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T. L. DUGGER
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

JUST 100 YEARS AGO, to-day, there was born at one of the humblest of Kentucky homes a child who, as a man, was destined to become one of the most prominent factors in the making of the world's history.

When but a child, Mr. Lincoln removed with his parents to Indiana where he grew to manhood. In his young manhood he moved to the then new state of Illinois. Here he assisted his parents in building their new log-cabin home; but in a few months his independence of character and sturdy self reliance caused him to commence doing for himself. Before he took up the study of law, he had been a flatboatman on the Mississippi river, a clerk in a country store and a land surveyor. His love of intellectual pursuits caused him to devote all the time he could spare from earning a livelihood to legal studies and he was soon admitted to practice. He, almost, at once became a successful lawyer in practice.

One of the criminal cases which Mr. Lincoln handled most successfully, was the defense of the son of a widow lady with whom Mr. Lincoln had boarded. The young man was charged with murder. He was somewhat inclined to wildness, yet Mr. Lincoln did not believe he was guilty of the crime charged; nevertheless there were two witnesses who swore, at the trial that they saw the fatal blow struck with a knife and that the moon was shining brightly which enabled them to see plainly and they were very positive in their testimony. In crossquestioning these witnesses Mr. Lincoln caused them to reiterate their statements with positiveness, which caused his client to look most gloomy and the tears to flow from the eyes of the widow. But Lincoln knew what he was about. He knew that he had a hip lock on the prosecution. In his argument to the jury he showed that the moon did not rise for several hours after the time of the alleged murder. This fact caused consternation in the ranks of the prosecution, the gloom to disappear from the face of his client and tears of joy to flow from the eyes of the widow. The jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty in short order." Mr. Lincoln had arrayed against him the best legal talent obtainable. His only remuneration was the gratitude of the widow and her son.

Mr. Lincoln was a member of congress during the pendency of the Mexican war, but his entry into national politics commenced with his celebrated six debates with Judge Stephen A. Douglas when they were each the respective candidate of his party for the United States senate. This canvas was a joint discussion between these two intellectual giants and which attracted the attention of the entire nation. The Democracy was successful and Judge Douglas was returned to the national senate. Just prior to the opening of these debates Mr. Lincoln, in a public speech said: "A house divided against itself must fall; a nation half slave and half free cannot stand." This statement, at once, attracted attention of all who opposed the spread of slavery throughout the nation. Judge Douglas recognized its force and, in the debates, resorted to the sophistry of the skilled debater to drive Mr. Lincoln from his position; but failed to do so. After the campaign was over, it was generally conceded that Mr. Lincoln was the gainer by the contest. It made him the recognized leader of the national anti slavery forces and paved the way to his nomination for the presidency, by the Republican party, two years later.

In the presidential campaign of 1860 Lincoln and Douglas were, again opposing candidates. But as Judge Douglas was the nominee of the Northern wing of the Democracy only, Mr. Lincoln was regarded as a sure winner from the first. Mr. Lincoln had forced Judge Douglas to take such an equivocal position on the slavery question in the Illinois debates, that the South utterly rejected him as a presidential candidate.

The first Democratic convention of 1860 met at Charleston, South Carolina.

This was the last Democratic national convention which has been held in the far South. After the convention had been in session for nearly a week, and failing to agree upon either platform or candidate, the convention agreed to disagree and adjourned. At subsequent conventions, the North nominated Douglas and the South Breckenridge. Still another political party was in the field, that year, each party carrying the electoral vote

of one or more states. The popular vote was: Lincoln, 1,866,452; Douglas, 1,291,574; Breckenridge, 550,882; Bell, 646,124. Lincoln received 180 of the electoral vote, while all of his opposing candidates received but 113.

The political campaign of that year (1860) may, probably, be best described as being "red hot." Men were ready to fight at the drop of the hat and drop it themselves. Brothers and relatives became bitter personal enemies because of difference in political opinions. When the result had become fully known, a monster ratification meeting was held at Springfield, (Lincoln's home) at which there was said to be 20,000 uniformed marchers in column, each bearing a lighted torch. The sight was magnificent.

Mr. Lincoln left his home to go to Washington early in February. Several of the Southern states had already seceded and he seemed to realize the enormous burden he was about to assume. His farewell address to his neighbors, when leaving them was sad and touching; it showed his tenderness and affection for the neighbors with whom he had lived in close touch during all of his mature years. Mayhap he felt a premonition that it was a final farewell to most of them.

