

Lincoln's Love Affairs

By Ward Hill Lamon,
Lincoln's Friend and Bodyguard

And His Early Experiences as a Lawmaker

In Coke's and Blackstone's time the law was supposed to be "a jealous mistress," but in Lincoln's time and at Springfield she was anything but exacting. Politicians courted her only to make her favor the stepping stone to success in other employments. Various members of that bar have left great reputations to posterity, but none of them were earned solely by the legitimate practice of the law. Douglas is remembered as a statesman, Baker as a political orator, Hardin as a soldier, and some now living, like Logan and Stuart, although eminent in the law, will be no less known to the history of the times as politicians than as lawyers. Among those who went to the law for a living and to the people for fame and power was Mr. Lincoln. He was still a member of the legislature when he settled at Springfield and would probably have continued to run for a seat in that body as often as his time expired but for the unfortunate results of the "internal improvement system," the hopeless condition of the state finances and a certain gloominess of mind which arose from private misfortunes that befell him about the time of his retirement. We do not say positively that these were the reasons why Mr. Lincoln made no effort to be re-elected to the legislature of 1840, but a careful study of all the circumstances will lead any reasonable man to believe that they were. He was intensely ambitious, longed ardently for place and distinction and never gave up a prospect which seemed to him good



WILLIAM BUTLER.

when he was in a condition to pursue it with honor to himself and fairness to others. Moreover, state politics were then rapidly ceasing to be the highroad to fame and fortune. Although the state of Illinois was insolvent, unable to pay the interest on her public debt, and many were talking about repudiating the principal, the great campaign of 1840 went off upon national issues, and little or nothing was said about questions of state policy. Mr. Lincoln felt and obeyed this tendency of the public mind, and from 1837 onward his speeches—those that were printed and those that were not—were devoted chiefy, if not exclusively to federal affairs.

In January, 1837, he delivered a lecture before the Springfield Lyceum on the subject of the "Perpetuation of Our Free Institutions." As a mere declamation it is unsurpassed in the annals of the west. Although delivered in midwinter, it is instinct with the peculiar eloquence of the most fervid Fourth of July.

An Early Lincoln Ovation.
"In the great journal of things," began the orator, "happening under the sun we, the American people, find our account running under date of the nineteenth century of the Christian era. We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the earth as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil and salubrity of climate. We find ourselves under the government of a system of political in-



LINCOLN SPEAKING AT THE LYCEUM.
stitutions conducing more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty than any of which the history of former times tells us. We, when mounting the stage of existence, found ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquisition or establishment of them. They are a legacy bequeathed us by a once hardy, brave and patriotic but now lamented and departed race of ancestors. Theirs was the task, and nobly they performed it, to possess themselves and through themselves us of this goodly land and to uprear upon its hills and valleys a political edifice of liberty and equal rights. 'Tis ours only to transmit these—the former unprofaned by the foot of an invader, the latter undecayed by the lapse of time and untorn by usurpation—to the latest generation that fate shall permit the world to know. This task gratitude to our fathers, justice to ourselves, duty to posterity—all imperatively require us faithfully to perform.

"How, then, shall we perform it? At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest, with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years!

"At what point, then, is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen we must live through all time or die by suicide. I hope I am not overwary, but if I am not there is even now something of ill omen amongst us. I mean the increasing disregard for law which pervades the country, the growing disposition to substitute the wild and furious passions in lieu of the sober judgment of courts and the worse than savage mobs for the executive ministers of justice. This disposition is awfully fearful in any community, and that it now exists in ours, though grating to our feelings to admit it, it would be a violation of truth and an insult to our intelligence to deny. Accounts of outrages committed by mobs form the everyday news of the times. They have pervaded the country from New England to Louisiana. They are neither peculiar to the eternal snows of the former nor the burning sun of the latter. Neither are they confined to the slaveholding or nonslaveholding states. Alike they spring up among the pleasure hunting masters of southern slaves and the order loving citizens of the land of steady habits. Whatever, then, their cause may be, it is common to the whole country."

