

Abraham Lincoln — The Student



With a Book at Hand for the First Light of Dawn.

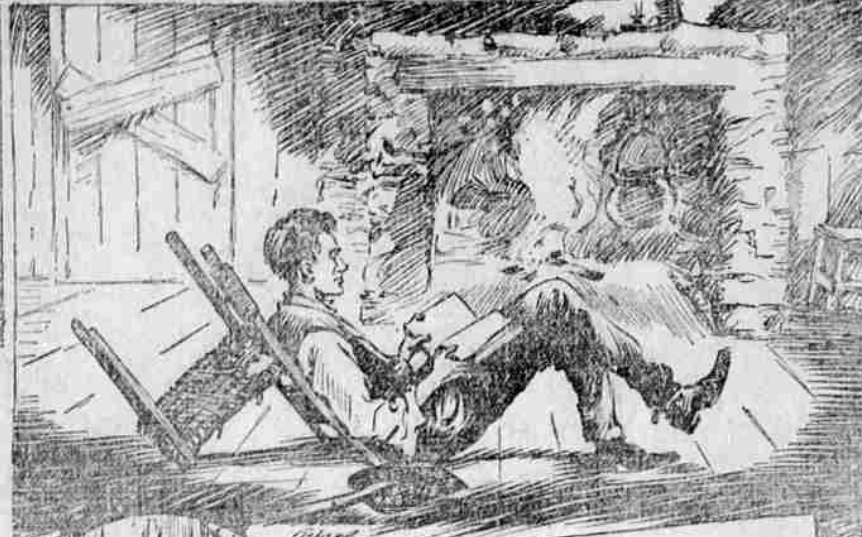
By G. Lynn Sumner

Director of Advertising, International Correspondence Schools, Scranton, and Author of "Abraham Lincoln as a Man Among Men."

THEY told me that the Lincolns had a baby at their house, and so I just ran all the way down there. I guess I was on hand pretty early, for when I held the little fellow in my arms his mother said, "Be careful with him, Dennis, for you are the first boy he's ever seen." A little too early, I reckon, for with the talk of the baby, he soon began to cry and I handed him over to Aunt Polly, who was standing by. "Aunt," said I, "take him; he'll never come to much, for I'll tell you he was the puniest, cryin'est little youngster I ever seen."

Never come to much—that was the prediction made just 114 years ago at the cradle of Abraham Lincoln.

Today we know the destiny that lay before the infant, and how it was to make a mockery of the backwoods prophet. But on that February day in 1809 when Dennis Hanks, cousin of Lincoln's mother, uttered his prophecy in the cabin that marked Thomas Lincoln's clearing in the Kentucky wilderness, much could have been urged in defense of his judgment. There was nothing by which the gloomy Dennis might know this puny youngster, and undisciplined, ignorant, poverty and isolation was to be his lot. He was to be a "Great American." In fact, had someone told Dennis that a passion for study and a love of learning were to bring about this miracle he would have scoffed. Dennis was no student, and knew not the



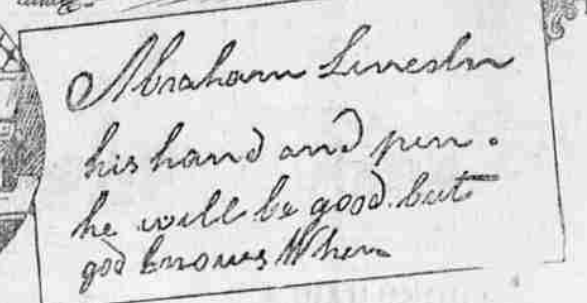
His Attitude of Study While Reading Law.

power of study. Yet Lincoln began his progress toward earthly immortality the day he learned the alphabet.

The Log Cabin School

Lincoln was ten years old when he first went to school. The school house, located about four miles from the Indiana farm to which his family had migrated, was a structure of round logs, just high enough for a man to stand erect beneath the roof. The floor was of split logs or "punches," the chimney of poles and clay. Greased paper on a framework of split boards formed the windows.

"Lincoln was always there early," writes Nathaniel Grigsby, who attended the same school. "He was always at the head of his class and passed up rapidly in our studies. He lost no time at home, and when he was not at work he was at his books. He kept up his studies on Sunday, and carried his



Abraham Lincoln
his hand and pen.
he will be good, but
god knows when

Whimsical Verse From His Copy Book.

books with him to work that he might read them as he rested from labor."

While Lincoln attended various schools between the ages of ten and seventeen and stood high in his classes, he was in point of regularity far from a model pupil. When funds were low in the Lincoln family, young Abe worked on the farm or for a neighbor. So frequent were these calls made upon him that it is estimated he never spent more than 100 full days in school in all his life.

Knew a Few Books Well

Although it would be hard to find anyone who owes less to the public school system than Lincoln, he was supremely trained in the college of lonely thought.

