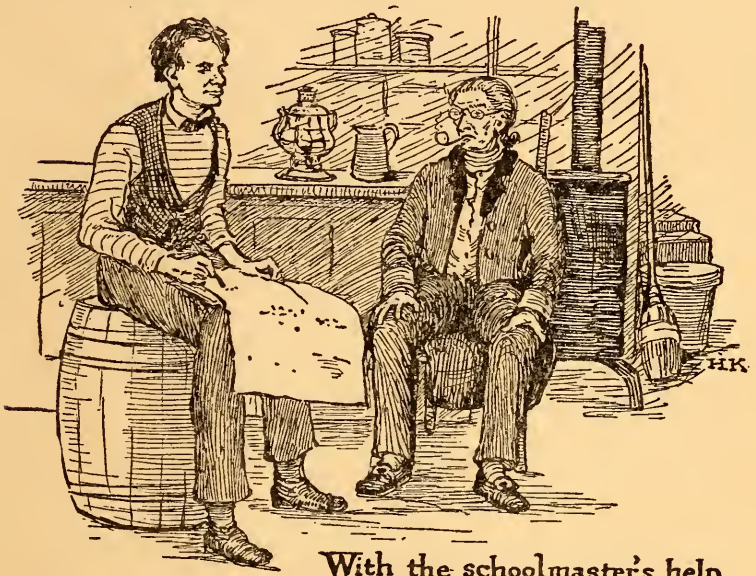
He helped his father move

Creeks and rivers had to be forded. The journey must have been rougher than we can imagine in our days of fine roads, good springs and rubber tires. Abe was the driver, and on this journey, he managed to do a little business. He had saved up thirty dollars and with them bought a supply of needles, thread, buttons and other little things, which he knew would be scarce in the wilderness, and which he peddled to settlers along the way. He doubled his money by this deal.

Lincoln's Early Studies

CHAPTER II

LINCOLN BEGINNING LIFE IN ILLINOIS—IMPRESSED BY A NEGRO SLAVE AUCTION IN NEW ORLEANS—IN POLITICS—HIS DEFEAT AND LATER ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATURE—MADE POSTMASTER OF NEW SALEM—SETTLING IN SPRINGFIELD—PRACTICING LAW—LINCOLN MARRIED—1830–1846



With the schoolmaster's help
he studied mathematics

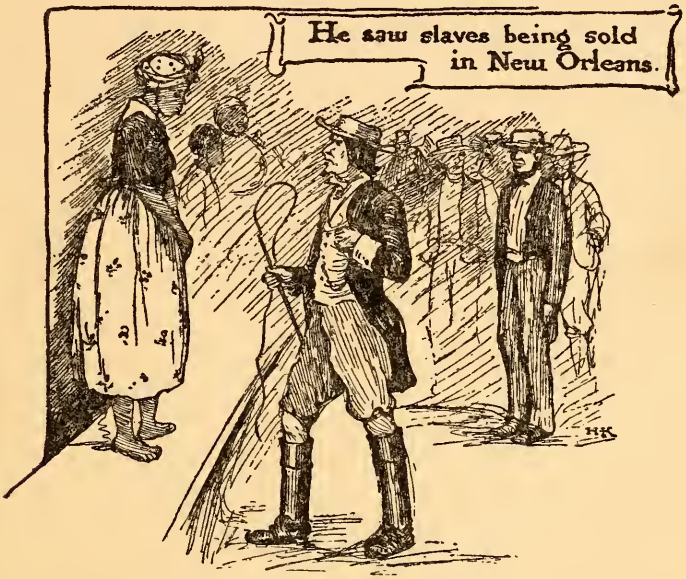
WHEN they reached Illinois in the spring of 1830, the family chose a place on the Sangamon River and built a cabin, fenced in ten acres of ground, and raised a crop

of corn that season. Abe wanted to make his stepmother as comfortable as he could, in return for all her goodness to him. Their first winter in Illinois was very dreary and desolate; it was intensely cold and was known as the winter of the "deep snow." When spring came again and Abe had given his father an extra year, he left home to seek his fortune. With his ax over his shoulder and a little bundle holding all his possessions, he set out, in March, 1831.

He was soon engaged, with his stepbrother and cousin, by a man named Denton Offutt, to take a flat-boat, loaded with hogs and corn, to New Orleans from Sangamon, Illinois. The wages were fifty cents a day. The young men built the boat, loaded and launched it on the Sangamon River. At the village of New Salem, it stuck on a dam, with one end high in the air and the other in the water. All the village folk came out to look and laugh. Poor Abe, tall and thin and sad-faced, in ragged coat, battered hat and torn trousers, was forlorn enough to be the object of their jokes! But he was good-natured and won their respect by thinking of a smart way to get the boat off. He bored a hole into the bottom of it at the bow, and managed to lift the stern so the water ran out of the hole in the front, and the boat went over the dam while he plugged up the hole! This delayed them a day and a night. They had some other adventures, but reached New Orleans safely and sold the hogs and corn.

When Abe went to see the sights of the city, the thing which impressed him most, and which he never, never forgot, was a negro slave auction. He saw

a young woman being sold and felt so sorry for her that he said, "If I ever get a chance to hit this thing, I'll hit it hard!" They returned by steamboat to St. Louis and from there Abe walked across Illinois to visit his father's farm. Then he went to New Salem, where Mr. Offutt had promised to employ him as clerk in a store. The people remembered him and welcomed him warmly.



An election was drawing near and Lincoln was asked if he could write. He answered that he could "make a few rabbit tracks on paper," and he was hired to help the clerk at the election. This gave him an acquaintance with the voters, who stayed to hear his droll stories. Among them was the schoolmaster, Mentor Graham, who ever after was Lincoln's warm friend.

Mr. Offutt opened his store, bought a mill and put Abe in charge of both, for he trusted him completely. He boasted that his clerk could beat anyone running and fighting. In those days, each settlement had its champion wrestler and the "Clary's Grove Boys" bet Mr. Offutt $10 that their leader, Jack Armstrong, could beat his clerk. Abe did not enjoy fighting, but saw that he must, to keep his place. All the village flocked to see the match. Lincoln won the fight, and he fought so fairly that he also won the admiration of everybody and the lasting friendship of Jack Armstrong.

At New Salem, many tales were told of his strength. One was that he lifted a barrel of whisky until, standing erect, he could drink out of the bung-hole. The story says he did not swallow the whisky, for he hated the influence of liquor on the people and did all he could for the cause of temperance.

Strong as his body was, Lincoln's character was stronger, and he had a kind word as well as a helpful deed for every one in trouble. His hands were ready to lift a wagon out of the mire, rock a cradle, split wood for a neighbor or wait on the sick. He was fond of children and kittens and puppies. Away back in Indiana, he had written articles against cruelty to animals. If he happened to make a mistake in weight or change, he did not sleep till he had made it right, even though he had to walk miles to do it. He very early earned the nickname "Honest Abe."

But he did not really want to be a storekeeper all his life. He wanted knowledge, and liked to think and study and talk. When he had read all the books

in New Salem, he "had a notion to study English Grammar." His friend, Mentor Graham, told him it was a fine plan, but the nearest grammar was six miles away. Abe walked out and borrowed this "Kirkham's Grammar," and soon knew all that it contained. With the schoolmaster's help, he studied mathematics and covered all the wrapping paper in the store with his problems.

A political discussion was a great pleasure to Lincoln, and when he was twenty-three, he made up his mind to be a candidate for election to the State Legislature. (Law-making branch of the State Government.) "Internal Improvements," meaning the building of roads and bridges and the clearing and damming of rivers, interested the people more than anything else that was to be considered by the legislature. Abe thought it would increase his chance for election, if he would promise the people to have the legislature improve the river and make it deeper, so bigger boats could pass up and down. He published a fine letter in the newspaper, addressed to the people of the county, saying what he thought ought to be done by the legislature. It closed with the words, "Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. I can say that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed by my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem."

Before the election took place, the Indian "Black Hawk," who had been pushed across the Mississippi, led his warriors back to the land that had belonged to their fathers. The Governor of Illinois called for volunteers to protect the state. A company was

formed at New Salem and the men chose Lincoln for their captain. This pleased him, though he knew nothing of the duties of his new office.

The boys in his company were full of pranks, for which he, as their captain, was punished. Once he had to wear a wooden sword two days, because they stole whisky from the officers. They enlisted for only a few weeks, but as the "war" did not end so soon, Lincoln reënlisted as a private. His military service lasted about three months. Soon after his return home, the election was held and Abe was defeated. His neighbors voted for him, but he was not very widely known in the county.

Mr. Offutt's store failed and Abe went into partnership with a man named Berry. They bought a store on credit, but Abe read and Berry drank all the time, so the business was neglected.

One day a man, moving west, asked them to buy a barrel of odds and ends, for which he had not room in his wagon. Lincoln gave him fifty cents and put the barrel away. Months later, he dumped its contents on the floor and found Blackstone's great law book, which is one of the first books studied by all lawyers. He had always wanted to study law, and now the store was all but forgotten. Lying under a great tree, with his feet against the trunk and "grinding around with the shade," he spent hours pouring over his treasure. In a year, the store "winked out" and Berry left without paying his share of the indebtedness. Lincoln bravely shouldered this burden, calling it the "National Debt," because it looked so big to him. He owed $1100 and had no way to get

money except in very small wages for odd jobs. He promised his creditors that he would pay it all and he did, although it took seventeen years of patient labor and saving! He worked at everything he could get to do and was appointed, in 1833, Postmaster of New Salem. It was not much of a position, for mail came only twice a week and there was little of it. It is said that he carried the "post office" in his hat and whenever he met a man for whom he had a letter, he would take off his hat and deliver the mail! But this position brought him newspapers to read full of the speeches of Daniel Webster and Henry Clay and other men in Congress.

He devoted all the time he could spare from his work, to his reading, often tramping to Springfield, twenty miles away, to borrow law books. In the evenings, he went to the cooper's shop, where he made a fire of shavings and read by its light. As soon as he could help his neighbors with his knowledge, he began to draw up legal papers for them, without charge.

It is said that he carried the post-office in his hat

A chance to do some surveying (marking off land) came to him. He knew nothing about it, but bought the instru-

ments and a book and "went at it." After a few weeks of hard study, he was ready for work. Like Washington, he made a splendid surveyor and settled many disputed boundaries. He felt that now he had a way to make a living and was more hopeful about his future, when one of his creditors (men to whom he owed money) had his horse, saddle and instruments seized and sold by the sheriff. But Lincoln, who had so often helped others, did not lack a friend in his time of need. A man named Bolin Greene, a staunch friend of Lincoln's, bought the things, gave them back, and told him to pay for them when he could.

Two years after his defeat for the legislature, there was another election. By this time, Abe had made many friends in the county and announced that he would again be a candidate. He visited the people on their farms. He attended all the gatherings, horse-races, house-raisings, shooting matches and auctions, where he took part in everything that went on and then made speeches. He was elected (1834) by a large majority and entered on the career of which he had dreamed for years.

It is hard for us to realize how poor Lincoln had always been. He wore rough, home-made, cow-hide shoes, when he was not barefoot, and his clothing was of coarse homespun. But the gentle kindness of his face and manner and the fun and wisdom in his talk made friends for him. When he went to Vandalia, then the capital of Illinois, he borrowed $200, with which to buy some blue jeans clothing, pay his fare

on the stage-coach and have some money in his pocket when he arrived.

