

LINCOLN'S FOE AS WAR CHIEF?

But For Untimely Death of Stephen A. Douglas the President Might Have Made Him Head of the Army.

By J. H. ROCKWELL.
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HOW generally this fact is known I cannot say, but that President Lincoln had in mind to place Stephen A. Douglas at the head of the army is vouched for by Judge William G. Ewing, formerly a well known lawyer of Quincy, Ill., and a noted lecturer on Christian Science. Judge Ewing was intimately acquainted with both President Lin-



STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

coln and Senator Douglas. He enjoyed their confidence and friendship as perhaps few other men ever did, and any statement from him touching the administration of Mr. Lincoln is unquestionably to be relied upon. At a recent reception in Judge Ewing's honor at the Soldiers' home in Quincy the judge told his hearers that Douglas was a man of military genius, and he related in words substantially as follows the incident of Lincoln's intention to make his old political opponent commander in chief of the army.

"I obtained this information," said Judge Ewing, "directly from Senator Orville H. Browning of Illinois, one

office, for reference as the war went on, to see how far it might prove to be true. Meanwhile so firmly convinced did the president become of Douglas' high military skill that only for the latter's death—June 3, 1861—he would have made him commander in chief. President Lincoln told me that," said Senator Browning, "with his own lips."

Why Secretary Cameron Quit.
Another wartime incident related by Judge Ewing, not widely known, if known at all beyond those immediately concerned, related to the resignation of Secretary of War Simon Cameron.

"Thurlow Weed," said the judge, "was thoroughly possessed by the idea that Mr. Cameron as secretary of war was not strong enough to cope with the military situation likely to confront him. So deeply was he impressed by this notion that he finally went to Mr. Lincoln, stated his view of the matter and asked that Cameron be requested to resign. 'Well, I can't do that,' answered the president; 'I simply cannot do it. I would resign myself before I would do that.' 'Well, now, Mr. President,' urged Weed, 'I can make the matter perfectly easy for you—so easy for you, in fact, that all you will have to do will be to accept his resignation. Indeed, I will so arrange it that Cameron will come to you himself voluntarily and ask to be relieved.' 'To this plan Lincoln readily assented, and Weed went about laying his plans accordingly. As a result the next time Weed called on Cameron he stepped back hastily, looked at the secretary with marked anxiety and said: 'Why, Cameron, what's the matter? You look as pale as a sheet!' 'There is nothing the matter with me,' replied Cameron. 'I am quite well.' 'For several days this performance went on, different men calling and remarking their surprise at his apparent illness.'"

"Finally Weed called on Cameron again himself and again spoke of the secretary's look of illness. 'It is evident to me, Mr. Cameron,' said Weed, 'that the work of this office is undermining your health. You have no right, in justice to yourself, to allow these responsibilities to kill you. Come with me up to my place on the Hudson and take a good long rest.' 'Cameron accepted the invitation, and after he had been at Weed's for some time Weed tactfully suggested that they quietly call in a certain noted specialist. This physician said: 'I find, Mr. Secretary, that you have no organic trouble, but you have been greatly overworked, and a long rest is absolutely essential to prevent a nervous breakdown, and I would suggest a sea voyage.'"

"By this time Mr. Cameron was ready to ask that the president relieve him of his duties as secretary of war, and Weed, recalling the doctor's recommendation of a sea voyage, hinted to Mr. Cameron that he would do well to ask for a foreign mission.

"Fortunately for Weed's plans Cassius M. Clay, our minister to Russia, had just tendered his resignation on account of his desire to enter the military service. So Weed went to President Lincoln about the matter, and the result was that Clay became a major general, Cameron became ambassador to Russia and Edwin M. Stanton became secretary of war."

THE TOMB OF LINCOLN.

Emancipator Buried in Concrete Vault Beneath Springfield Monument.

SINCE Sept. 22, 1901, the remains of Abraham Lincoln have reposed in a vault beneath the splendid Lincoln monument at Springfield, Ill., imbedded in a solid mass of concrete. The entire monument, which was crumbling to decay, was rebuilt ten years ago. Temporarily the metal casket containing the embalmed body of Lincoln was removed to another vault.

