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Fac Simile Signature of **Dr. H. H. Fletcher**

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THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Lincoln's Boyhood

By **WARD HILL LAMON,**

His Friend, Farmer and Bodyguard



Lincoln's Birthplace

Lincoln Writes a Poem.

In 1826 Abe's sister Nancy (or Sarah) was married to Aaron Grigsby, and the festivities of the occasion were made memorable by a song entitled "Adam and Eve's Wedding Song," which many believed Abe had himself composed. The conceits embodied in the doggerel were old before Abe was born, but there is some intrinsic as well as ex-

traneous evidence to show that the doggerel itself was his. It was sung by the whole Lincoln family before Nancy's marriage and since, but by nobody else in the neighborhood.

ADAM AND EVE'S WEDDING SONG.

When Adam was created he dwelt in Eden's shade,
As Moses has recorded, and soon an Eve was made.
Ten thousand times ten thousand Of creatures twined around
Before a bride was formed,
And yet no mate was found.

The Lord then was not willing
The man should be alone,
But caused a sleep upon him
And took from him a bone.

And closed the flesh in that place of,
And then he took the same
And it made a woman
And brought her to the man.

Then Adam he rejoiced
To see his loving bride,
A part of his own body,
The product of his side.

This woman was not taken
From Adam's feet, we see,
So he must not abuse her,
The meaning seems to be.

This woman was not taken
From Adam's head, we know;
To show she must not rule him,
'Tis evidently so.

This woman, she was taken
From under Adam's arm;
So she must be protected
From injuries and harm.

"It was considered at that time," says Mr. Richardson, "that Abe was the best penman in the neighborhood. One day while he was on a visit at my mother's I asked him to write some topics for me. He very willingly con-

sented. He wrote several of them, but one of them I have never forgotten, although a boy at the time. It was this:

"Good boys who to their books apply
Will all be great men by and by."

Here are two original lines from Abe's own copy book, probably the first he ever had, and which must not be confounded with the famous scrapbook in which his stepmother, lost in admiration of its contents, declares he "entered all things":

Abraham Lincoln, his hand and pen;
He will be good, but God knows when.

The same book contains the following, written at a later day and with nothing to indicate that any part of it was borrowed:

Time! What an empty vapor 'tis,
And days, how swift they are!
Swift as an Indian arrow,
Fly on like a shooting star.

The present moment just is here,
Then slides away in haste,
That we can never say they're ours,
But only say they are past.

Rather Racy "Chronicles."

Abe wrote many satires and chronicles, which are only remembered in fragments. Even if we had them in full they were most of them too indecent for publication. Such, at least, was the character of "a piece" which is said to have been "exceedingly humorous and witty," touching a church trial, wherein Brother Harper and Sister Gordon were the parties seeking judgment. It was very coarse, but it served admirably to raise a laugh in the grocery at the expense of the church.

His chronicles were many and on a great variety of subjects. They were written, as his early admirers love to tell us, "in the Scriptural style," but those we have betray a very limited acquaintance with the model. In these chapters was celebrated every event of importance that took place in the neighborhood—weddings, fights, Crawford's nose, Sister Gordon's innocence, Brother Harper's wit, were all served up, fresh and gross, for the amusement of the groundlings.

Charles and Reuben Grigsby were married about the same time and, being brothers, returned to their father's house with their brides upon the same day. The infare, the feast, the dance, the ostentatious retirement of the brides and grooms, were conducted in the old fashioned way of all new countries in the United States, but a way which was bad enough to shock Squire Western himself. On this occasion Abe was not invited and was very mad in consequence. This indignation found vent in a highly spiced piece of descriptive writing entitled "The Chronicles of Reuben," which are still in existence.

But even "The Chronicles," venomous and highly successful as they were, were totally insufficient to satiate Abe's desire for vengeance on the Grigsbys. They were important people about Gentryville, and the social slight they had given him stung him bitterly. He therefore began on Billy in rhyme, after disposing of Charles and Reuben

in Scriptural style. Mrs. Crawford attempted to repeat these verses to Mr. Herndon, but the good old lady had not proceeded far when she blushed very red and, saying that they were hardly decent, proposed to tell them to her husband, who would write them down and send them to Mr. Herndon. They are probably much curtailed by Mrs. Crawford's modesty, but still it is impossible to transcribe them. It must be admitted that the literary taste of the community in which these rhymes were popular could not have been very high.