He was nearly twenty-six years old at this time and had never lived in a town, for New Salem was merely a group of a few cabins in the forest. He had never lived where there was a church, though he had always attended when some traveling minister preached in a neighboring cabin. He had never seen a college, or even a properly built schoolhouse. Vandalia, with its three taverns, four doctors, five lawyers, two newspapers, its stores, church and schoolhouse, seemed a great city to him!

Whenever Lincoln found himself in new surroundings, he made it his rule to keep still and watch and learn what others were doing. So he took little part in the debates in the legislature, but he listened, became acquainted and made friends. Among the members of the legislature was a man named Stephen A. Douglas, as noticeable for his shortness as Lincoln was for his height. He played an important part in Lincoln's later life. Douglas had come from Vermont the year before, with thirty-seven cents in his pocket, and had begun the practice of law. He was a Democrat and Lincoln was a Whig. At the end of the meeting of the legislature, Lincoln, having done all he could about the Sangamon River, returned to New Salem, and to his work of surveying, studying law and distributing mail.

During this time, he was in love with the tavern-keeper's daughter, pretty Ann Rutledge. Her refinement and strength of mind and character at-

tracted him when he was a humble helper about the tavern. He dared not offer himself to her until his fortunes improved, but after he returned from Vandalia, they were engaged. The marriage was put off a year, as she was only seventeen and wanted to spend a winter in the academy at Jacksonville. But this first real happiness was destroyed before many months. His sweetheart died and her death caused him the deepest sorrow. Of all the disappointments in his life, this was the greatest, but through it he learned a lesson of bravery and patience. He had need to learn these lessons early, for his life was to be full of sorrow.

In 1836, Lincoln was again elected to the legislature. He said, at this time, he was in favor of letting everybody vote who paid taxes, "not excluding females." This is interesting, because people then were not talking about "votes for women!" His friends had raised $200 for his campaign expenses. After election, he handed back $199.25, saying his only expense had been seventy-five cents for a barrel of cider, to which some farmers had insisted upon being treated.

At this session, he took a prominent part in all debates. Among other things, he helped to have the state capital moved from Vandalia to Springfield. But the most important thing he did passed unnoticed at the time. Slavery was becoming a vexed question all over the country. Those who believed the slaves should be free were called "Abolitionists." The Illinois people had nearly all come from the South and at this time favored slavery. So the

legislature passed some resolutions, disapproving of the abolitionists. Lincoln, whose heart had been touched when he saw slaves being sold in New Orleans, was almost the only member who refused to vote for the resolutions. He drew up a protest against them, but only one other man would sign it with him. In the beginning of his career, he took his stand on the subject of slavery, though it was so unpopular, and he never changed his opinion because he believed he was right.

Like the store, New Salem and the post office "winked out." Lincoln had $17 of post office money which he kept tied up in an old sock for several years, until the inspector called for it. No matter how much he needed it, he had never borrowed a cent of this fund. "I never touch any money but my own," he said.

He put all he owned into a pair of saddle-bags, borrowed a horse and rode to Springfield to live. It was a city of almost two thousand people and a good deal of style. Lincoln said there was a "considerable flourishing about in carriages." When he arrived, he was not only almost penniless, but he was deeply in debt. Inquiring at a store the price of a bed, he said, when told, it was probably cheap enough, but he could not pay so much for one. The storekeeper, Joshua Speed, felt sorry for him and offered to let Lincoln room with him. "Where is your room?" Lincoln asked, and was told "upstairs." He ran up with his saddle-bags and was back in a moment, crying, "Well, Speed, I've moved!"

He also lived with a man named Butler, who prob-

ably did not ask him to pay any board. Lincoln never forgot these good friends whose help made it possible for him to get a start. He formed a law partnership, but he made his headquarters at Speed's store, where the young men of the town gathered every evening. Stephen A. Douglas was one of them, and there were others who also became famous lawyers and statesmen in after years. The center of the group was the earnest and witty Lincoln.

They had long debates about the affairs of the country. Lincoln always looked at the moral principle behind a question, without any thought of his own popularity. He took a strong stand on the temperance question, which was not in much favor at that time.

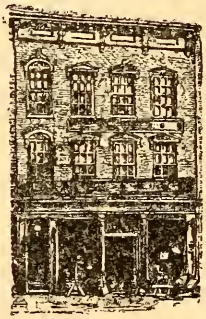
He worked hard and patiently at his profession, and his absolute honesty won him the confidence of all His sense of right and wrong was so keen that he would not take a case that could not be won justly. If convinced that a man was guilty, he would not defend him. He had no use for the tricks of the law, but was quick to see and foil any used against him by opposing lawyers. He discouraged people from beginning lawsuits when they could be avoided.

For six successive years, Lincoln was elected to the legislature, which met in Springfield each winter. In spring and autumn, in company with other lawyers and the district judge, he traveled around the circuit (certain towns where court was held), trying cases in the county towns. There were very few newspapers and many people were unable to read,

and so they depended upon the lawyers to explain the laws to them and tell them what was going on in the country. Lincoln was a great favorite and the people crowded to hear him talk—either in the court-room or at the tavern, where the judge and all the lawyers "put up." He was poor enough in earthly possessions, but he was rich in sympathy and tenderness of heart. His hard life of struggle for better things, amid disappointments and discouragements, had given him a certain sadness which he never could overcome. Though he was poorly dressed, he had many friends, for people thought more of his character than of his appearance. His growing name as a forceful speaker, his wit and his reputation as a lawyer, gave him a place in the best society of the little frontier capital. He was a leader among the really brilliant young men of Springfield.

When Mary Todd, twenty-one and spirited, pretty and well educated, came from Kentucky to visit her married sister, the house was soon filled with her beaux. Towering above the well dressed and graceful young fellows who called on her, Lincoln, in spite of his height and awkwardness, took her fancy. They became engaged, but her family objected and the engagement was broken. Lincoln felt so bad that his friend Speed carried him off for a visit to his own home in Kentucky. When Lincoln returned, Miss Todd and another girl were writing letters to the newspaper, making fun of the State Auditor, a man named Shields. He was very angry, and to protect the girls, Lincoln took the blame for the letters. Shields challenged him to a duel. Lincoln ac-

cepted, but made the conditions so ridiculous that every one was in a gale of laughter over it and the quarrel was settled peaceably. Miss Todd then married her penniless knight, in spite of her family—November 4, 1842. The "National Debt" still hung over him, but his bride loyally accepted his poverty. Too poor to have a home, they boarded for some time at the "Globe Tavern" for four dollars a week! Lincoln dearly loved little children, and was very happy as one after another four sons were born to them—Robert, Edward, William and Thomas. Edward died while a baby; William lived to be eleven years of age, and Thomas, eighteen. Robert grew up and went to Harvard University and served his country in positions of trust.



Lincoln & Herndon Law Offices
(Second floor)

Lincoln, the Young Country Lawyer

CHAPTER III

LINCOLN ELECTED TO CONGRESS—BECOMES LEADER OF NEW REPUBLICAN PARTY—HIS OPPOSITION TO SLAVERY—HIS DEBATES WITH STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS —NOMINATED FOR SENATOR AND DEFEATED— 1846–1858

WHILE building up his law practice, Lincoln never lost sight of his ambition to be sent to Congress, and when he was thirty-eight years old, he was elected (1846). He took his family to Washington, where he spent his first term in silently watching other people and learning. It was a time of remarkable men in Congress. John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Thomas Corwin and Alexander H. Stephens were a few of the men to whose eloquent words Lincoln listened. But he had a way of winning men and it was not long before this great brotherhood of

Stephen A. Douglas

law-makers received him cordially. He was as eagerly listened to in the lounging room of the Capitol as in the tavern of an Illinois village, and for the same reasons—he was wise and witty and had a genuine love of folks. He lived simply, in a modest boarding house, where his cheerfulness was a joy to those about him.

The great libraries of Washington were a wonder to him and the attendants were wont to smile when he tied a bundle of books in his red bandanna handkerchief, stuck a cane through the knot, and walked away with his precious load over his shoulder.

While Lincoln was in Congress, the Whigs (a political party in the United States from about 1829 to 1853), nominated Zachary Taylor, hero of the Mexican War, for President. Lincoln was sent to Massachusetts to make speeches for him and he was in great demand. It was a new experience for him to address the refined audiences of the East, and he was a curiosity to the crowds who flocked to hear him. Taylor was elected and when he was inaugurated, Lincoln's term in Congress ended.

While in Congress, Lincoln had opposed the war between the United States and Mexico (1846–1848), which he thought was wrong, and he presented a bill, which did not pass, for doing away with slavery in the District of Columbia.

At the close of his term in Congress, he returned to his law office in Springfield, where, for five years, his circle of acquaintances and his practice grew steadily. Again he traveled around the circuit with the judge and other lawyers and was heartily welcomed

everywhere. He had a way of walking into a court-room and seeming to say, with a friendly look, "Here I am!—aren't you glad to see me?" Sometimes his clothes were wrinkled and shiny and, for want of a button, his suspenders might be fastened with a bit of stick, but he was never dirty nor unshaved. He wore either a flat straw hat, or a high, fuzzy beaver. He carried an old carpet-bag and a faded green cotton umbrella, marked inside, with white thread, "A. Lincoln." The knob had long been lost off the handle, and it was tied together with a string when not in use.

He was offered a fine law partnership in Chicago, but he refused it, as he did not like city life. He never could bring himself to charge a large fee and so he was always poor. But he did not care for wealth, which he said "is simply a superfluity of things we don't need."

Once an angry man wanted him to bring suit against a poor fellow who could not pay a bill amounting to $2.50. Lincoln took the case, charging $10 as a "retainer" (part payment of fee in advance). He gave half of it to the poor debtor who paid the $2.50 he owed and the matter was ended. Lincoln would take a righteous case for nothing, but would refuse to take a case, unless he knew it to be just, no matter how large the fee might be.

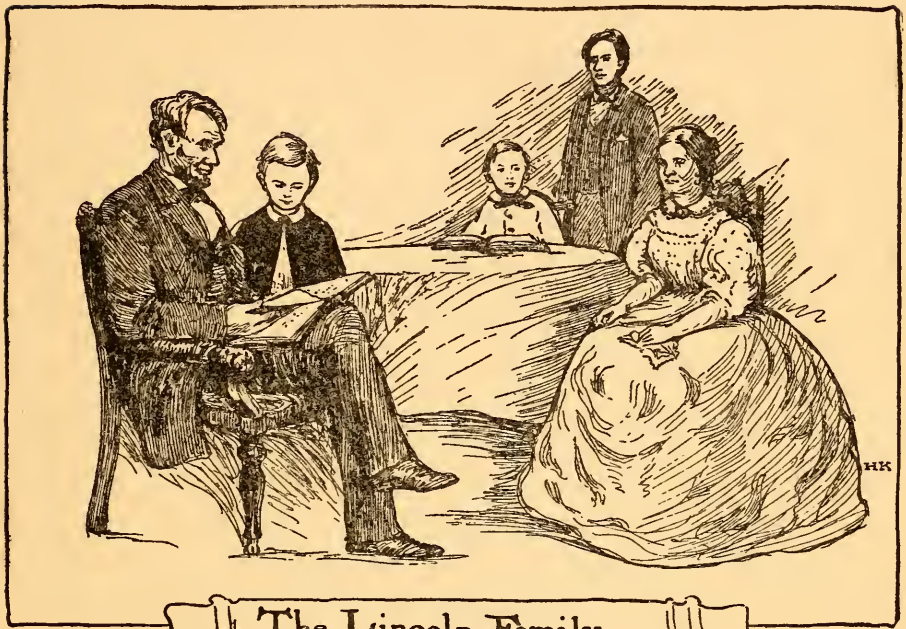
When he returned from Washington, he felt that he compared very poorly with the well-trained and well-educated lawyers he had met there. He was forty years old, but he took up the study of logic and mathematics to strengthen his powers of thinking

and reasoning. After the day's work, he would lie in bed with a candle on a chair beside him, and study until late at night.