The orator then adverts to the doings of recent mobs in various parts of the country and insists that if the spirit that produced them continues to increase the laws and the government itself must fall before it. Bad citizens will be encouraged, and good ones, having no protection against the lawless, will be glad to receive an individual master who will be able to give them the peace and order they desire. That will be the time when the usurper will put down his heel on the neck of the people and batter down the "fair fabric" of free institutions. "Many great and good men," he says, "sufficiently qualified for any task they should undertake, may ever be found whose ambition would aspire to nothing beyond a seat in congress, a gubernatorial or a presidential chair, but such belong not to the family of the lion or the tribe of the eagle. What! Think you these places would satisfy an Alexander, a Caesar or a Napoleon? Never! Towering genius disdains a beaten path. It seeks regions hitherto unexplored. It sees no distinction in adding story to story upon the monuments of fame erected to the memory of others. It denies that it is glory enough to serve under any chief. It scorns to tread in the footsteps of any predecessor, however illustrious. It thirsts and burns for distinction, and if possible it will have it, whether at the expense of emancipating slaves or enslaving freemen. . . . Another reason which once was, but which to the same extent is now no more, has done much in maintaining our institutions thus far. I mean the powerful influence which the interesting scenes of the Revolution had upon the passions of the people as distinguished from their judgment." This influence the lecturer maintains was kept alive by the presence of the surviving soldiers of the Revolution, who were in some sort "living histories," and concludes with this striking peroration:

"But those histories are gone. They can be read no more forever. They were a fortress of strength. But what invading foe could never do the silent artillery of time has done—the leveling of its walls. They are gone. They were a forest of giant oaks, but the all resistless hurricane has swept over them and left only here and there a lonely trunk, despoiled of its verdure, aborn of its foliage, unshading and unshaded, to mourn in a few more gentle breezes and to combat with its mutilated limbs a few more rude storms, then to sink and be no more. They were the pillars of the temple of liberty, and now that they have crumbled away that temple must fall unless we, the descendants, supply their places with other pillars from the same solid quarry of sober reason. Passion has helped us, but can do so no more. It will in future be our enemy. Reason—cold, calculating, unimpassioned reason—must furnish all the materials for our future support and defense. Let those materials be molded into general intelligence, sound morality and in particular a reverence for the constitution and the laws, and that we improved to the last, that during his long sleep we permitted no hostile foot to pass or desecrate his resting place, shall be that which to learn the last trump shall awaken our Washington. Upon these let the proud fabric of freedom rest as the rock of its basis and, as truly has been said of the only greater institution, 'The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

These extracts from a lecture carefully composed by Mr. Lincoln at the mature age of twenty-eight and after considerable experience in the public service are worthy of attentive perusal. To those familiar with his sober and pure style at a later age these sopheric passages will seem incredible. But they were thought "able and eloquent" by the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield. He was "solicited to furnish a copy for publication," and they were duly printed in the Sangamon Journal. In the mere matter of rhetoric they compare favorably with some of his other productions of nearly the same date. This was what he would have called his "growing time," and it is intensely interesting to witness the processes of such mental growth as his. In time—gradually, but still rapidly—his style changes completely. The constrained and unnatural attempts at striking and lofty metaphor disappear, and the qualities which produced the Gettysburg address, that model of unadorned eloquence, begin to be felt. He finds the people understand him better when he comes down from his stilts and talks to them from their own level.

CHAPTER XI.
Incidents of Lincoln's Active Life as a Lawyer.
POLITICAL discussions at Springfield were apt to run into heated and sometimes unseemly personal controversies. When Douglas and Stuart were candidates for congress in 1838, they fought like tigers in Herndon's grocery, over a floor that was drenched with slops, and gave up the struggle only when both were exhausted. Then, as a further entertainment to the populace, Mr. Stuart ordered out a "barrel of whisky and wine."

On the election day in 1840 it was reported to Mr. Lincoln that one Radford, a contractor on the railroad, had brought up his men and taken full possession of one of the polling places. Lincoln started off to the precinct on a slow trot. Radford knew him well, and a little stern advice reversed proceedings without any fighting. Among other remarks, Mr. Lincoln said, "Radford, you'll spoll and blow if you live much longer." He wanted to hit Radford, but could get no chance to do so, and contented himself with confiding his intentions to Speed. "I intended just to knock him down and leave him kicking."