Before placing the remains in the new vault built under the reconstructed edifice the monument commissioners caused the casket to be chiseled open, so that the body could be identified as a matter of record and to prevent any future dispute which might arise as to the identity of the contents of the tomb.

Eighteen persons were present when the casket was opened. All of them



TOMB OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN UNDER THE MONUMENT AT SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

viewed the remains, positively identifying them as Abraham Lincoln's. Then the casket was sealed up anew and placed in the vault, where, after being surrounded by a steel cage, it was imbedded in a wall of concrete which will make it extremely difficult to gain access to the remains should any occasion for such access arise in the future.

It is the earnest hope of the commissioners and of the general public that no such occasion will arise.

ROBERT DONNELL.

Address of Abraham Lincoln At the Dedication of Gettysburg Cemetery, the 19th of November, 1863.



Four score 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 nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of the war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that their nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our 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.

WHAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS DOING ON HIS BIRTHDAY FIFTY YEARS AGO

By J. A. EDGERTON
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ON Feb. 12, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was on his way to Washington to take the oath of office as president. The day previous, Feb. 11, he had left his home in Springfield to begin that memorable journey from which he was never to return. The simple and touching little speech of farewell to his neighbors has since become a classic. The night of Feb. 11 was spent in Indianapolis, then little more than an overgrown country village. The Indianapolis address of the president elect was a momentous one in that it broke his long silence and gave an anxious country a line on the future policy of the incoming administration.

Feb. 12 Mr. Lincoln was fifty-two years old. It was a mild and beautiful day. Early in the morning Mrs. Lincoln and her two sons joined the presidential party. Governor Oliver P. Morton called at the Bates House, where Mr.

Lincoln said: "What words of weight are treasured And linked forever with his deathless name— Words tender, true, that by no scale are measured, Whose worth all future ages shall acclaim! And Lincoln's deeds—how wondrously recorded, Beyond the skill of monumental art! Let others be to temple shrines accorded, While his are given on our loving hearts."

"ONCE Lincoln said." How many a merry story By words like these are heralded each day! Though great his worth, though unsurpassed his glory, This is the homage we most freely pay. His courage—to historians we leave it, His wisdom—without question we believe it, But cherish most his simple, kindly mirth.

"ONCE Lincoln said." No trumpet note can still us With power so sure a simple tale to hear; No other name has such a spell to thrill us Or such a charm to hold the listening ear. So shall it be in all the ages after, The world itself shall feelble grain and old, Be out of tune with wisdom, truth and laughter, Ere the last Lincoln story has been told.

HE DIDN'T KNOW LINCOLN.

New Englander Tells of Opportunity He Missed as a Boy.

"Way down east" Abraham Lincoln was no celebrity when, early in 1860, he made a trip through New England. Though that was but a few months before his nomination for the presidency, Lincoln passed twice through Boston practically unnoticed, and to this day nobody knows whether he put up at a hotel or ate at a restaurant. William Wainwright, who was a boy in Exeter, N. H., tells this story of Lincoln's visit to his home town. On the morning of Lincoln's arrival he was engaged in fishing for eels in a canal.

The eels were biting well, and Wainwright was using two poles, oblivious of everything but the pleasurable task in hand, until he became conscious of somebody climbing the fence behind him.

He supposed it was another boy, but on looking up was surprised to see a tall, solemn looking man. The man smiled and remarked that the boy was pretty busy. The boy replied that he was; that "they were biting fine." The man then asked if he could use one of the poles. His request was granted, and after catching a few eels he accidentally broke the pole, which was a rough older stick, such as New Hampshire boys are wont to use. He offered to pay for the pole, but on the boy's refusing he climbed the fence again and went away.

Young Wainwright did not learn until later that his guest was Abraham Lincoln.



LINCOLN'S PRIVATE CAR AND FACSIMILE OF INVITATION TO RIDE ON SPECIAL TRAIN WHICH TOOK THE PRESIDENT ELECT FROM SPRINGFIELD TO WASHINGTON.

