

A GREAT AMERICAN

Inspiration in the Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln His Wonderful Political Career

The twelfth day of February, in the year 1809, was a day of great import to the United States, for it was on that day that Abraham Lincoln came into the world, says a writer in the Pittsburg Dispatch. The place of his birth, unmarked to-day save for a rude flagstaff, was in Hardin county, Kentucky, known now as Latimer county. No great man was ever born into a humbler home.

Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham, had married a handsome girl named Nancy Hanks in 1806, and there was a little girl named Sarah in the family when the little Abraham was born.

Lincoln was a boy of but seven years, when his father, who had nothing of a restless spirit, followed a

boat in Illinois, and to the Sangamon country in Illinois. The Lincolns

settled for the office of Congressman in 1834. After leaving Congress, Lincoln



brother of the name Joseph, to Spinner county, Indiana, and located on a farm in the wilderness within a mile or two of Georgetown.

Lincoln grew to manhood in Indiana, seeing little of the great outside world, with the exception of such fleeting glimpses as he caught of it while working as boatman and ferryman on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

It would take many columns to give anything like a comprehensive account of the political career of Abraham Lincoln. It was almost inevitable that a man of his force of character, his patriotism and his interest in the welfare of the nation should drift into politics.

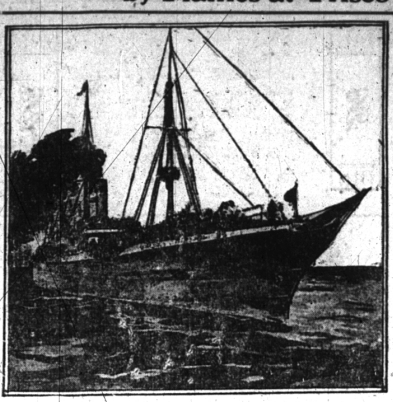
LINCOLN'S LIFE AN INSPIRATION

In commemorating the birthday of Abraham Lincoln the American people pay a just tribute to a very great man, but the observance has a deeper significance than this implies. With every recurrence of the anniversary there should be a fresh inspiration for his countrymen both in what Lincoln did and in what he said. His deeds lifted him above all the contemporaries, his words set forth the enduring principles of free government to which we must return again and again as our needs and interests more complex and our national problems increase and expand.

When we dwell upon the achievements of the army at Gettysburg in 1863, we are perhaps the most frequent thought of which there is a record in history he erred only in declaring: "The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say

here." For while the thought was appropriate to the occasion, being used as it was to emphasize by contrast the nation's debt to the soldiers who had fought and died upon the battlefield, it was called completely at naught in its other parts, that the speech was profoundly prophetic, and they glorify the speech as a nation that few were able to rival. He therefore usually led his fellows in efforts of muscle as well as of mind. That he could outstep, outwalk, outswim his boyish companions, that he could chop faster, split more rails in a day, carry a heavier load, was his eager boast, his neighborhood champion in any feat of frontier athletics, was doubtless a matter of pride with him; but stronger than all else was his eager craving for knowledge. He felt instinctively that the power of using the mind rather than the muscles was the key to success. He wished not only to wrestle with the best of them, but to be able to talk like the preacher, spell like the schoolmaster, argue like the lawyer, and write like the editor. From Helen Nicolay's "The Boy's Life of Abraham Lincoln" in St. Nicholas.

U. S. Transport Damaged by Flames at 'Frisco



The United States transport Meade which was partly destroyed by fire at San Francisco, with a loss of three lives and injuries to several others, was purchased by the government at the outbreak of the Spanish War. She was then known as the Spanish Bertha, and had been in commission several years, having been built at Greenock, Scotland, in 1874. The Meade's carrying capacity is 3,544 tons. She is 128 feet long and has a breadth of 44 feet, with a depth of 24 1/2 feet. She has made several voyages to the Philippines as a transport and is considered to be a superb craft.

Worse Than Many Bulls; Elephant in China Shop

Zenobia, one of the four elephants belonging to a traveling showman now at Polka theater, while her attendant, a woman, was in the store, to which she was chained and wandering over to the back of the stage, dug against a door, says a dispatch from Worcester, Mass. Then came a clipping of planks and the elephant found herself in an alley, the other end of which communicated with the rear delivery entrance of Sid Hopkins' china and glassware store.

Zenobia shuffled her course along the narrow way, upsetting an ash can and a box of soap. Finally she turned around and put the can in its proper position, for part of Zenobia's training has been to put things right after they have been used by the baby clown.

The noise occasioned by the ash can incident had attracted the attention of one of the women employees of the store, and she looked out of a back window in time to see Zenobia come more bravely and head for the store door. The clerk who her attendant on a high-backed stool and fled out the front door, not stopping to tell her fellow-employee the cause of the disturbance.

The other young woman clerk was watching the front-door in wide-eyed amazement, speculating as to the cause for the flight, when she heard a crash and turned to see a huge bull, filling the doorway, the ponderous animal swaying and the whole store was reeling with an expression that she was unable to interpret, not being up to elephants.

Now this gentleman had no purpose to push, so she was able to say time when she started flight. With absolutely no lost motion, she followed the other clerk to the store door just as a more resounding crash announced the progress of the beast in her general direction. When she reached the street she found Harry Hawkins, a lineman, and William Howard, a teamster, leaning against a telephone pole. They were discussing the best way to get the animal out of the street.

"What's the use of talking of anything like a comprehensive account of the political career of Abraham Lincoln. It was almost inevitable that a man of his force of character, his patriotism and his interest in the welfare of the nation should drift into politics. We find him running as a candidate for the State Assembly of Illinois in 1832 and offering a defeat that did not depress him in the least; it was after this defeat that he and a partner bought the store in New Salem. In 1834, Lincoln again announced himself as a candidate for the State Assembly, and there are old men in Illinois who like to recall the queer but forcible speeches he heard him make as he rode about the country electioneering for himself. He did so with triumphant results; this time, for he was elected, and for eight years he was a member of the State Assembly of Illinois.

Then his friends sought to have him become a candidate for governor, but this honor he refused because he had his eyes on the seat in Congress and Congress he won in the year 1847, after having been defeated as a candidate for the presidency while we were such men as Seward Chase and others, who are so much better known to the people, and whose names are so intimately associated with principles of the Republican party? Every body knows them; nobody scarcely outside of Illinois knows me."

The "good luck" was on the side of the United States when Abraham Lincoln was finally elected president in 1860. He was the next to the next best man to hold that office during the perilous days of the civil war, and when the war was over the people felt that Lincoln was the only man who could bring real peace and harmony out of the bitter strife that had lasted for four fearful years. His assassination filled the land with the gloomiest forebodings and plunged the country into the bitterest grief it had known since the death of an individual.

Wireless Telegraphy in Mexico. Wireless telegraphy has been maintained across the Gulf of California, and now the Mexican government has awarded contracts for a plant that will afford communication over a distance of about 200 miles not only between the various stations of the system but with shipping. The Mexican government has a tradition of wireless operators and it is thought likely that this method of communication will undergo important extension throughout that country. Harper's Weekly.

Dislocated Heart Replaced. Vernon Evans, a small boy, who was injured by a brick when he was six years old, the wound caused a congenital defect of the lungs, has just undergone an operation to move his heart back to its proper place. The boy was taken to the hospital to have the heart forced from the left to the right side. The lungs were relieved of nearly a quart of yds. and with this clearing up, his heart fell back to its accustomed location. Richmond (Va.) Cor. Philadelphia Record.

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