Lincoln had a wonderful way of handling men and could always count on the sympathy of the jury. Once he was called upon by the widow of Jack Armstrong—his New Salem boyhood friend—to defend her son Bill who was accused of murder. Lincoln believed the boy to be innocent and he took the case. The chief witness said he had seen Bill kill the man, for it was bright moonlight. Lincoln made him repeat this statement several times, and the case looked bad for Bill, until Lincoln opened an almanac and showed there had been no moon on the night in question! Then he told the jury how good Bill's father and mother had been to him when he was poor and homeless, how well the boy had been brought up, and how positive he was of his innocence—how he had rocked Bill in his cradle. All the jurymen cried, and they finally set the boy free.

Lincoln became known as one of the best lawyers in Illinois and was at length employed to take an important case in Cincinnati. The lawyer on the other side was a great man from the East, and Lincoln and his friends were delighted with this fine opportunity. He studied very hard and was sure of success. But his client grew fearful about trusting his awkward country lawyer against the brilliant man on the opposing side and called in Edwin M. Stanton to assist. Stanton shut Lincoln completely out of the case. Lincoln heard him say, "Where did that lanky, long-armed creature come from?" Lincoln was hurt

by this treatment, but he took the lesson to heart. He could not help his personal appearance, but he saw that the lawyers from the East were better trained than those in Illinois and said, "They study their cases as we never do—I am going home to study law—I am as good as any of them and when they come to Illinois, I shall be ready for them."



The Lincoln Family

The months slipped away in work and study. The Lincoln boys grew and found their father always kind and indulgent. He loved to play with them or walk with them, and when they were little, would carry them on his back. They were always welcome in his office and he was glad to have them

with him wherever he was. He seemed, at this time, to have lost interest in politics, and devoted much time to study for his great life-work, for which all the rest had been a preparation. For all his cheerful friendliness, Lincoln was really a lonely man, for he never shared his troubles, seldom took a friend into his confidence, nor told his hopes. He seemed to be waiting for some great task, and it came!

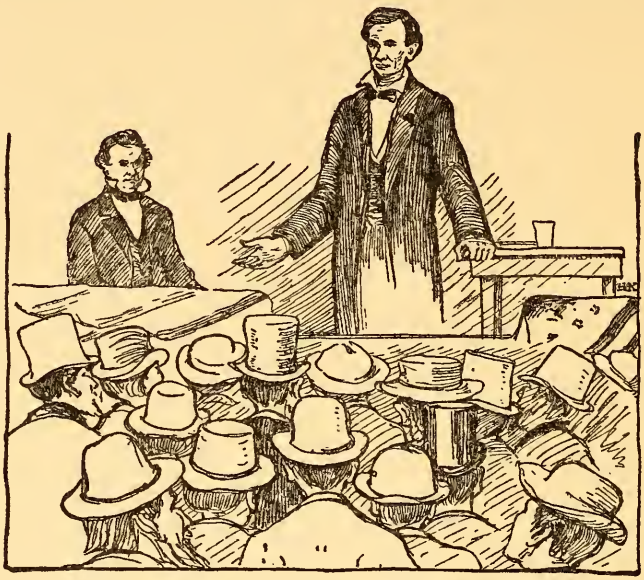
In March, 1854, Congress repealed the "Missouri Compromise." That was a law passed in 1820, allowing Missouri to enter the Union as a slave state, but forbidding slavery in all other territory north of "Mason and Dixon's Line." That was the southern boundary line of Missouri, reaching westward to the Pacific Ocean. In 1850, by another compromise, California was admitted as a free state, while other territory taken in the Mexican War was allowed to have slavery. Every one thought this settled; but no question is ever settled till it is settled rightly. Slavery was wrong and had no right to exist in a country devoted to liberty.

As new states began to form in the great Northwest, the South thought that Congress had no right to decide whether or not they should have slaves, but that each state should decide for itself. Under the leadership of the "little giant," Stephen A. Douglas, the Missouri Compromise was repealed, which meant that states north of Mason and Dixon's Line could have slaves if they wanted them. The North saw with horror that slavery would soon reach the western plains and threaten freedom throughout the whole country.

A whirlwind of protest arose. When Douglas returned to his home in Chicago, he was greeted with flags hung at half-mast and with tolling bells. A meeting was arranged for him, but the crowd received him with groans and hisses, which grew into roars whenever he tried to speak. Leaving Chicago, he passed through a frowning country, until he came to Springfield. There he was met by a tall, gaunt man, whose soul from youth had detested the cruelty of slavery—whose sad eyes now saw its black shadow threatening the free soil of the North. It was Abraham Lincoln, his heart hot with just anger and heavy with the great and solemn duty laid upon him—for he knew that he was called to be the champion of Freedom.

Douglas made a speech at Springfield, defending himself. Lincoln answered him and Douglas was amazed at his force and power. He spoke four hours and his statements were clear and just, his language eloquent and his earnestness intense. He had entered the contest with no thought of politics, but he became a candidate for the United States Senate, so as to be able to fight slavery in Congress. He found that five Democratic members of the legislature would not vote for him because he was a Whig, though they wanted a senator opposed to slavery. Lincoln at once put himself and party considerations aside and begged his friends and Whig followers to unite with the Democrats on some man who would vote against slavery. The people of his state appreciated his sacrifice and afterward the five Democrats became his devoted followers.

While opposed to slavery, Lincoln did not yet think it possible or wise to free all the slaves at once. He simply said slavery was wrong and must not be allowed to spread into new territory, and as



The Lincoln-Douglas Debates

soon and as justly as possible, the country must get rid of it entirely.

Senator Douglas did not think slavery was right, but said each state had the right to decide for itself whether or not it should have slaves. Under his leadership in repealing the Missouri Compromise, Congress had given that right to Kansas. The people of Kansas who did not want slavery were trying to settle the question with those who did, and the result was a bloody conflict.

In 1856, the Republican Party took the place of the Whigs and Lincoln became its leader in Illinois. At the Republican State Convention, he made a speech against slavery. His words were so wonderful that newspaper reporters' pencils fell unused from their fingers, as they, with the rest of the audience, listened, charmed by the magic of his eloquence. When he finished, the people rose and cheered, and cheered again. Then it was found that no one had kept a record, and Mr. Lincoln could not recall what he had said. So it was called "The Lost Speech," but its spirit went with the delegates to the National Convention in Philadelphia.

John C. Frémont, of California, was nominated for President by the Republicans and Lincoln received a large vote for Vice-President. When told of it, he said, "They couldn't have been thinking of me; the votes were for the great Lincoln from Massachusetts." But the name of Abraham Lincoln had been brought before the Nation.

James Buchanan, a Democrat and supporter of slavery, was elected (1856). Lincoln, who had made over fifty speeches against him, was not discouraged. He believed that, in the end, the people would vote right and put down slavery. Patience and perseverance, he felt, would win the cause.

Two years later, Mr. Douglas asked the Democrats of Illinois to reëlect him senator. He hoped to be made president sometime, and to that end, he kept both North and South thinking that he would use his great influence on their side of the slavery question. To win his election as senator from Illinois, he now

quarreled with President Buchanan and took sides against slavery. Lincoln thought it was no time for personal consideration, when such a great question of right and wrong was before the people. The fight for freedom was on. He said to a friend, "I know there is a God and He hates injustice and slavery. I see the storm coming. I know His hand is in it. If He has a place for me, and I think He has, I am ready—I am nothing, but truth is everything."

The Republicans decided to nominate Lincoln against Douglas. Asking no advice, talking with no one, he was seen to be thinking and now and then writing something on a paper, which he put into his great beaver hat. The day before the convention, he read to a few friends the speech he intended to make. He began by saying, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe that this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided."

His friends warned him that such a frank speech would defeat his election, but his law partner, William H. Herndon, said, "Deliver that speech and it will make you president." Lincoln's reply to his friends was, "The time has come when these sentiments should be uttered and if it is decreed that I should go down because of this speech, then let me go down linked with the truth." He made the speech and men told him that he had thrown away the chance of a Republican victory and ruined his own fortunes. But he stood as immovable as a rock, knowing he had

done right. His hope was anchored in the truth for which he spoke.

Lincoln was still a poor and struggling country lawyer, without money, or any organized following. Douglas, four years younger, was brilliant, rich and

The day before the convention he read to a few friends

successful, a man of the world, known on two continents. He despised his awkward opponent and when opening the Democratic campaign in Chicago, spoke of Lincoln with contempt and made fun of his great speech. As Douglas passed through the state, his triumphs grew. Lincoln, referring to one of Douglas's attacks, said he wanted to act like "a gentleman in substance if not in outside polish. That I

shall never be, but that which constitutes the inside of a gentleman, I hope I understand." It must have hurt him to be ridiculed by the man with whom he had started his career twenty years before and who now was so well-educated, well-dressed and successful.

In this campaign, Lincoln said, "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time!" He said this because Douglas was going over the state, making brilliant speeches, and the people were wild with enthusiasm about him. But a thinking man could not tell from his speeches what he really did believe.

In order to hold him to a discussion of the real question and compel him to take a definite stand, Lincoln challenged Douglas to meet him in a debate. Douglas accepted and they arranged to address the same meetings in seven different towns in Illinois, each to speak for an hour and a half. The country was so stirred over these debates that reporters were sent from such distant points as New York. Carloads of people from Chicago and other cities poured in for the first debate at Ottawa, August 21, 1858. Country folks from forty or fifty miles around came on horseback or on foot, and camped about the town where the meeting was to be held.

Douglas, the "little giant," was short, with broad shoulders and a large head. He was always fashionably dressed. His voice was commanding and could become a deep roar. He was the most skillful orator in his party. Lincoln was a foot taller than his

opponent, his clothing hung loosely on his gaunt body. His heavy, dark hair tumbled about his head and he was stiff and awkward, until he forgot himself in speaking. He had no stage manners. His voice was high and at times, thin, but when his feelings were touched, it became musical. He played no tricks with words to keep people from knowing what he really believed. His language was direct, his purpose lofty, and his sense of justice made his words ring with truth. He wanted very much to be senator, but he wanted more to right the wrong of slavery and to warn the people that it was a danger which was gaining hold upon them and would soon ruin the country.

The night before the second debate, Lincoln showed his friends a question he meant to ask Douglas, namely: "Can the people of a United States territory, in any lawful way, against the wish of any citizen of the United States, exclude slavery from its limits, prior to the formation of a State Constitution?" They said, "If you ask that question, you can never be senator." He replied, "If Douglas answers it, he can never be president." Douglas answered "Yes," to please the people of Illinois and they reelected him senator. But it cost him the friendship of the South, which he could never regain, and without the support of the South, he could not be made president.