"I will tell you about Joel and Mary; it is neither a joke or a story, for Reuben and Charles has married two girls, but Billy has married a boy," they began.

Fight With the Grigsbys.

Abe dropped "The Chronicles" at a point on the road where he was sure one of the Grigsbys would find them. The stratagem succeeded and that delicate satire produced the desired effect. The Grigsbys were infuriated—wild with a rage which would be satisfied only when Abe's face should be pounded into a jelly and a couple of his ribs cracked by some member of the injured family. Honor, according to the Pigeon Creek code, demanded that somebody should be "licked" in expiation of an outrage so grievous; if not Abe, then some friend of Abe's whom he would depute to stand the brunt in his stead. Billy, the eldest of the brothers, was selected to challenge him. Abe accepted generally—that is, agreed that there should be a fight about the matter in question.

It was accordingly so ordered. The ground was selected a mile and a half from Gentryville, a ring was marked out, and the bullies for twenty miles around attended. The friends of both parties were present in force, and excitement ran high. When the time arrived for the champions to step into the ring Abe displayed his chivalry in a manner that must have struck the bystanders with admiration. He announced that, whereas Billy was confessedly his inferior in size, shape and talents, unable to hit with pen or fist with anything like his power, therefore he would forego the advantage which the challenge gave him and "turn over" his stepbrother, John Johnston, to do battle in his behalf. If this near relative should be sacrificed, he would abide the issue; he was merely anxious to see a fair and honorable fight.

This proposition was considered highly meritorious, and the battle commenced on those general terms. John started out with fine pluck and spirit, but in a little while Billy got in some clever hits, and Abe began to exhibit symptoms of great uneasiness. Another pass or two, and John flagged quite decidedly, and it became evident that Abe was anxiously casting about for some pretext to break the ring. At length, when John was fairly down

and Billy on top and all the spectators cheering, swearing and pressing up to the very edge of the ring, Abe cried out that "Bill Boland showed foul play," and, bursting out of the crowd, seized Grigsby by the heels and flung him off.

Having righted John and cleared the battleground of all opponents, "he swung a whisky bottle over his head and swore that he was the big buck of the lick." It seems that nobody of the Grigsby faction, not one in that large assembly of bullies, cared to encounter the sweep of Abe's tremendously long and muscular arms, and so he remained master of the "lick." He was not content, however, with a naked triumph, but vaunted himself in the most offensive manner. He singled out the victorious but cheated Billy and, making sundry hostile demonstrations, declared that he could whip him then and there.

Billy meekly said he did not doubt that, but that if Abe would make things even between them by fighting with pistols he would not be slow to grant him a meeting. But Abe replied that he was not going to fool away his life on a single shot, and so Billy was fain to put up with the near satisfaction he had already received.

Abe as a Debater.

At Gentryville "they had exhibitions or speaking meetings." "Some of the questions they spoke on were: 'The Bee and the Ant,' 'Water and Fire,' another was, 'Which had the most right to complain, the negro or the Indian?' Another, 'Which was the strongest, wind or water?'" The views which Abe then entertained on the Indian and the negro question would be intensely interesting now. But just fancy him discoursing on wind and water! What treasures of natural science, what sallies of humor, he must have wasted upon that audience.

Dennis Hanks insists that Abe and he became learned men and expert disputants, not by a course of judicious reading, but by attending "speechmakings, gatherings," etc.

"How did Lincoln and yourself learn so much in Indiana under such disadvantages?" said Mr. Herndon to Dennis on one of his two oral examinations. The question was artfully put, for it touched the jaunty Dennis on the side of his vanity and elicited a characteristic reply.