Lincoln had lodged, and drove the president elect and his companions to breakfast at the governor's mansion. An immense crowd filled the corridors of the hotel and adjoining streets, and an even greater multitude had gathered about the depot, to which the party were escorted by a committee of the legislature and the governor. At shortly after 10 o'clock the trip eastward was resumed amid the shouts of the people.

One picturesque feature of the journey was that every half mile the railroad had stationed flagmen to indicate that the line was open and everything was all right. Instead of the usual red or white railroad signals, however, these men waved American flags.

Short stops were made at Shelbyville, Greensburg, Morris and Lawrenceburg, and at each point Mr. Lincoln said a few words in farewell. The crowds were not confined to these larger towns, however. At every station was heard the sound of cheering as the Lincoln train whizzed by.

The crowd was so great at Cincinnati that the train had to stop until the police and military could force a way for the locomotive. Those on the track tried to get out of the way, but the multitude behind prevented. Mr. Lincoln was met at the station by the mayor of the city and escorted by a military and div procession to the Burnet House.

After a brief rest Mr. Lincoln was escorted to the balcony, where he was introduced by the mayor. Referring to the only speech he had ever made in Cincinnati, the president elect quoted from that address some humorous remarks he had made to the Kentuckians. He had told them that the Republicans would beat them and had also promised what the victors would do with them when beaten. "I will tell you," he had then said, "what we mean to do with you. We mean to treat you as near as we possibly can as Washington, Jefferson and Madison treated you."

That night a reception was held at the Burnet House. It was remarked that the president elect looked very well and was in good spirits.

Missouri, and Washburne, of Illinois, on the part of the house. The count proceeded without incident, and the vice president announced the election of Lincoln and Hamlin.

"There was a certain feeling of relief among the loyal people of the country that Mr. Lincoln had been declared to be duly elected president without the least pretense of illegality or irregularity.

"That there was a conspiracy in Baltimore to assassinate him as he passed through, there can be no reasonable doubt. We hoped he might be able to come through in the daytime from Philadelphia, taking a

train secretly and cutting the wires so that his departure could not be known. But General Scott's detectives in Baltimore had developed such a condition of things, that Governor Seward thought that the president-elect and his friends in Philadelphia should be advised in regard thereto, and on the night of the 23d of February he sent his son, Frederic W., over to Philadelphia to consult with them.

"Mr. Lincoln had previously had a conversation with the detective Pinkerton and Mr. Frederic W. Seward in regard to the condition of things at Baltimore. The Hon. Norman B.

Judd, of Chicago, one of the most conspicuous and trusted friends of Mr. Lincoln, who had accompanied the party from Springfield, suggested a plan which, after full discussion by Mr. Lincoln and all his friends present, was agreed upon and successfully carried out. This plan, as is generally known, was that after the dinner which Governor Curtin had tendered to him had been finished, at six o'clock in the afternoon, he should take a special car and train from Harrisburg for Philadelphia to intercept the night train from New York to Washington. The telegraph wires from Harrisburg were all cut, so

there could be no possible telegraphic connection with the outside world. The connection was made at Philadelphia. Mr. Lincoln was transferred to the Washington train without observation, to arrive at his destination on time the next morning without the least miscarriage.

"I stood behind the pillars in the depot awaiting the arrival of the train. When it came to a stop I watched with fear and trembling to see the passengers descend. I saw every car emptied and there was no Mr. Lincoln. I was well nigh in despair, and when about to leave saw slowly emerge from the last

ROBERT LINCOLN, SON OF ABRAHAM

Only Surviving Child of Emancipator Might Have Been President but For Moral Honesty Like His Father's.

By ROBERTUS LOVE.
THAT Robert Todd Lincoln, the only surviving child of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, might have become president of the United States had he but said "Baris is willin'" is the belief of many persons who understand American politics and human nature. Several times Mr. Lincoln has been "prominently mentioned" for nomination on the Republican ticket. The present

writer recalls a day in boyhood when his father said to him during the administration of President Arthur: "Well, Robert Lincoln is going to be our next president."