The battle of words between Douglas and Lincoln lasted three months. No other political meetings had ever so aroused the people of the entire country. Lincoln succeeded in bringing before them, in its

true light, the whole question of slavery. Douglas had many advantages, but he was defending human slavery. Brilliant and successful though he was at that time, his name does not live among those of American heroes. But Lincoln, with the voice and spirit of a prophet of old, proclaimed liberty for the oppressed and fought for human rights. The polished sentences of Douglas are forgotten. The heaven-inspired speeches of Lincoln remain to thrill the hearts of all lovers of freedom.

Douglas traveled in the private car of a railroad president. A band of musicians went with him and a flat car carried a cannon to announce the arrival of his train. Lincoln found a seat wherever he could in the common coach and often had to sit up during a long night's trip. In addition to the seven great debates, each made over a hundred speeches throughout Illinois. Douglas spent $80,000. Lincoln's expenses amounted to $1000, which he could ill afford.

The Republicans received a large vote, but Douglas was chosen senator (1858).

Walking home in the darkness and rain of election night, after hearing the returns, Lincoln slipped in the mud, but caught himself. He took it as a prophecy of the day and said, "It is a slip and not a fall."

CHAPTER IV

LINCOLN NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT—HIS ELECTION —SOUTHERN STATES SECEDE FROM THE UNION— —"CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA" FORMED— TROUBLE WITH THE SOUTH ON THE SLAVERY QUESTION—1858–1861

THOUGH he was not elected senator, Lincoln became known in all parts of the country through these debates. Wherever Douglas spoke, Lincoln was called for and he made speeches in a number of states. The next winter, he addressed a rich and cultured audience in Cooper Union, New York City. William Cullen Bryant, the poet, presided and Horace Greeley, the great editor, was there. Seeing how well dressed every one was, Lincoln, for the first time in his life, was worried because his coat fit so poorly. But when he began to speak, he forgot his appearance and no one thought of his clothes. Greeley said it was the best speech he had ever heard, and he had listened to Webster's best orations. In his address, Lincoln gave a clear statement of the principles of eternal justice. He closed by saying, "Let us have faith that right makes might and in that

faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it."

After this meeting, he went to Boston to visit his son, Robert, who was at Harvard, and here, with his masterful oratory, he delighted audiences of college men as well as of working people.

While in New York, he had dropped into a mission Sunday School in the Five Points. No one knew him, but he was asked to speak. The children listened to his beautiful words, and his voice, which seemed soft and musical to them, held their fancy and when he stopped, they all begged, "Oh, go on—do go on!" As he left, some one asked his name and he said, "Abraham Lincoln of Illinois."

The more his words were read by the Republican leaders, the more they thought of Lincoln, and began to talk of him as their next candidate for president. He said, "It is enough honor for me to be talked about for it." His highest hope for himself was to succeed Douglas as senator.

Douglas was now in trouble, for what he had said in Illinois in answer to Lincoln's question had made the South very angry. Bold and shrewd as he was, he could not explain. He had made fun of Lincoln's saying, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," and now, hurrying through the South, he found his party was divided against itself and against him. The Democrats of the South were turning against those of the North on the question of slavery. They said they would not remain in the Union, if slavery were not made lawful throughout the country, or if a "Black Republican"—as they termed a man who believed in the freedom of the colored people—were

elected president. Douglas tried to keep his party together, but he had not been true to the South while seeking election in the North and this lost him the Southerners' support. He had gained the place of senator, but he had lost the prize for which all his life he had been working—that of the presidency. He was nominated by the Northern Democrats, but the Southern Democrats nominated another man, John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, and the divided party faced defeat.

When the Illinois Republican Convention met in May, 1860, the Governor said there was an old Democrat outside who wanted to come in. The door was opened, and in walked John Hanks, Lincoln's cousin, with two old rails which Abe had split years before, and a banner with the words:

"Abraham Lincoln
The Rail Candidate
For President
In 1860."

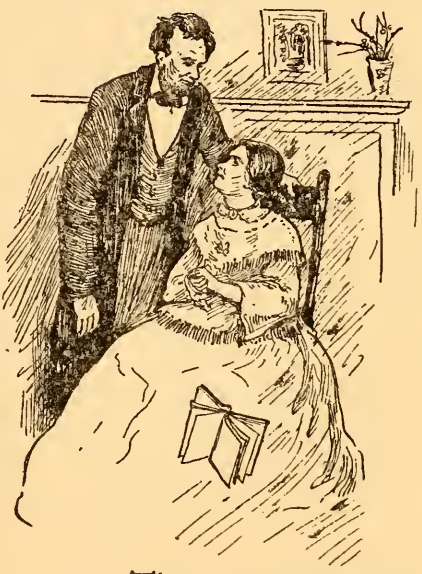
The convention went wild with enthusiasm over their humble leader. The next week, the National Convention was held in Chicago, in a great wooden building called "The Wigwam," where ten thousand people could assemble.

William H. Seward, of New York, seemed likely to be nominated. He had wealth and influence on his side. Splendid bands and well-drilled clubs marched the streets of Chicago, flaunting banners with Seward's name. But Lincoln's friends were not idle. The city was full of Illinois men and they

packed "The Wigwam," so that when Seward's followers arrived, there was room for the delegates (those sent to the convention to represent the people of their state) only. William M. Evarts presented Seward's name and it was loudly applauded. But when the convention heard Lincoln's name, there was an uproar such as had never been heard up to that time at a political assembly. The voting began, state by state—233, out of the total 465 votes, being necessary for a choice. Some New England votes went to Lincoln, which disappointed Seward, but on the first ballot, Seward had 173½ votes and Lincoln only 102. On the second ballot, Seward was only three and a half votes ahead of Lincoln. More Eastern states turned to Lincoln and on the third ballot, he lacked only a vote and a half of the 233. A deep silence fell. Every man paused, breathless, to see what would happen. Suddenly, a delegate from Ohio jumped upon a chair and announced that the four votes of that state would be changed and given to Lincoln. A teller (one who counts the ballots) shouted "Abe Lincoln!" to a man on the roof, who had been watching through a skylight, and in an instant, he had given the signal which set a cannon booming to tell the waiting crowds outside that Abraham Lincoln was nominated. Inside, state after state changed its vote, amid roars of wildest cheering, until Lincoln had 354 votes. Lincoln was not present, but was in Springfield, waiting in a newspaper office to hear the result. An excited messenger brought the news. Lincoln read the telegram out loud and said, "There is a little woman down at our house, who will like to

hear this. I'll go down and tell her." This "little woman"—his wife—had always believed in his greatness.

Lincoln was strangely filled with unhappiness, even in the midst of this success. For years, he had had a feeling that he would meet with a terrible death and it now came upon him more strongly, as in some way connected with this great honor. When the party leaders came from Chicago to greet him in his simple home, and formally announce to him that he was the choice of the convention, he at first seemed sorrowful and awkward. But when he spoke with them, his face lighted up, showing his great gentleness and strength, and he was soon at ease. Mrs. Lincoln greeted them and they drank toasts in water. Lincoln was a "temperance" man and would not change the habits of his life even on so great an occasion, though friends had sent him liquor for the purpose.



There is a little woman down at our house who will like to hear this

Up to this time, the affairs of the country had been managed by the East and South, the West taking very little part. Now the East was aghast, when it heard that the western rail-splitter was a can-

didate for president. It seemed to the people there a rash choice in such anxious times. Men who had long guided the "Ship of State" feared that this new and untried pilot would not be able to navigate the troubled waters ahead. How little they realized that he alone was born for this great task! Stephen A. Douglas assured the people of Washington that "a very able and a very honest man" had been selected.

There were four candidates for the presidency. Lincoln represented the Republicans, who believed that slavery was wrong and its spread should be prevented. Douglas represented those Democrats who would not say whether slavery was right or wrong, but thought each state should decide for itself. Breckinridge represented the Democrats who believed that slavery was right and wanted it established in new states, and John Bell represented the peace party. From the first, Lincoln's election seemed certain. He remained quietly in Springfield, receiving many visitors, but refusing to make speeches. He read the newspapers, especially the ones opposed to him. It was his habit to want to know what were the objections to him, so that he could correct and overcome them. Reading the Southern papers, he saw the growing anger, often expressed in fierce personal criticism of himself. Some of them, referring to his long arms, said his father was a gorilla from Africa. But he never made any reply, nor gave any sign that he had noticed these unkind things.

While he held his peace, the whole North was in a blaze of enthusiasm over him. The men formed "Wide Awake Clubs," and tramped every night in torchlight processions, miles in length, a zigzag "rail fence march," in honor of "Honest old Abe, the rail-splitter of Sangamon."

On the night of November 6th, 1860, he sat with the operator in the little telegraph office in Springfield and learned of his election. The affairs of the country were too troubled for him to be elated by his success. He knew that a crushing burden and an awful responsibility had been laid upon him. The Southern States had said they would leave the Union if he were elected. It was his duty to preserve the Union and it was also his duty to put down slavery.

In selecting his cabinet (the men who were to help him, as heads of the different departments of the government), he did not choose his personal friends and surround himself with advisers who would think as he did, but took the men who had different views and who he thought would be the best guides. He asked his great rival, William H. Seward, to be his Secretary of State; Salmon P. Chase, to be Secretary of the Treasury, and Simon Cameron, to be Secretary of War. There were seven members, and only three had belonged to his old Whig party, the others were Democrats. Some former Whigs complained of this, but Lincoln smiled and said, as he had been a Whig, the cabinet was evenly divided! This shows how fair and wise he was. He never allowed himself to be controlled by party or personal reasons.

A president is elected in November, but he does not actually take his place as head of the Nation until the fourth of the following March. Usually this interval is a time of pleasant waiting and preparation. For Lincoln, the four months were filled with anxiety. The Southern states talked of founding an empire of their own, where they could keep their slaves undisturbed.

South Carolina was the first state to withdraw from the Union (December 20, 1860) after the Republican victory. Other states followed, all adopting the "Ordinance of Secession" and declaring they were no longer in the Union. Army and Navy officers in the Southern states gave up to the "rebels," as they were now called, forts, arsenals, navy yards, ships, mints and quantities of supplies. There was one exception. Major Robert Anderson, though a Virginian, loyally held Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor (South Carolina).

President James Buchanan, who was president before Lincoln, had sworn to protect the government, but he took no notice of these actions. Lincoln could only look on and wait, knowing that when his time should come, he would meet the raging storm and hold a straight course.

Up to that time, the people had not thought a great deal about the Union, probably because they had not been called upon to make any sacrifice for it. The South regarded it lightly. In the North, there were plenty of Republicans who wanted to let the slave states go their own way—men like Horace Greeley

and Henry Ward Beecher, brother of Mrs. Stowe who wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Some said "Let the Union slide" and General Winfield Scott, head of the army, advised letting the "wayward sisters go in peace." The Mayor of New York even suggested that it would do well to withdraw and let New York govern itself as a free city.

All this was very bad for business and many wanted to abandon the dispute and allow the country to quiet down. They were even sorry they had elected Lincoln, blaming him for all these troubles.

On February 8th, 1861, the leaders of the Southern people met at Montgomery, Alabama, and formed a government which they called "The Confederate States of America," with slavery as its "corner-stone." Jefferson Davis was chosen President and Alexander H. Stephens, Vice-President.

Davis was born in Kentucky and had lived in the next county to Lincoln when they were little boys. Beginning so near together, their lives had been very different, like two small streams which rise near the summit of a mountain and flow down opposite sides. One waters a fair and flowery plain, and the other falls and twists among dark rocks and winding gorges. Davis was educated at West Point by the government. Money and high office and social position were his. We know how little Lincoln had received from his country and we know that he had lacked every advantage. Yet now he was ready to give his life for the Union whose own son was ready to destroy it.