The same year Colonel Baker was making a speech to a promiscuous audience in the courtroom, "a rented room in Hoffman's row." It will be remembered that Lincoln's office was just above, and he was listening to Baker through a large hole or trapdoor in the ceiling. Baker warmed with his theme and, growing violent and personally offensive, declared at length "that wherever there was a hand office there was a Democratic newspaper to defend its corruptions." "This," says John B. Webber, "was a personal attack on my brother, George Webber. I was in the courthouse and in my anger cried, 'Pull him down!'" A scene of great confusion ensued, threatening to end in a general riot, in which Baker was likely to suffer. But just at the critical moment Lincoln's legs were seen coming through the hole, and directly his tall figure was standing between Baker and the audience, gesticulating for silence. "Gentlemen," said he, "let us not disgrace the age and country in which we live. This is a land where freedom of speech is guaranteed. Mr. Baker has a right to speak and ought to be permitted to do so. I am here to protect him, and no man shall take him from this stand if I can prevent it." Webber only recollects that "some one made some soothing, kind remarks" and that he was properly "held until the excitement ceased," and the affair "soon ended in quiet and peace."

In 1838 or 1840 Jesse B. Thomas made an intemperate attack upon the "Long Nine," and especially upon Mr. Lincoln as the longest and worst of them. Lincoln was not present at the meeting; but, being sent for and informed of what had passed, he ascended the platform and made a reply which nobody seems to remember, but which everybody describes as a "terrible skinning" of his victim. Ellis says that at the close of a furious personal denunciation he wound up by "mimicking" Thomas until Thomas actually cried with vexation and anger. Edwards, Speed, Ellis, Davis and many others refer to this scene and, being asked whether Mr. Lincoln could not be vindictive upon occasion, generally respond, "Remember the Thomas skinning."

John Speed His Best Friend.

Lincoln's friends Mr. Lincoln never had at this or any other time was probably Joshua F. Speed. In 1836 he settled himself in Springfield and did a thriving business as a merchant. Ellis was one of his clerks, and so also was William H. Herndon. Mr. Lincoln's future partner. This store was for years Lincoln's familiar haunt. There he came to while away the tedious evenings with Speed and the congenial company that naturally assembled around these choice spirits. He even slept in the storeroom as often as he slept at home and here made to Speed the most confidential communications he ever made to mortal man. If he had on earth "a bosom crony" it was Speed, and that deep and abiding attachment subsisted unimpaired to the day of Mr. Lincoln's death. In truth, there were good reasons why he should think of Speed with affection and gratitude, for through life no man rendered him more important services. One night in December, 1839, Lincoln, Douglas, Baker and some other gentlemen of note were seated at

Speed's hospitable fire in the store. They got to talking politics, got warm, hot, angry. Douglas sprang up and said, "Gentlemen, this is no place to talk politics; we will discuss the questions publicly with you," and much more in a high tone of banter and defiance. A few days afterward the Whigs had a meeting, at which Mr. Lincoln reported a resolution challenging the Democrats to a joint debate. The challenge was accepted, and Douglas, Calhoun, Lamborn and Jesse B. Thomas were deputed by the Democrats to meet Logan, Baker, Browning and Lincoln on the part of the Whigs. The intellectual encounter between these noted champions is still described by those who witnessed it as "the great debate." It took place in the Second Presbyterian church, in the hearing of as many people as could get into the building, and was adjourned from night to night. When Mr. Lincoln's turn came, the audience was very thin, but for all that his speech was by many persons considered the best one of the series. To this day there are some who believe he had assistance in the preparation of it. Even Mr. Herndon accused Speed of having "had a hand in it" and got a flat denial for his answer. At all events, the speech was a popular success and was written out and published in the Sangamon Journal of March 6, 1840. The exordium was a sort of complaint that must have had a very depressing effect upon both the speaker and his hearers:

(To be Continued)

For Advertising Oregon.

During the past six months an average of one family per month has located in Corvallis as a direct result of advertising done by the Benton County Citizens' League a year ago. This means that the effects of that advertising are still being felt after so long a period of time, and the "waves of thought" thus set in motion and directed toward Oregon are likely to bear fruit for many a month yet to come.

