

"Lincoln was wonderful in his management of the Civil War and had tremendous influence on the history of his time. If he had not died he would have been able, through the force of the public opinion which was back of him, to reunite the country, and the hideous record of reconstruction would not have been written. All the historical documents have established beyond peradventure that the plan of reuniting the country which Andrew Johnson attempted to carry out was Lincoln's plan, and the public opinion which was not back of Johnson would have supported Lincoln, and he alone would have been able to control the revengeful radicalism which took his plan away from Johnson and destroyed it and substituted a different policy.

"The last man now living who was in close contact with Lincoln is Horace White, for a long time editor of the New York Evening Post. He makes his residence in New York, where, at a green old age, he is possessed of all his faculties. He was with Lincoln when the latter went on his famous joint debate with Douglas. It is, too, an interesting fact that the late Robert R. Hitt, of Illinois, some time Assistant Secretary of State, as a shorthand reporter chronicled these debates of Lincoln and Douglas. Unhappily, there are no papers of Stephen A. Douglas extant. If they had been preserved they would probably be a mine of historical information concerning Lincoln. They might have told of that early rivalry between him and Lincoln for the hand of Mary Todd, who rejected Douglas to marry Lincoln.

"Of Mr. Lincoln's wife there has been a good deal written and much said. She was a woman of high education and undoubted charm. She wrote easily and well, had always been accustomed to social life and liked to observe its forms. Her husband knew little of forms and generally refused to follow them. Whatever he was, President Lincoln was not conventional. He stands out, a figure all by himself, without prototype and without imitators."

There are many people living who remember Mr. Lincoln distinctly, and some of them recently contributed a few random memories which show the brighter side of the man. The author, Mrs. Jennie Gould Lincoln, who gave an interesting story of an early episode, was one of these. Everything pertaining to the war President is of interest to Mrs. Lincoln for she not only believes that somewhere back in Kentucky's early years the family of her husband and that of President Lincoln was connected, but also she met him as a girl under unusual circumstances.

"My father was Judge George Gould, presiding judge of the Court of Appeals of New York," said Mrs. Lincoln. "Our home was at Troy. My uncle, David Thomas Vail, was president of what was then the Hudson River Railroad, now the New York Central. As the President-elect was to pass our way on his journey to be inaugurated at Washing-