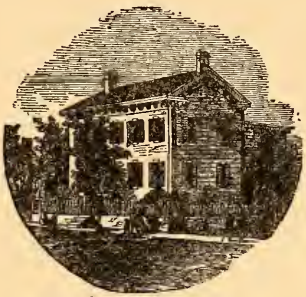
Lincoln believed that the government had the right and the power to hold all the states together and that no state had a right to break the bond of union and withdraw. His friends, anxious to avoid a conflict, would have been glad to arrange a compromise with the slave states. But Lincoln would not consent to any arrangement that was not founded on the truth. He said, "The instant you do, they have us under again and all our labor is lost. The tug has come and better now than later. Hold firm as a chain of steel."

During the winter of waiting, Lincoln's partner wrote to a great Republican: "Lincoln is a man of heart, as gentle as a woman's and as tender, but he has a will as strong as iron. He loves all mankind and hates slavery and all kinds of despotism. On a question of justice, right, liberty, the government, the Constitution and the Union, you may all stand aside; he will rule and no man will rule him. You must keep the people right. God will keep Lincoln right." Throughout all the disturbance, Lincoln never lost sight of his duty to preserve the Union.

The seceding states were trying to coax Virginia and Maryland to join them. If they did, Washington would be cut off from the North and made the Southern capital. As the winter advanced, it looked doubtful if the government would be in Washington in March.

This all happened before March, 1861, when Lincoln was to take up his duties as president. In his quiet Springfield home, he watched the situation with anxious thoughts and prepared his inaugural address. As the time for leaving Springfield drew near,

he and Mrs. Lincoln went to Chicago and she bought the first silk dress she ever had. Lincoln then went to say good-by to his stepmother, who had always been so kind to him. She parted from him sadly, fearing some evil would befall him.



LINCOLN'S HOUSE IN SPRINGFIELD.

CHAPTER V

LINCOLN BIDS FAREWELL TO SPRINGFIELD—HIS JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON—HIS INAUGURATION—BOMBARDMENT OF FORT SUMTER BY THE CONFEDERATES—THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR—THE CALL TO ARMS—1861–1863

ON his last day in Springfield, Abraham Lincoln went up to his dingy old office to talk with his law partner, Mr. Herndon. They had never had a "cross word" and Lincoln told him to let the rusty old sign

"Let the rusty old sign hang until I can come back and practice law."

Lincoln's Inauguration as President
(March 4, 1861)

hang till he could come back and go on practicing law, as if nothing had happened. But as he passed out under the creaking sign, he looked about the old place and said he believed he would never see it again.

On the day before his fifty-second birthday, a special train carried him away with his family and a few friends. A thousand friends were at the station to say farewell. The conductor had his hand upon the bell-rope, when Mr. Lincoln stepped upon the rear platform and raised his hand for silence. Snow was falling, but all bared their heads. He gazed at his old friends, his lips quivering, tears flowing down his cheeks. In a husky voice, he said:

"My Friends—No one not in my situation can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of these people I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being Who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting to Him Who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently 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."

The train pulled out and the people watched him through their tears, till he disappeared from their sight. It was a sad parting, but how much more sad

it would have been if they had known that his voice was heard for the last time in the little town!

The journey eastward was wonderful. Lincoln, on the whole, was very little known. The Douglas debates had brought his name before the people, but he really had sprung out of darkness into the light of the presidency. From the time of his nomination, nine months before, he had not appeared publicly nor made any addresses. Naturally, every one was eager to see him. In the cities, the throngs were almost unmanageable. Whenever it was possible, as they passed through the villages, he appeared on the platform of the train and delivered a few words of greeting. In the capitals of Indiana, Ohio, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia, stops of a day or two were made, giving time for speeches, receptions and parades. A little girl had written to him from North East—a station between Erie (Pa.) and Buffalo (N. Y.,) during the campaign, saying she thought he would look better with a beard. When he passed through the town where she lived, he asked that a stop be made. He called for her and told her, "You see, Grace, I have let these whiskers grow for you!"

New York City received Lincoln coldly, for his election had worked havoc with business. But "the common people heard him gladly." In all his addresses, Lincoln pleaded for the life of the Union, as the fairest hope of Freedom on the earth. He hoped the Union might be saved peaceably, but he said "it may be necessary to put the foot down firmly."

He reached Philadelphia on Washington's birthday and spoke in Independence Hall. Then he went to Harrisburg. The next day, he was due in Washington, but to reach there, had to pass through hostile Baltimore. In those days, the railroad cars were drawn by horses across the city of Baltimore, and this would give opportunity for an attack by a mob. Lincoln's friends were informed that there was a plot to kill him and they insisted upon his passing through Baltimore quietly on a night train. He hated to creep past any danger and steal into the capital like a thief in the night, but he yielded to their wishes. Wearing a soft hat and carrying his old gray shawl over his arm, he and a friend left Harrisburg secretly and took a night train. The friend was a giant lawyer from the Illinois circuit. He was loaded with weapons. The telegraph lines were cut, so that no messages could be sent to Baltimore notifying it of Lincoln's coming. He passed unrecognized through the sleeping city and at dawn took a carriage to a hotel in Washington. The wires were repaired and the anxious family in Harrisburg was relieved by a message that the journey had been made in safety. They followed in the special train, no longer fearing any violence.

The welcome to Washington was not encouraging. It was really a Southern city of slave holders, who hoped that it would soon become the Confederate capital. The Democratic party had been in power for sixty years and they could not see how this new party of the North and the rude West could rule in their fair city.

Lincoln spent a week exchanging the usual official visits with President Buchanan and others. On the morning of the fourth of March, 1861, the White House carriage drew up before Lincoln's hotel. President Buchanan, a courtly gentleman, called for Mr. Lincoln, who appeared in a new black suit and high silk hat, carrying a gold-headed cane.

There had been fear of trouble from the unfriendly crowds in the city. General Winfield Scott—the great military leader of the time—Commander of the Army of the U. S., had closed all the saloons and stationed troops to prevent disorder.

President Buchanan and Mr. Lincoln rode side by side along Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol, between double lines of cavalry, with soldiers marching before and behind them. Riflemen kept watch from roofs overlooking the Avenue. There was great relief when the journey of a mile had ended.

At noon, a great crowd heard Lincoln's clear voice deliver his inaugural address, as he stood in the east portico of the Capitol, surrounded by the highest officers of the government. A battalion of soldiers was at hand, riflemen were posted in the windows and a battery of artillery was in the rear. This preparedness assured a peaceful day.

As Lincoln rose to speak, he took off his new hat and looked for a place to rest it. His life-long rival, the great Democrat, Douglas, stood near and quickly reached out his hand, took the hat and held it. In so doing, he gave notice that the President was his friend and he meant to stand by him.

When the speech was over, Chief Justice Taney

arose, Lincoln laid his hand upon the open Bible and swore to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The crowd cheered, and cannon boomed as President Lincoln and Mr. Buchanan drove back to the White House.

No president had ever before been inaugurated with half the country hostile to him. The joy of the honor was clouded by the sad thought of discord dividing the Union. From the time of Washington, each president had seen the stars increase in the flag. Would Lincoln be able to hold together the states under that constellation?

The inaugural address was full of friendliness to the South, pleading for peace and the Union. "We are not enemies, but friends," he said. "We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bond of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over the broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

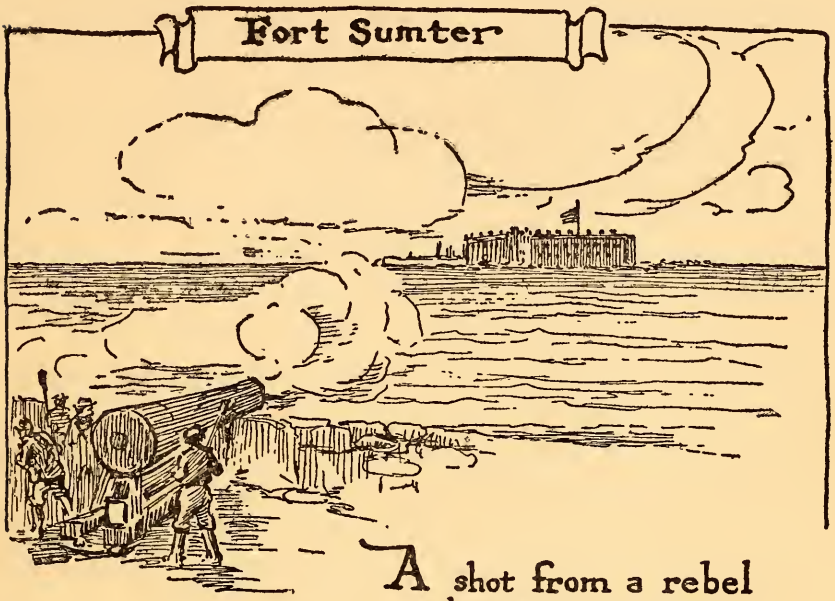
But the South was too angry to hear his message of peace and good-will. The Southern people knew that he believed slavery was wrong and would never consent to its increase. Seven states, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Texas, with seven millions of people, had already withdrawn from the Union and hauled down the Stars and Stripes within their borders. Their senators left Congress, for they now regarded the United

States as a "foreign nation." It was not a sudden revolt, but a step taken after years of discussion. The Southern leaders had long planned an empire, built on slavery, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and extending even to the rich fields and mines of South America. If the North would not agree, then they would leave the North and carry out their plans alone.

The rebellion might have been stopped if President Buchanan had acted with firmness in the last months of his presidency. But he was not loyal to the Union and did not oppose the friends of slavery. When Lincoln came into office, the best he could hope to do was to avoid war. No American ever had such a burden laid upon him. To him the presidency was not a crown of glory, but a cross of duty. He faced his responsibilities with faith and patience and courage. But who would be his helpers? The members of his cabinet did not believe the Union could be maintained and all dreaded to start a conflict. The Republican leaders had not yet learned to trust their President, who was so different from any man they had ever known. They did not understand Lincoln and feared that maybe the affairs of the distracted Nation had been put into the wrong hands.

Before a month had passed, Seward had actually offered to take charge of the government for Lincoln, telling him it was a mistake he had been elected. This would have made any other man than Lincoln angry. But he replied in a firm and dignified way and won the respect and friendship and loyalty of

Mr. Seward. Lincoln was never afraid of anybody, nor disturbed by the fact that a man was famous. He dealt with well-known statesmen and honored generals with quiet self-reliance. To him all men, rich and poor, humble and great, were on a level with



A shot from a rebel battery opened the Civil War

himself. He kept his heart open to the mass of the people and believed that they would stand by him. Firm support came to him from an unexpected source, for Douglas became his sincere and loyal follower.

The day after his inauguration, word reached Lincoln that Major Anderson, gallantly holding Fort Sumter, must surrender if he did not receive supplies. General Scott said the country had no force able to

carry food to the fort. He and the cabinet advised the surrender of the fort. Lincoln would not consent and in a few days, he notified the Confederates that a ship carrying food, but no soldiers, was on its way to relieve Fort Sumter. If they allowed the ship to pass, it would be well. But if they fired at her, the blame for beginning a war would be on them.