"There should be more such advertising done and more money raised for the purpose," declared an energetic member of the Citizens' League Tuesday. "Other organizations and clubs devote several times as much money to advertising purposes as does Corvallis, and until there is more cash for the work here the results cannot be anything like those accomplished by other clubs elsewhere."

It is a venture that pays big interest on the amount invested, and last year as a result of a paltry \$150 spent in advertising in Eastern papers and in sending out pamphlets and literature from Benton, thousands upon thousands of dollars of eastern capital was attracted to this section, where it was put into real estate. Not only this, many desirable residents have located in Corvallis and vicinity, adding to the population, increasing the value of real estate by creating a

greater demand for it, and in various other ways adding to the commonwealth of Oregon.

It is regrettable that a still more vigorous campaign is not even now being inaugurated along the lines established by the Citizens' League last spring. The League, however, cannot do it all alone. There must be backing of a substantial kind, and when it is provided the work will be attended to by the same energetic, progressive men who have already given so liberally of their time for the benefit of Corvallis and Benton, viz., the Citizens' League officers.

Oregon's Representative.

The members of the Rhodes scholarship board named E. J. Winans of Willamette University, Salem, as the one who will represent Oregon as a Cecil Rhodes scholar at Oxford. The election was held in the office of President H. M. Crooks in Albany college. The contest for the honor was close between Mr. Winans and Wister Johnson of the University of Oregon, Eugene, that a decision was only reached after a vote had been taken upon the respective merits of the two men, which resulted in the election of the Willamette University representative. There are five colleges represented on the scholarship board. They were: McMinnville College, President L. W. Riley; University of Oregon, President P. L. Campbell; Pacific University, President Ferrin; Willamette University, W. E. Kirk; Albany College, President H. M. Crooks. —Sunday's Albany Herald.

New Idea for Schools.

A suggestion made by State Supt J. H. Ackerman that agriculture be taught in the rural schools, seems likely to mature into action and bear fruit. This idea was advanced a few days ago at a public meeting of school directors and met with immediate favor from the directors and others.

Professor Ackerman outlined a plan of several districts joining together and securing the services of an expert agriculturist, to devote part of a day each week to instruction in soil culture and grain and fruit growing.

Thus it is seen what a practical turn the American mind is taking. In everything nowadays the purely practical is gaining ground, and it is well. Few but the practical men and women ever make a lasting mark on the affairs of the world, and more young people are needed in every avenue of business to do the practical, every day work that keeps the old universe on the move.

The idea of Supt Ackerman should and doubtless will bear fruit that will be of benefit in many ways.

Additional Local.

Sheep are good property to own, these days. Stockmen are buying ewes wherever they are to be found, offering as high as \$7 per head. Even at such figures only a few are to be had.

Horse buyers are rapidly collecting all available horses in Benton county, and in the vicinity of Bellfontaine some good sales are reported. Five years ago, W. F. Starr paid \$175 for a span, and a few days ago sold the same animals to Peter Whiteaker for \$275.

If you happen to meet an individual on the street these days with face, hands and clothing bedaubed with bright green paint, don't "rubber." It is only one of the boys engaged in painting the Bell telephones poles about town. Two men paint on a pole at the same time, and the desire to scuff and tease overcomes all sense of fear as to consequences, which ends in a friendly war with paint brushes nearly every day. The "artistic" results thus obtained are decidedly amusing to the observers.

Rev. F. L. Moore, formerly pastor of the M. E. church in this city, but now of Keelo, Wash., was a business visitor in Corvallis, yesterday. He expected to leave last evening. Rev. Moore and family are prospering in their present field and report everything as being well with them.

We are glad to learn that Senator M. A. Miller, who has disposed of his drug business to Blackburn & Underwood, will continue to reside in Lebanon. During his twenty years' residence in this place he has been one of our most enterprising and influential citizens and has always taken the lead in working for the upbuilding of the community. —Lebanon Advance.

Senator and Mrs. A. J. Johnson gave a "500" party Wednesday evening.