In his youth, his books were few. Women's "Washington," Aesop's Fables, Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" and the Bible constituted

virtually all his boyhood library. But these books he knew thoroughly. Stretched at full length upon the floor, sometimes leaning on his elbow, more often lying on his back with an upturned chair for a headrest, he studied by the light of glowing logs.

Wrote Down What He Learned

Lincoln had no knowledge of psychology or pedagogy to guide him in forming habits of study. Yet he recognized clearly that he would grasp and hold secure a new idea must immediately find words in which to express it. So it was his constant practice to reduce to writing any new thing he learned. Near at hand as the school of his boyhood was the school of a wooden shovel. It served him as a slate. When every scrap of it had been used, he would take the surface with a wooden plane, obtaining a new white surface for his charcoal crayon. On the walls of his cabin he chalked

In an army of a 100,000 men having plundered a city took so much money that when it was shared among them each man had $\frac{1}{10000}$ of the money. How much money was taken in all?

$$\begin{array}{r} 10000 \\ \times 25 \\ \hline 250000 \\ 200000 \\ \hline 2500000 \end{array}$$

Abraham Lincoln His Book

How He "Ciphered."

ed the things he needed for future reference.

After an adventurous experience in the Black Hawk War, Lincoln entered the grocery business at New Salem as partner with William F. Berry. He also served as postmaster. The store was far from a profitable venture and his revenue as postmaster was small. It was while he was earning a scant and uncertain support with the assistance of any odd jobs that came to hand that he found an opportunity to learn surveying.

Trained Himself as Surveyor

Again we find him employing the methods of home study. With some slight help from a friendly schoolmaster, he mastered every book on the intricate subject within reach. Day and night he studied. So intensely did he apply himself that friends were alarmed at his haggard looks. "What would have required six months' study on the part of the average person, he had learned in six weeks, and learned it so well that he became one of the most expert surveyors in the State. His proficiency compared with his reputation for honesty made him a frequent arbitrator in land disputes."

Lincoln followed by a determination to study law. In Springfield he found next to nothing. He had to borrow from Major John Stuart. Again his program of self-education is a success, and

he becomes known far and wide for his triumphs in the courtroom.

Passion for Accurate Language. Lincoln had a veritable passion for exact thought and accurate expression. As a child he was roused almost to anger when he heard people using words and forms of expression so vague and indefinite he could not understand them. At such times he would withdraw and ponder their sayings until he had reduced the thought to language understandable to any boy. As he expressed it, he was never easy until, in handling a thought, he could "bound it on the north and south, east and west." When, in the study of law, he met repeatedly the word "demonstrate," he sought a definition that differentiated it from "prove." Finding none that satisfied him, he stopped the study of law until he had learned perfectly every proposition in six books of Euclid. This done, he felt he had a true conception of the word "demonstrate."

Taught Himself Military Strategy

Lincoln was careful in selecting the thoughts with which he stored his mind. It was not everything he wanted to know. As he read and studied he made notes in abundance. Later he considered and reconsidered his notes, and only such as he thought worth while committing to memory did he attempt to fix in his mind.

The habit of study, at searching, accurate, thorough and complete

knowledge of everything that concerned him, constituted a large part of Lincoln's genius. It followed him into the White House. When, as President of the United States, he found himself the real chief of the Union forces, he began a study of war as deep and intensive that he became, as is not generally known, one of the master tacticians of his time. He was one of the few Presidents who could discuss military operations with the assurance of a member of the General Staff, who could offer intelligent and constructive criticism of movements under way and who could originate campaigns that compelled the admiration of professional strategists.

Lincoln—the Greatest Student

That so much did come of Lincoln, and that the gloomy Dennis Hanks should have been so confounded in his prophesying was due to Lincoln himself. Ceaselessly through the years he was preparing himself—laying up as by some divine commission the things his mind should know.

Lincoln, the rude, the uncouth, the penniless, shakes off the fetters of a pioneer environment to triumph in Lincoln the Student. It is to this fact, perhaps in larger measure than we have realized, that our nation owes its very life.

"BIG THREE" MAY ORGANIZE IN THE SOUTH

(By Associated Press)
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12.—California's next great athletic product may be an intercollegiate "Big Three" whose clashes may draw throngs at least equal to those which attend the games and meets between the "Big Three" of the east—Yale, Harvard and Princeton. The University of California, Stanford University and the University of Southern California, all natural rivals, would form the new western trio.

Far-western athletic observers see this California "Big Three" rising as a result of several happenings. One is the construction of mammoth stadiums for teams of each of the institutions. The California stadium, planned, will seat 40,000. The Stanford arena, under construction, will seat 35,000. The University of Southern California stadium, which will seat 40,000, will be completed in 1924.