As the ship approached, General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, in command of the Southerners, called on Major Anderson to surrender. This, of course, he refused to do. In the gray dawn of April 12th, 1861, a shot from a rebel battery opened the Civil War. The provision ship outside the harbor bar watched the fort as it was pounded to pieces. The flag-staff was shot away and the buildings took fire, but Anderson held out a day and a half, almost without food, until his ammunition was gone.

The news that Sumter had fallen awakened the Nation. The South was in a tumult of joy. The North sprang up in fury when the flag was trailed in the dust. Leaders in Washington hurried to the White House, where they found Lincoln cool and steady. Douglas hastened to his side, and by his prompt and glowing patriotism, pledged the support of the Democrats of the North. He had not been right on the question of slavery and had not always been straightforward in his politics, but when real trouble came, he was loyal to the Union. He turned his gift of oratory to its service and at once started out to direct the call on the North to be true to the Union. "There can be no neutrals in this war," he said, "only patriots and traitors!" Death overtook him in a few

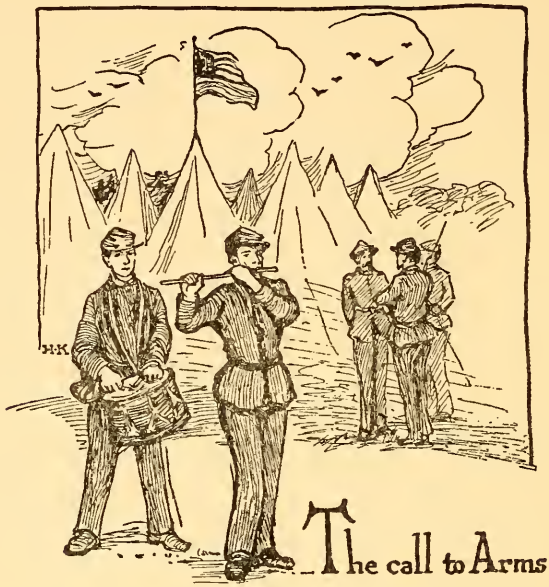
short weeks and ended his valiant labors, but not before he had sent his followers marching eagerly to the defense of the country.

The day after the surrender of Fort Sumter, the President issued a call to arms, summoning seventy-five thousand militia to enlist for three months. When it was necessary to "put the foot down firmly," he lost no time, but took up his responsibility and, without waiting to assemble Congress, at once issued all necessary orders. The regular army was less than twenty thousand, rank and file, and there was almost no navy. The yearly revenue (income) of the government was far too small to carry on a war and Lincoln called for men, money and ships. Some had doubted the fighting spirit of the North and were amazed at its enthusiastic response to the President's appeal.

In every town and village, drums beat and patriotic meetings were held. Three times as many men were offered as were called for. The trouble was to make use of all the patriotic material at hand. Delaware sent only a few men. Maryland said no Union soldier should cross her "sacred soil." The Governor of Kentucky sent word, "Kentucky will furnish no troops for the wicked purpose of subduing her sister Southern states." The Governor of Missouri said, "Not one man will Missouri send to carry on such an unholy crusade." North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia joined the Confederacy, whose flag now flaunted eleven stars, and Jefferson Davis said it would soon float over Washington.

Half the naval officers went with the South, tak-

ing the best of the ships. A third or more of the army officers went with them. Robert E. Lee said he would "follow Virginia, right or wrong." He was the son of "Light Horse Harry" Lee, illustrious for his service in the Revolution. His wife was the



The call to Arms

daughter of George Washington's adopted son. He became commander of the Confederate Army.

But there were other Southern officers, Scott and George H. Thomas and David G. Farragut (admiral of the navy), who remained true to the Union in the face of temptation. Scott said, "I have served my country under the flag of the Union for more than fifty years and, as long as God permits me to live, I will defend that flag with my sword."

Lincoln was proud of the little regular army, six-

teen thousand enlisted men, for though their officers left, not one man forsook the colors! But the army was widely scattered, protecting the frontiers against the Indians.

The Confederates had an army in Charleston large enough to take the city of Washington, which had only a small guard. General Scott barricaded the public buildings with barrels of scrap iron and sand bags. The volunteers from the Eastern states hastened to the capital. Four hundred men from Philadelphia soon arrived. The first to start was the Massachusetts militia. Governor Andrews, foreseeing trouble, had been preparing for months, though he had been laughed at by the people of Boston. When the President's order came, he called out his well-drilled, well-equipped regiments. A storm raged, but they poured into Boston and in forty-eight hours were on their way to the capital.

Maryland had said they should not cross her borders. But Lincoln said that no soil was too good for the feet of his soldiers and, as they could neither "fly over nor burrow under" Maryland, the Massachusetts troops were taken through Baltimore. The mob attacked the "Yankee invaders" and their blood stained the city streets. They reached Washington with their wounded, but bridges and tracks were destroyed to prevent any other forces crossing Maryland. Washington was cut off from the North. Lincoln anxiously awaited more troops and was heard to say to himself, "Why don't they come! Why don't they come!" Families began to leave the city and Mrs. Lincoln was urged to take her two little

boys and go also. But she would not leave her husband in danger.

At last, after some delay, troops came by way of Annapolis, Maryland, and the renowned Seventh Regiment of New York marched in with bands playing and colors flying. Others followed and soon twenty thousand defenders were in the city.

It soon appeared that the war would last more than three months. Raw recruits could not be made into soldiers in a few weeks, no matter how brave they were. Another call was made for men who would enlist for three years, or as long as the war should last. Lincoln said, "We must not forget that the people of the seceded states, like those of the loyal ones, are Americans. Man for man, the soldiers of the South will be a match for those of the North."

The revenue of the country was small, and its credit low. Money had to be found, ships bought and built, arms and uniforms made. Through all this, the North stood by the President. As weeks went on, he proved that in wisdom and courage and strength, he was above all his advisers. In matters of which he had hitherto known nothing, his great mind led him to sure conclusions. So much had to be decided and done at once, and as no other President ever had such duties, Lincoln had to go forward like a pioneer in the forest. The members of his cabinet were perplexed by these new problems. The Nation, wholly unprepared, had to be made ready for war.

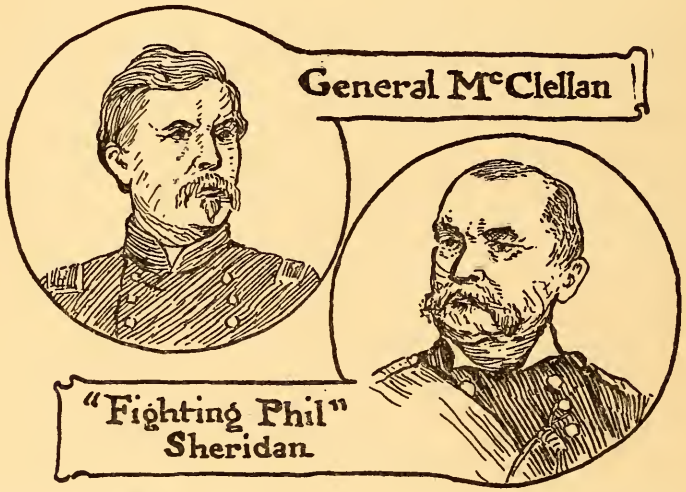
In the midst of all these difficulties, Lincoln was beset by men asking for offices. There had never been such a scramble for positions! For months, men

swarmed around him like gnats. But he handled them with such good humor that it seemed to some, at times, as if he had forgotten the serious work in hand. But he never did forget it, night or day.

CHAPTER VI

BATTLE OF BULL RUN—GENERAL GRANT'S VICTORIES IN TENNESSEE AND MISSISSIPPI—BATTLE BETWEEN THE "MERRIMAC" AND THE "MONITOR"—BATTLE OF ANTIETAM—EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION—BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG—GRANT MADE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL—LINCOLN'S ADDRESS AT GETTYSBURG —1861–1863

AS though there were not distress enough at home, affairs abroad grew troublesome. England "recognized the belligerent (warring) rights" of the South, and this made matters worse for the government. Mr. Seward, Sec-



Two famous Generals

Lincoln at Antietam (Maryland)
(October 3, 1862)

retary of State, prepared a protest, in which he angrily said that we had beaten the British in two wars, and could do it again, or any European nation. Lincoln knew nothing of diplomacy, but he did know human nature, and his common-sense suggestions so changed Seward's paper that it was stronger and, at the same time, kept peace with England.

Washington was really an outpost on the border of the North, surrounded by Southern territory, and would be cut off entirely if Maryland joined the Confederacy. Here again, Lincoln's common sense and reasonable patience won a victory for his cause. He persuaded the people of Maryland to stay with the Union. He was so anxious to keep his native state that some one said, "He would like to have God on his side, but he must have Kentucky!" In the end, he won Kentucky, Delaware and Missouri without a battle.

The Confederates had made their capital at Richmond, a hundred miles from Washington and their outposts drew nearer and nearer, till Lincoln could see their flags floating at Alexandria, across the Potomac River.

When Congress assembled, July 4th, it found three hundred thousand men enlisted. It approved everything Lincoln had done and was anxious for the fighting to begin. Skirmishes had been going on, here and there, for weeks, but on July 21st (1861), the first real battle took place, the Battle of Bull Run, at Manassas (Virginia), thirty-two miles from Washington.

It was a bright, hot Sunday and people flocked out,

as though going to a picnic, to see an easy victory by their soldiers. The President went to church. During the afternoon, reports of success were brought to him, but at six o'clock, Mr. Seward rushed in with the news "the battle is lost!" The army was in full retreat, pouring into the city with the crowds of sightseers, through the mud of a summer rain.

Lincoln received the news without a word or sign of disappointment, but through the long hours of a sleepless night, he saw more fully the awful price which must be paid to save the Union. When morning came, it found him with added strength and purpose to go on.

The Confederate Army was too badly crippled by this battle, to make any advance for several months. The North was stunned by the defeat. It shook the faith and courage of many. Horace Greeley wrote to Lincoln to give up the needless struggle. There was a division of opinion among the people as to how the war should be managed. Lincoln and his cabinet were criticised and blamed. But Lincoln endured abuse and disappointment with patient fortitude and held on his way. When his reason showed him the right path, his feet followed it bravely and he never lost faith that right would triumph in the end.

The attention of the country was largely turned to the two capitals and the cries, "On to Washington!" and "On to Richmond!" Yet, the battleground of the rebellion was not confined to the East and the South, but stretched westward and included the Mississippi valley, and beyond it, to the Rocky Moun-

tains. During four years, a battle, great or small, was fought nearly every day in some part of this big territory. Every day of fighting cost two million dollars. In the end, slavery, for which the South fought, was abolished. The Union, for which the North struggled, was maintained.

The day after the Battle of Bull Run, Lincoln appointed General George B. McClellan head of the defeated Army of the Potomac. He was a brilliant young officer, a graduate of West Point, and had resigned a railroad presidency and a salary of $10,000 to serve the Union. He had been leading successful skirmishes in the West and was a popular hero. The people called him the "young Napoleon" and expected great things from him.

With splendid ability, he organized the troops into a fine army of 150,000 men and surrounded Washington with a chain of strong forts. Success and praise made him conceited, however, and he treated the President with disrespect, called the cabinet "geese" and forced General Scott to resign. Having created a fine army, he would not use it. The saying, "All quiet along the Potomac," became a joke, when the people were clamoring to have something accomplished. The President stood by him for fourteen months, in spite of the growing impatience of the people; though he once said, "If General McClellan doesn't want to use his army, I'd like to borrow it!" Always having a larger force than Lee, McClellan refused to attack him, and he found fault with everybody.