The guests were Mr. and Mrs. Off Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Bryson, Prof. and Mrs. G. A. Covell, Prof. and Mrs. M. C. McKellips, Prof. and Mrs. R. L. Kuisly, Mrs. C. A. Warner and Miss Grace Gill of Seio, Miss Eda Jacobs, E. E. Wilson and Robert Johnson.

In the vicinity of Monroe all oats that are stored are selling for 34 cents per bushel, and at Junction City feed oats delivered are selling at 37 1/2 cents, with sacks furnished the seller. These are good prices and indicate the scarcity of oats.

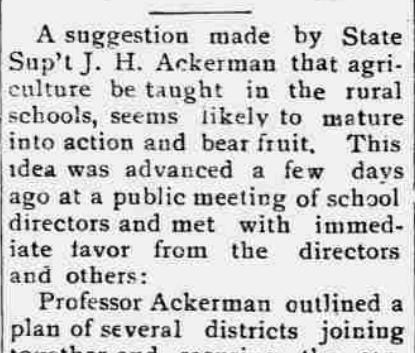
At a meeting, Wednesday evening, the K. O. T. M. elected Norton Adams as a delegate to attend the state convention in Portland on April 5th. A. B. Horning was named as alternate.

There will be quarterly meeting at the First Methodist church, Sunday morning. The presiding elder, Rev. B. F. Rowland, will preach. In the evening the pastor will give the next of the series of Lenten sermons, subject, "My Savior's Anguish."

MAINE POULTRY HOUSE.

A Structure Which is Deservedly Popular Among the Farmers.
In determining the type of fowl house which is apt to best serve its purpose it is always well to bear in mind that, without reference to the climate in which the structure is to be used, it is desirable that it be insulated, thereby enabling the owner to control the ventilation. For that reason the Maine type of henhouse is apt to be pretty close to the right thing. The building shown in the illustration is popular throughout the coldest portions of New England and would be equally valuable in any portion of North America.

It is true that the shingling of the sides entails an expense to which many poultrymen do not feel at first warranted in going, but in the end the plan is a great money saver, as these houses, if the shingles are properly treated before being applied, are practically indestructible. The side of the



AN ECONOMICAL HENHOUSE.

house containing the windows of course faces the south. There is a ventilator in the very peak of the building. This comes down to near the second floor, in the middle of which there is an opening to the first floor. Thus there is always abundance of ventilation without the possibility of drafts. The second floor makes an admirable place in which to store litter, or it may be used as a pigeon loft. The floor of the house proper is of concrete if the building rests on the ground, but if it is elevated, which is the better plan, it is of double boards, with tarred felt between them, thus making it absolutely rat proof. The uses to which such a structure may be put and the variations upon the general plan herewith illustrated are almost without number.

"Try Nature."

According to F. H. S. in Farm Journal (Philadelphia), we should be more inclined to "try nature." He also throws out the following pertinent suggestions:

We should feed fowls so as to preserve them in the best state of health. As fowls become domesticated they are brought within our control and consequently are largely deprived of their natural rights.

As they depend upon us to care for them, it is a self imposed duty to care for them in the best manner possible.

Fowls in a natural state subsist upon food of meager character, and yet they are in a perfect state of health. Food of such nature is what they require.

In winter we cannot of course get green grass for our poultry, but we can do as we do with our cows when grass is out of season—feed them hay.

Late cut rye is just as good as any green food we can get in winter, and a supply should be kept on hand for this purpose. Cut it fine and steam by pouring hot water over it. Let it stand for a few hours, after which mix with the morning mash.

Poultry on a Large Scale.

So far every attempt made in this country to establish a large poultry farm has been met by failure, says Farm Journal (Philadelphia). The extensive and successful plants of today are the outcome of a small beginning and a gradual growth. True, the main cause for failure has been the lack of experience. Men have undertaken work for which they were not qualified.

Another effort is to be made, this time by Charles A. Cypers, a well known expert; B. Holmes, formerly editor of the Poultry Monthly, and others, forming a stock company. The farm is located about twelve miles from Buffalo, N. Y., and comprises 200 acres of land. It is planned to quarter 20,000 layers for market eggs and hatch more than 100,000 head of broilers and roasters a year from 2,000 breeders to be kept for that purpose.

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