Another reason for the prediction is found in the fact that the three schools are natural rivals. Stanford and California draw their students from northern and southern California, while the Los Angeles school depends largely upon the country south of the Tehachas for its athletes. Several years ago Stanford and California were the outstanding traditional rivals of this state, but in late years U. C. has been forging ahead and soon, it is predicted, will be on a par with the other two. The Trojans have defeated Stanford at football three times in as many years and their game against California last year drew a crowd of 40,000. It will be several years yet, however, before they can equal the Stanford-California crowds. Stanford took the lead in stadium-building in California when, in 1921, it dug out its huge bowl. Pasadena completed its stadium last year. The foundations for the great California bowl have been placed and it is expected the structure will be ready for the football games of 1922.

The inauguration of this mythical "Big Three" may, of course, never come to pass. Even then it would not necessarily involve the disruption of

the Pacific Coast conference. The California schools still have too much respect for the athletic abilities of the Washington, Oregon and Idaho members to think of interfering with the conference at this time. Later, it is said, when the northwest schools have stadiums proportionate with their serious interest in college athletics, the western "Big Three" might even become a "big eight."

First to Issue Postage Stamps

The Swiss cantons were the first European countries or official sections of countries to follow the example of Great Britain in issuing stamps. Zurich and Geneva sharing this distinction with Basel in issuing their first postage stamp in 1843. That was two years after Great Britain had issued her famous Maltese envelope stamp and the now popular one penny black adhesive. Rome followed the other cantons in 1845.

Knowledge Comes With Years

The years deepen the value of our past to us, and of our friends who are a part of that past. —George Eliot.

They Appeal to Our Sympathies

The illness and dyspepsia are constant sufferers and appeal to our sympathies. Many such, however, have been completely restored to health by the use of Chamberlain's Tablets. These tablets strengthen the stomach, invigorate the liver and improve the digestion. They also cause a gentle movement of the bowels. When you have any trouble with your stomach, give them a trial. —Adv.

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SOVIETS MAY OCCUPY TOWN

HARBIN, Feb. 12.—The foreign population, estimated at more than 200,000, is perturbed over the possibility of Soviet troops moving into the Chinese Eastern railway zone, which would mean the occupation of Harbin. During the month preceding the taking over of Vladivostok by Moscow troops the population of Harbin was considerably increased by the influx from the east. Today even Russia is not an adherent of bolshevik principles who can do so without regret.

Thus far the four left appears based largely on rumors of imminent danger. Such are continually circulating of bolsheviks marching along at Manchuria on the way to Manchuria on the eastern frontier.

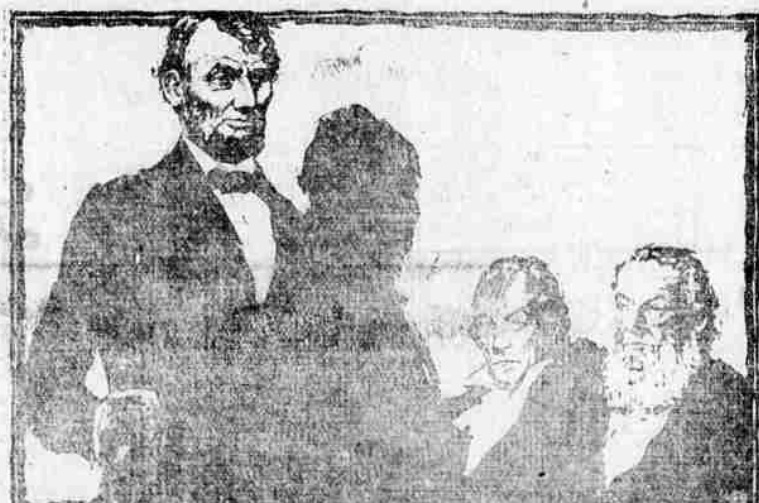
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Recently a report was current that the Moscow authorities had demanded surrender by the Chinese military authorities of the wireless station in Harbin. The station, over of the Chinese Eastern terminal, built at the expense of the Chinese government, is regarded by many as an open of further aggression.

After the loss of Vladivostok many erstwhile "white" officers and men retired into Chinese territory at Pootung. A report was current that the Chinese authorities estimated that these refugees amounted to 10,000. They were carried to the 300-mile frontier on the west and there gave them the option of going into bolshevik territory or into a detention camp.

Officials of the Chinese Eastern

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The Man for the Ages

"If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves I would do it, but if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."

Lincoln's whole desire was to save "this Nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

The desire to save should guide us all. Lincoln thought of the future of the nation—planned to save it. Have you thought of your future?

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- Golden West Suiting, yd., 3-4c; 3 yds. for \$1.00
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- Hope Muslin, yard 23c
- 3-lb. Cotton Bats \$1.48
- Turkish Toweling, yard 39c
- Chamois Finished Long Cloth, yard, 28c to 33c
- 36 and 44-inch Indian Head, yd., 36c to 44c

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