While waiting for McClellan to act, more trouble

with England arose and again Lincoln's firmness and prudence settled it. Early in the war, Lincoln had ordered the navy to blockade the Southern ports. This made it difficult for Southern ships to carry cotton to England. Their cotton mills closed and thousands of English people were thrown out of work. There was great danger that England would recognize the Confederacy as a new nation and thus help it fight the North.

In the midst of this worry, Captain Charles Wilkes, commanding the *San Jacinto*, stopped a British ship, the *Trent*, and took off two men, James M. Mason and John Slidell, who had been sent to England as messengers from the Confederacy. Wilkes was praised throughout the country for his "brave and patriotic action." But he had broken the international law and Lincoln gave the men up when England demanded them. The people resented this action, but the President had done right and after a time his course was approved.

While the splendid Army of the Potomac was keeping its arms and uniforms bright and enjoying the social life of Washington, an unknown and silent soldier led such troops as he had against Fort Donelson (February, 1862), in Tennessee, demanding "unconditional surrender." He took fifteen thousand prisoners, four thousand horses, and quantities of guns and supplies. In two months more, the Stars and Stripes were floating over Memphis and New Orleans. Like McClellan, he was a graduate of West Point, but he had no vanity; only a steadfast will to do the best he could with the material he had.

His victories gladdened the heart of the Nation. We shall hear more of this soldier later.

Lincoln found he needed a more efficient Secretary of War. He selected as the best man for the place Edwin M. Stanton, the lawyer, who, with cruel

Fight between the Merrimac and the Monitor

ridicule, had barred Lincoln out of the law case in Cincinnati a few years before. Stanton was a Democrat who had criticised him without mercy. But Lincoln showed himself, as usual, above all personal resentment.

Knowing nothing of the art of war, the President studied and mastered its principles, so that he was called "the ablest strategist of the war." The Pres-

ident of the United States is always the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy. John Ericsson, a ship builder, had come to Washington with the model of a queer little boat, looking "like a cheese-box on a raft." It was a floating battery. Lincoln's advisers thought it would sink and were sure it could never make a journey by sea; but he had great hope in it and ordered one built in the shipyard in Connecticut.

One day, a Confederate ship, the *Merrimac*, appeared in Hampton Roads (Va.). It had been covered with iron and meant destruction to all wooden ships. Two such, of the Union Navy, were attacked and sunk. But that very evening, Ericsson's new steamship, the *Monitor*, steamed into the Roads. The next morning, the two little "monsters" attacked each other and the first battle of the world between iron-clads was fought (March 9, 1862). The *Merrimac*, much battered, withdrew to the Norfolk Navy Yard, leaving the *Monitor* unharmed.

Lincoln's patience with General McClellan finally came to an end and he put General John Pope in his place. Pope was quickly defeated at a second battle of Bull Run, and Lee marched up the Shenandoah Valley (West Virginia) to invade the North. The Union Army was in disorder and Lincoln called upon McClellan, the master of discipline, to organize it again. McClellan won a victory at Antietam (Md.) Sept. 17, 1862, though he did not follow it up, and he let Lee escape. Lincoln again removed him and put General Ambrose E. Burnside in command, who was badly beaten at Fredericksburg (Virginia).

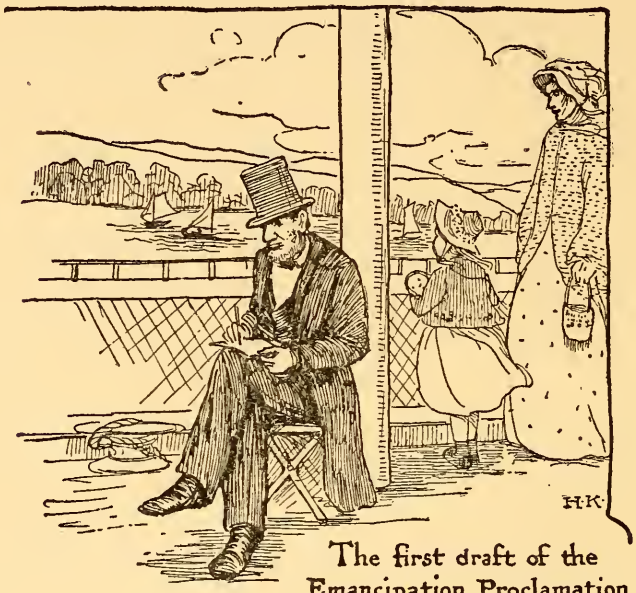
"Fighting Joe" Hooker was next appointed and Lincoln begged him to "go forward and give us victories." But his answer was the dreadful defeat at Chancellorsville, Virginia. (May 1–4, 1863.)

The year 1862 had been hard and disappointing in many ways, yet when the President called for another hundred thousand men, the people responded, "We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand strong!"

Lincoln had for years thought that the best way to get rid of slavery was by paying their owners to free the slaves. In money alone, this would have cost far less than the war. But the South was unwilling. In the summer of 1862, Congress freed all the slaves in the District of Columbia, paying $300 for each one. Lincoln now felt it was his duty to free all the slaves, so that if the South was defeated, slavery would be ended. He promised God that if He would show favor to the Union cause by giving a victory, he would free the slaves. So, on September 22, 1862, after the Battle of Antietam, he read to his cabinet the Proclamation of Emancipation. The first day of the next January, he signed this great paper as simply as though it were a letter to a friend. This declared all slaves free in all the territory held by the Confederates.

The summer of 1863 marked the turning point in the war. Lee had so easily beaten large Union armies that he decided again to invade the North. With seventy-five thousand men, he marched into Pennsylvania. Pursued by General George G. Meade with the Union Army, he turned and faced him

at Gettysburg. For three days, the beautiful fields and hillsides were the scene of a terrible battle. On July 3 (1863), victory came to the Union, but Lee was allowed to march back to Richmond, to Lincoln's great disappointment.



The first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The President wondered if he would never find a general who would do thoroughly what he wanted done! There was such a man working away,—down on the Mississippi River—Ulysses S. Grant, the man who had taken Fort Donelson and who asked nothing but a chance to fight, while the generals in Washington quarreled for promotion and waited for reinforcements and supplies. When Grant began to attract attention, his superior officers claimed the credit

of his victories. But he worked right along, faring like his soldiers, often sleeping on the ground without a blanket. Jealous persons accused him falsely of drunkenness and asked Lincoln to remove him. But the President said, "I can't spare that man; he fights! I would like to find out what kind of whisky Grant drinks, so that I could feed it to my other generals!"

On the day after the Battle of Gettysburg, the fortress of Vicksburg (Miss.) surrendered to Grant after a patient and daring campaign. The loss to the Confederacy was terrific, for it completely closed to them the Mississippi River and the country beyond it, from which their supplies came. Lincoln began to feel that Grant was a soldier after his own heart. Aided by Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas and Hooker, he continued his victories. After the Battle of Vicksburg, the people demanded that he be made head of the army. It was decided to reward him by making him Lieutenant-General, a rank held only by Washington and Scott.

Grant went to Washington, and at a large reception, the President met his Soldier for the first time. Grant was embarrassed by the attention he received, for, like Washington, his "modesty equaled his valor."

He did not remain in the capital to be petted by society. When Lincoln handed him his commission and asked if he could take Richmond, Grant said, "Yes, if I have soldiers enough." He gave his whole attention to the task and worked at it for more than a year. It was a grim struggle and all the losses of

the first three years of the war were small when compared with the losses of the closing year. At last, the brilliant Southern general, Lee, had met his match in persistence, skill and daring. Lee's army was only half the size of Grant's, but every Southern soldier had the strength of two in the proud knowledge that, for three years, the South had held Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy. But Grant met this pride with a grim, determined will to overcome it, such as they had not yet found in any Union commander.

Admiral David G. Farragut

In speaking of Grant, Lincoln said to a friend: "Grant is the first general I've had. He's a *general!* You know how it's been with all the rest. As soon as I put a man in command of the army, he'd come to me with the plan of a campaign and put the responsibility of success or failure on me. They all wanted me to be general. Now, it isn't so with Grant. He hasn't told me what his plans are. I don't know and I don't want to know. I am glad to find a man who can go ahead without me."

In the autumn (Nov. 19) of 1863, a multitude of people gathered at Gettysburg to dedicate the cemetery where thousands of men, who had fallen in the memorable battle, were buried. Edward Everett, President of Harvard, made a long and eloquent address. Lincoln had been asked to "make a few remarks." The people stood on tiptoe in the crowd, to see "Father Abraham," and before they had turned their thoughts from his careworn face to the words he was saying, he sat down. He felt that his brief address had been a failure. Seward said it was, and every one was disappointed. But it was because their ears were not then tuned to hear it. When it was printed, the whole world wondered at its beauty and power. Everett's speech is forgotten, but Lincoln's will remain as long as the English language endures. It is inscribed on the walls of one of the colleges in Oxford (England) and should be in the memory of every American boy and girl.—

"Fourscore and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any other nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.

"It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this

ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

"It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln Delivering his Gettysburg Address
(November 19, 1863)

CHAPTER VII

LINCOLN'S SECOND PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN—HIS RE-ELECTION AND INAUGURATION—GENERAL SHERMAN'S MARCH THROUGH GEORGIA—THE SURRENDER OF GENERAL LEE—END OF THE CIVIL WAR—LINCOLN ASSASSINATED—FUNERAL CEREMONIES—1864–1865

THE war lasted so long that it wore upon the people. The government was forced to draft men for Grant's army in the campaign against Richmond. This distressed Lincoln. At the same time, other difficult questions arose. He had to consider how the states already subdued should be governed, and what plan could be devised for receiving the rebellious states back into the Union, after the war, so as to restore

Tramp, tramp, tramp,
the boys are marching ~~~

peace and harmony and prosperity to the Republic.

There were many good men, horrified at the awful cost of the war in blood and money, who wanted to make peace at any price. They were called "Copperheads," because they cut the head of Liberty from a copper cent and wore it as a badge. Lincoln paid no more heed to them than he did to other false advisers. He was guided by his conscience, and in none of these difficult problems did he allow politicians to rule him.

In 1864, Lincoln's presidential term of four years was up, and to the struggle of 1864, the excitement of a bitter presidential campaign was added. Lincoln was cruelly criticised and ridiculed, but he never complained. He said, "A man has no time to spend his life in quarrels." The Union was his only care; he thought not of his party, nor of himself. Many of the Republican leaders said, "Anyone but Lincoln," but East and West, the people would have no one else for president. When he was renominated, he said he supposed the convention had "concluded not to swap horses while crossing the river."

During the summer, the outlook was gloomy. The armies in the field were not victorious. The bitterest attacks were made upon Lincoln and his plans by the "Copperheads," as well as by Democrats and those Republicans who did not like him. Lincoln believed that the Union would be destroyed under the rule of the Democratic party and its candidate, General McClellan, yet he was almost sure they would defeat him. He pledged himself and his cabinet secretly to do all they could to save the Union in the

few months remaining to them and to stand loyally by the new president.

When more men were needed for the army, Lincoln was told that he could not be elected if he asked for them. In spite of this, he called for one hundred and fifty thousand men, saying, "It matters not what becomes of me. We must have the men. If I go down, I go with my colors flying."