"Why?" asked the boy. "How do you know?"

"Because," answered the man, "he is the son of his father, and, moreover, he is a good man for the place."

But Bob Lincoln would have none of it. He kept on practicing law in Chicago, where he still resides, and let the mentioners keep on mentioning him. He did absolutely nothing to boost his own political fortunes. Why? I know now since I have grown up. This Robert Todd Lincoln possesses in considerable degree that quality which more than any other characterized his illustrious father. Moral honesty is the quality meant. Commercial honesty, business honesty, is quite another quality. Moral honesty lies deeper. Abraham Lincoln never did and never would accept any favor which was based upon the achievements of any other man. His tub stood on its own bottom. He paddled his own canoe. And Robert Lincoln, after him, has refused to take political preferment based upon the reputation of his father. Now at sixty-seven years of age, eleven years older than was his father when the Booth bullet cut him down, Robert Lincoln no longer is mentioned for the presidency.

President Garfield made Mr. Lincoln his secretary of war when the latter was only thirty-eight years old. Lincoln did not seek the appointment. He had shown his ability as a supervisor in Chicago and as a lawyer. When Garfield fell before an assassin's bullet and Chester A. Arthur succeeded him Robert Lincoln was the only member of the Garfield cabinet who was retained, and at the end of Arthur's administration he was the only member of Arthur's cabinet whose work was wholly approved by the public.

Back to Chicago and his law offices went Lincoln, but when Benjamin Harrison became president he made Lincoln minister to England. Lincoln did not seek the post.

Nevertheless Mr. Lincoln is a president. For about thirteen years he has been president of the Pullman Palace

Car company, with which the Wagner Palace Car company is consolidated. How did he get it? Pull? Father's name? Not at all. He was for years counsel for the Pullman company, and when George M. Pullman died he was elected to the place because of his ability and availability.

Resolutely has Robert Lincoln adhered to his determination not to permit his illustrious ancestry to put him forward. He has occupied a peculiar position before the American people and the world as the only living son of the great war president. He has occupied it with unflinching dignity. He has shrunk from public notice based upon his descent from Abraham Lincoln.

There are many stories in the life of Abraham Lincoln. Probably no man ever lived who was connected with more romances. But in them all there is something sad. It was a period of war in which those events of which he was the central figure occurred, and only a very few of the romances extracted from war have happy terminations. No one can look upon the portrait of Abraham Lincoln without seeing there the solemnity of those four years when the boys of '61 to '65 were being mowed down like wheat, when every family in the north and in the south were mourners.

There is one event in the life of President Lincoln which, if certain efforts that were made had been unsuccessful, would have left nonexistent his leadership in the great struggle and he would have gone down in history simply as the man whose election brought it on. True, it would have been adorned with the crown of martyrdom, but at the beginning instead of the end of his career.

This is the story of his escape from that earlier attempt to assassinate him which was a failure:

It was in the spring of 1861, when secession sympathizers were plotting against the lines of communication leading from the national capital, that a man, middle aged, muscular and with a determined though tranquil face, appeared in Ferrymansville, Md. He was a Pinkerton detective and had been sent there to discover plots to damage railroad property.

When Mr. Lincoln went to Washington for his first inauguration, having passed through New York, he went southward on the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio railroads. Allan Pinkerton, chief of a Chicago detective bureau, learned through a master machinist of the latter road that a number of secessionists had bound themselves by an oath to assassinate Mr. Lincoln while journeying to the capital. There was but little time to act, for the president elect was about to leave his home. When the assassination plan was conceived it was not known by the conspirators by what route Mr. Lincoln would go to the capital. They were therefore obliged to arrange for an attack upon him at several different points. The Ferrymansville branch of the organization pretended to be a cavalry company. Webster, who, though of a quiet exterior, knew how to sham very deep feeling against the Yankee government, at once enrolled himself in this cavalry company.