Just one act of President Lincoln made him the most conspicuous ruler the world has ever produced. No other ruler, by the simple stroke of a pen has or could convert four million of slaves into a like number of freemen. His statement, made in 1858 "Half slave or half free" was a fact and the day had arrived when, to prevent the government from falling, the slaves must be made free. Either slavery must go down or the nation would fall. African slavery in the United States was doomed, and what hand was more fitting than his to knock the shackles from the bondman? There could be no hand more fitting than his to sign the death warrant of slavery and make this really and truly the land of the freeman.

Probably no one of President Lincoln's public addresses expresses so much feeling and the responsibility of the citizen than his Gettysburg address; certainly no grander sentiment has been pronounced by the tongue of man. It is short and the sentiment so lofty and patriotic, that every school boy should commit it to memory. The address was delivered by President Lincoln at the dedication of the battlefield of Gettysburg as a National cemetery, at Gettysburg, Pa., Nov., 19, 1863 and follows in full:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon 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 battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who gave up their lives that that Nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor 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 to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us here to dedicate 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 those 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 and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

The assassination of President Lincoln occurred on April 14, 1865; at Ford's theater, in Washington, D. C. His death early the following morning. The entire nation mourned the death of the president as that of a personal friend. The writer of this article was a soldier, at Little Rock, Ark., when the sad news was flashed over the telegraph wires. When soldiers, who were accustomed death in almost every form are caused to weep, there is something more than mere sentiment which affects them.

Washington's birthday occurs on February 22; Lincoln's on the 12th and the anniversary of the admission of Oregon on the 14. Could not these three most important events be celebrated on the same day? All three events could be celebrated on "Oregon Day," February 14; and the day made a legal holiday;

[This article has been written mainly, for the benefit of our school boy and girl readers; though our adult readers, of course, are not barred from reading it. Our school histories do not give such minute data.]

The twenty-fifth session of the Oregon legislature is destined to go down in history as the "more" legislature. The word "more" is synonymous, or very closely allied with the word "graft." The only saving grace for our law-makers is the fact that they do not appear to be securing any of the "more" or "graft" for themselves. It is, always, for some individual constituent, in the way of increase of salary. There is an implied agreement between the officeholder and his constituency, that he will perform certain duties for a stipulated salary. Plainly, the people would violate the implied contract if they attempted to reduce the salary during the life of the contract, and the officeholder is no less guilty if he schemes to have it raised. Nor does the legislature have any moral right to interfere in the matter for either party. It is a poor rule which will not work both ways.

BILLS PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES.

Trial by jury after default in damage suits.

Salaries for Constables and Justice at Seaside.

In criminal cases judgment to be lien from date.

For re-ewal of judgment every 10 years.

For registration of voters temporarily out of the state.

Bank deposits not drawn upon for seven years to be paid to the state Treasury.

Hotels and lodging-houses to have fire escapes.

Hotels and logging-houses to have nine foot sheets.

Salary of clerk of Curry county.

Salary of Recorder of Union county.

Additional salary of Circuit Judge in Baker county.

School Boards may refund indebtedness.

For distribution of session laws and journals.

For punishment of highway robbery.

Authority of real estate agent must be in writing.

Salary of School Superintendent in Polk county (over Governor's veto).

Salary of School Superintendant of Clatsop county.

Salary of School Superintendant in Morrow county (over Governor's veto).

Clerical assistance for assessor, Columbia county.

Salary of School superintendant in Yamhill county (over Governor's veto).

Dying declaration admissible in civil cases.

Fixing terms of court in ninth district.

Salary of School Superintendent in Sherman county (over Governor's veto).

Governing paymen of legacies.

Assistance for Assessor of Clatsop county.

Exemption of earnings of judgment debtors.

Administratrix Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the county court of Linn County, Oregon, administratrix of the estate of M. W. Miller, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same to the undersigned at her residence about five miles South West of Scio, Oregon, duly verified and with proper vouchers, as in law required, within six months from the date of this notice.

Dated this 21st day of January, 1909.

ALICE M. MILLER,
Administratrix.

L. L. Swan, Attorney for Administratrix.

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T. J. DANNEN, Agent,
West Scio

Wm. McMurray
General Passenger Agent
PORTLAND, OREGON

Rummage

Sale.

We will have on sale, commencing Monday, February 8, the odds and ends left from our Clearance Sale, such as short lengths in Calicoes, Dress Goods, Gingham, Muslins, Towling, Outing Flannels. Odds and odd sizes in ladies' and gents' ready made garments, and other things too numerous to mention.

These odds and ends will all be placed on bargain counters that have been especially arranged for them, and each article will be marked in good plain figures

Our Clearance Sale, which was our Sixth Annual Clearance Sale, was the most successful sale we ever had; more goods sold than ever before which has left our shelves almost bare, but in good shape to receive our large Spring stock that will be here in a few days.

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