Washington was full of sick and wounded soldiers. Lincoln's heart ached for them and he seemed to feel the pain of the men and the grief of the women at home. He often said, "I cannot bear it!" Victory came slowly and at frightful cost. His own family suffered. Lincoln was as much a Southerner by birth as Jefferson Davis, and his wife was also from Kentucky. Their dearest friends and kinsmen were in the Southern armies, and more than once the joy of success was lost in the bitter grief of a brother's death. He visited the hospitals and camps near Washington, and the "Boys in Blue" were almost as dear to him as his own sons.

The generals were constantly scolding Lincoln for pardoning those condemned to death by court-martial. Those who were frightened and ran away, he called "leg cases" and would not let them be punished as deserters. If a sentry fell asleep at his post, Lincoln would feel sorry for the tired lad and pardon him. One such, found dead after a battle, had the President's picture over his heart, inscribed, "God bless Lincoln!" It was a bad thing for discipline, but these boys paid their debt of gratitude by brave service. "I want it said of me by those who know

me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower, where I thought a flower would grow," was his explanation, made to his old friend Speed, who was present one day when he pardoned a son at the mother's request.

Sherman's March

The blackest hour for the Union passed. General William T. Sherman, fighting inch by inch the gallant soldiers of the South, took (in 1864) Atlanta (Ga.), where Confederate munitions were made. Then, "marching through Georgia" three hundred miles to the sea, he at last led his victorious army northward, through the Carolinas, to join General Grant.

General Jubal A. Early, with his Confederate Army, made a sudden dash on Washington, and found it almost defenseless. But he was driven back into the Shenandoah Valley, where dashing Philip H. Sheridan and his cavalry made an end of his army.

Admiral Farragut captured Mobile Bay (Aug., 1864), and this closed the only outlet the South had to the world of supplies; for the Mississippi River and the coast were patrolled by Union ships.

Hopes of peace began to dawn. The faith of the people in Lincoln could not be shaken and on November 8th, he received nearly half a million votes more than General McClellan. He said, "It is no pleasure to me to triumph over anyone, but I give thanks to the Almighty for this evidence of the people's resolution to stand by free government and the rights of humanity."

When Lincoln was inaugurated in March (1865), negro citizens and a battalion of negro troops joined the procession. He closed his inaugural address with the words:

"Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may soon pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid with another drawn with the sword; as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, 'The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the

right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

With the reëlection of Lincoln, the South began to lose hope, yet it was willing to make peace only on condition of Southern independence. Lincoln did all he could to win the states back to the Union, but they could not give up their belief in their right to enslave the negro.

Grant and Lincoln

Richmond was in a desperate state, but held out for weeks. On April 2, 1865, Jefferson Davis and his cabinet left the Southern capital and fled southward. The city was set on fire and a drunken mob filled its streets. But Union soldiers marched in and restored order.

Lincoln spent two weeks in camp with General

Grant, where his son Robert was seeing some service. The President now visited Richmond, not with any pomp or display, but accompanied only by Admiral David D. Porter and a guard of ten sailors. He stopped at the home of the Confederate General George E. Pickett, whom he had known in Illinois. He told Mrs. Pickett that he was "Abraham Lincoln, George's old friend" and when her baby stretched out his hands, Lincoln took him in his arms.

Lee's army was retreating. Instead of marching into surrendered Richmond, the prize for which he had worked so hard and long, Grant followed Lee. He overtook him at Appomattox (Virginia). On April 9th, 1865, Lee, dressed in a new uniform and wearing a splendid sword, surrendered to General Grant, who met him without a sword or any sign of rank but his shoulder straps. Thus the Civil War ended. Grant treated Lee with great courtesy, and hearing that his soldiers were hungry, he ordered food sent to them at once. Lincoln went back to Washington, his great heart at rest, knowing the battles were over, and looking forward to the comfort of peace and home.

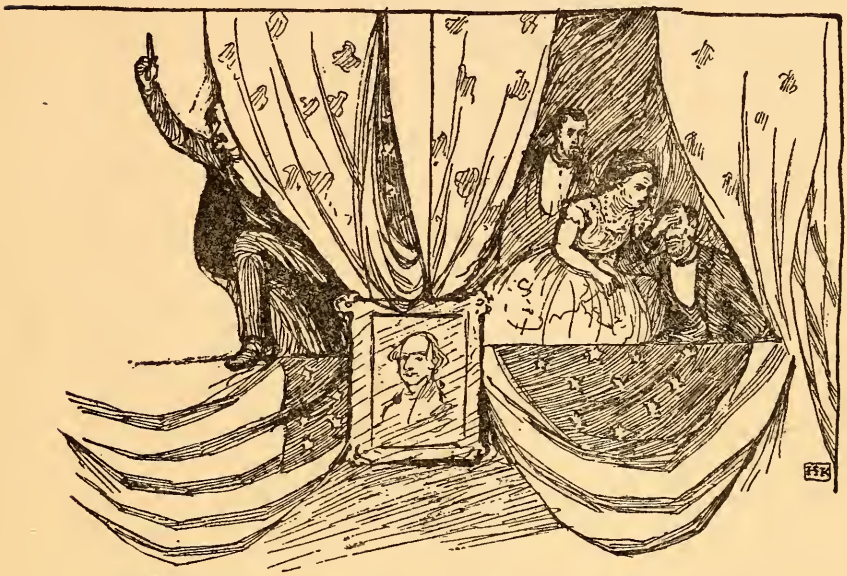
In his home life, he was always thoughtful and courteous. He had always been burdened with cares, yet he could forget them, and in a flash could brim over with humor. It was his sense of humor that kept him from giving up during the hard years of the war. He was called a homely man, yet his face was beautiful with kindness, and when it lighted up, as he was inspired by great thoughts, he appeared charming in a rugged way. He cared little for clothes, yet when

he had money, was always properly dressed. Children loved him and babies stretched their hands to him. "Tad" and "Willie," his own little boys, were all that made life joyous to him. They had ponies and dogs and goats. Their father loved their pets with them and was so much interested that he even told the cabinet when puppies and kittens were born at the White House! Sometimes he joined the boys in their play, and it was a sight to see him running the bases in a ball game. But in their first Washington winter, while the burden of the country lay heavy upon the President, both boys became ill. Their father sat with them through the long nights, and when Willie died, his heart was torn with grief. After that, nine-year-old "Tad" was his constant companion. Even at cabinet meetings, Tad would sit on his father's knee or shoulder, or he would go to sleep, in the long evenings, on the floor beside him.

Now the war was over and Lincoln went back to Washington to take up the task of rebuilding the Nation. On the fourteenth of April, he met his cabinet and told them that anger must be set aside; no one must be punished; no more blood must be shed. He was thankful to God for the end of the war, and felt only the sincerest friendship for the South. He never referred to the Southerners as "rebels," but as "the other side;" and spoke of their two leaders, half-affectionately, as "Jeffy D" and "Bobby Lee." He would have been glad to take the whole South in his arms, as he had taken General Pickett's baby.

But a little group of Southerners, headed by John Wilkes Booth, an actor, hated Lincoln and the Union

with intense hatred. The surrender of Lee maddened them. While Lincoln, enjoying the first peace he had known in years, was thinking how to deal most gently with the South, Booth was plotting his death. On the evening of April 14th (1865), the President and Mrs. Lincoln went to the theater. In the midst of the play, Booth, who had ridden to the rear door



The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

of the theatre on a fleet horse, silently entered the President's box and shot him in the head. Waving a sharp knife, he repelled those who tried to seize him and leaped to the stage. The Stars and Stripes upon the railing caught his spur. He fell and broke his leg. But he fled across the stage and out of the theater, and before any one could stop him, mounted his horse and escaped.

The President's eyes closed, never to open again! Tenderly, through the stricken crowd, he was carried to a near-by house, where, through the night, his life ebbed away. On the morning of April 15, 1865, he died. The North, gayly decked with flags to celebrate the victory and the close of the war, awoke to the awful news which turned its joy to mourning. Millions wept at the death of Lincoln as they would mourn the loss of a friend.

When the funeral was held in Washington, churches all over the land united in service. Kingly honors were paid to the dead President. The procession moved from the White House to the Capitol, while minute guns boomed and all the bells in Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown tolled. A detachment of negro troops marched at the head.

Illinois claimed Lincoln's body, and when it was known he would be buried in Springfield, cities and states along the route begged the privilege of honoring him. The funeral train passed westward over the same route as he had taken to Washington, four years before. Baltimore, through which he had then feared to pass, was now the first city to do him honor. In all the cities, his remains were received with sorrowful ceremonies and people thronged to look upon his dead face. In the villages, weeping crowds watched his train pass by beneath arches of flowers, and at night, bonfires lighted his way from farm to farm.

At Springfield, the Capitol was hung with black velvet and silver and filled with flowers. The simple and true friends of Lincoln's earlier days passed by

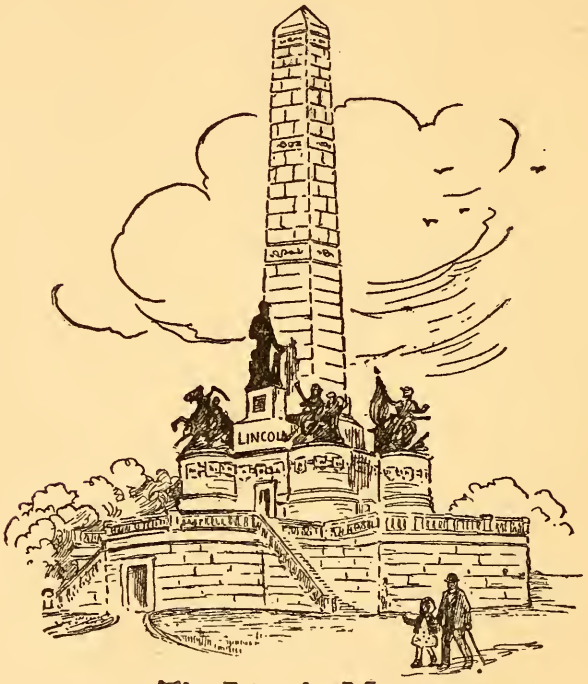
the bier of their dear old neighbor, in an unbroken stream for a day and a night. Then his face was shut from sight, and the procession moved out to the beautiful burial place at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Old Bob, the horse Lincoln rode around the circuit, walked riderless behind the funeral car. The simple services were closed by reading the President's second inaugural address, which contains his wonderful message to his people. Later, when his monument was dedicated, Grant said, "In his death, the Nation lost its greatest hero, the South its most just friend."

With the greatness of the Union, Lincoln's name grows greater. As years have softened and wiped out the bitterness of the war, South as well as North, claims him. One of the South's own sons, Henry W. Grady, said he was "the first typical American—the first who comprehended within himself all the strength and gentleness, all the majesty and grace of this Republic."

Nor does he belong to America alone, but more and more he becomes the hero of the plain people throughout the world. And not the plain people only; for while he sprang from them, Lincoln came to live with the great as the best among them all. His countrymen cherish the little log cabin, but he glorified the Presidency and the White House.

He cannot be compared with other great men, for there was never a man like Lincoln. Lonely in his life, he is alone in his fame. Henry Watterson, a great Southerner, has said of him: "Born as lowly as the Son of God, in a hovel; reared in penury and squalor, with no gleam of light, nor fair surrounding,

it was reserved for this strange man, without name or fame or preparation, to be snatched from obscurity, raised to supreme command at a supreme moment, and entrusted with the destiny of a nation. A thousand years hence, no story, no tragedy, no epic poem will be filled with greater wonder than that which tells the life and death of Abraham Lincoln."



The Lincoln Monument at Springfield, Illinois