But getting into the company was far from getting its plans, and unfortunately there was very little time to discover them. Webster relied on his pretended hatred of the government to secure his initiation into the inner circle. His ruse succeeded. He was invited to go to the house of the captain of the company, but not to say a word about the invitation. In a room every window of which was protected against hearing and seeing from the outside he met men from the central point of the conspiracy, Baltimore, and was received as one of the planners of the work to be done.

Seated about a table, the party discussed different methods of assassinating the president elect. Webster, being a new man and of a reserved disposition, listened to the others, only occasionally pointing out some weak spot in a proposition or suggesting a way to obviate it. Before the conference broke up it had been decided to shoot Mr. Lincoln at the depot as he was passing through Baltimore on the 23d of March.

Webster now had the plans in his possession. Taking himself away from the so called cavalry company, he went where he could safely communicate with his chief, Allan Pinkerton. On the night of the 21st of February Pinkerton met Mr. Lincoln at the Continental hotel at Philadelphia and revealed the plot.

The question now arose how, having the plan, to defeat it. A ruse was adopted. Instead of going on to Washington direct, Mr. Lincoln was taken northwest to Harrisburg. But it was no easy job to turn the gaze of millions of people from the most prominent figure in the land with hosts of newspaper correspondents watching his every movement. The telegraph wires leading out of Harrisburg were secretly grounded, thus cutting off that city from the rest of the world.

Mr. Lincoln now being able to travel without news of his passage being telegraphed from every station, a private train was made up at Harrisburg, and the president elect—it is said that he was disguised—was taken back to Philadelphia and at midnight of the 23d instead of the 23d, as had been arranged, was rushed through Baltimore and early the next morning arrived safe in Washington.

This brief statement of the plan to assassinate the president elect and its defeat is essential to the story—a story of Abraham Lincoln as the central figure and Timothy Webster, whose quick work was instrumental in saving him for the great work he was to accomplish. It would have been well had the president kept Webster by him until, his task having been finished, he should return to the less dangerous

carriage with three persons. I could not mistake the long, lank form of Mr. Lincoln, and my heart bounded with joy and gratitude. He had on a soft low-crowned hat, a muffer around his neck, and a short bobbed hair. Any one who knew him at that time could not have failed to recognize him at once, but I must confess, he looked more like a well-to-do farmer from one of the back towns of Jo Daviess county coming to Washington to see the city, take out his land warrants and get the patent for his farm, than the president of the United States.

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"In the course of his discussion Douglas pointed out, as later events proved to be true, practically every great future battleground and outlined what a few years later was the march of Sherman's great army to the sea. The president suggested that Mr. Douglas visit the war office and present his views to General Winfield Scott, who at that time was the commander in chief of the army. This was done, and General Scott was so profoundly impressed by what Douglas pointed out to him that he confessed himself to be thoroughly satisfied of Mr. Douglas' correctness, but he objected to a call for additional men for the reason that the country would not understand the need of it and would not sustain the call.

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MR. LINCOLN'S SAFE ARRIVAL.

Extract from Memoirs by Hon. Eihu B. Washburne.

"On the 19th of February, 1861, the two houses of congress met in joint session to count and declare the electoral vote. As in all times of great excitement, the air was filled with numbers and absurd rumors; a few were in fear that in some unforeseen way the ceremony of the count might be interrupted and the result not declared. And hence all Washington was on the qui vive. The joint meeting was to take place in the hall of the house of representatives at high

noon. An immense throng filled the house and of the capitol. All the gilded corridors leading to the hall of the house were crowded, and the galleries packed. Beautiful and gorgeously dressed ladies entered the hall, found their way into the cloak rooms, and many of them occupied the seats of the members, who gallantly surrendered them for the occasion.

"The joint convention of the two houses was presided over by Mr. Breckinridge, who served out his term of vice president, till March 4, 1861. The Hon. Lyman Trumbull was appointed teller on the part of the senate, and Messrs. Phelps, of

Missouri, and Washburne, of Illinois, on the part of the house. The count proceeded without incident, and the vice president announced the election of Lincoln and Hamlin.