"We learned," said he, "by sight, scent and hearing. We heard all that was said and talked over and over the questions heard; wore them slick, greasy and threadbare. Went to political and other speeches and gatherings, as you do now. We would hear all sides and opinions, talk them over, discuss them, agreeing or disagreeing. Abe, as I said before, was originally a Democrat after the order of Jackson, so was his father, so we all were. He preached, made speeches, read for us, explained to us, etc. Abe was a cheerful boy, a witty boy, was humorous at times; sometimes would get sad, not

very often. Lincoln would frequently make political and other speeches to the boys; he was calm, logical and clear always. He attended trials, went to court always, read the Revised Statutes of Indiana," dated 1824, heard law speeches and listened to law trials, etc. Lincoln was lazy, a very lazy man. He was always reading, scribbling, writing, ciphering, writing poetry and the like. In Gentryville, about one mile west of Thomas Lincoln's farm, Lincoln would go and tell his jokes and stories, etc., and was so odd, original and humorous and witty that all the people in town would gather around him. He would keep them there till midnight. I would get tired, want to go home, cuss Abe most heartily. Abe was a good talker, a good reader and was a kind of newsboy."

Attends Court Sitings.

Boonville was the courthouse town of Warrick county and was situated about fifteen miles from Gentryville. Thither Abe walked whenever he had time to be present at the sittings of the court, where he could learn something of public business, amuse himself profitably and withal pick up items of news and gossip, which made him an interesting personage when he returned home. During one of these visits he watched with profound attention the progress of a murder trial in which a Mr. John Breckenridge was counsel for the defense.

At the conclusion of the latter's speech Abe, who had listened, literally entranced, accosted the man of eloquence and ventured to compliment him on the success of his effort. "Breckenridge looked at the shabby boy" in amazement and passed on his way. But many years afterward, in 1862, when Abe was president and Breckenridge a resident of Texas, probably needing executive clemency, they met a second time, when Abe said: "It was the best speech that I up to that time had ever heard. If I could, as I then thought, make as good a speech as that my soul would be satisfied."

(To be Continued.)

Destroys an Orchard.

From what we can learn Benton county fruit growers are in the main very willing to follow the directions of our county fruit inspector, Prof. A. B. Cordley, but now and then a man may be found in Benton and elsewhere who is inclined to "defy the alligator" law and all, and who holds to the notion that he may take as much San Jose scale on his trees as he pleases and it is nobody's business but his own. In order to show what has been accomplished and what may be done we publish the following from the Telegram:

Horticultural Commissioner James H. Reid this morning, for the first time, made use of the state law allowing the County Fruit Inspector to cut down and burn orchards that are infested with San Jose scale, when the owner will take no action.

T. R. A. Sellwood, of Milwaukie, was the first victim to feel the severity of the law, and he says he will test it with a suit for damages against the State Horticulture Commission. At 10:30 o'clock this morning, under direction of Mr. Reid, Fruit Commissioner A. T. Lewis of Clackamas county, with a force of deputies, began the destruction.

With axes and saws they cut the trees. Then they piled the remnants, root and branch, in big heaps, that were soaked in kerosene and set afire. The flames burned quite merrily on the ruins of Mr. Sellwood's orchard. Not even a twig was allowed to go unburned, for one little scale can infest a county.

While Mr. Reid was fruit Inspector for both Multnomah and Clackamas counties last November, he sent Mr. Sellwood a notice that he must either spray and prune his trees and rid them of the scale till they were not a menace to orchards near-by, or the fruit inspector would tear them out and destroy them. Mr. Sellwood ignored the notice. Mr. Reid had his innings today, when he marshaled his forces and sent to work.

"I should be most pleased" said he today, "if the law is tested by Mr. Sellwood says he will do. A test is what we want to prove its legality. We are handicapped now."

The law allowing the Fruit Commissioner to cut down menacing orchards was passed at the last Legislature. The Sellwood orchard is one of the oldest around Milwaukie, and is planted in apple and prune trees.

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HELP WANTED.

A MIDDLE AGED LADY TO DO house work on a farm near Corvallis, Ore., and assist in caring for three children. She can arrange if she desires to assist in caring for chickens and other duties in farm work commonly done by ladies. If the lady has a husband, son, or other male relative, who is a good worker in farm work, he can have work at least part of the time. In answering send references. Address: P. O. Box 344, 37tf Corvallis, Oregon.

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Do You Love

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