

THE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF LINCOLN, THE MISSION OF WHOSE LIFE GIVES GREATER PROMISE

ANECDOTES REVEAL MAN.

Lincoln's Own Stories and Those Told About Him.

The centenary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, on February 12, comes at a period in the history of the country when, apparently, there is greater promise than ever of a fulfilment of the mission of the life of the Great Emancipator. When Lincoln's tired hand slowly wrote the words that struck off the shackles from millions of negroes he opened the door to an emancipation of the mind as well as of the body of millions of people. Charles Darwin, the great scientist, who was, coincidentally, born on the same day in the home of a physician at Shrewsbury, England, enunciated the theory of an evolutionary development from a lower to a higher form of life. Lincoln, with a stroke of his pen, gave to a race the privilege and opportunity of



SAID TO BE LINCOLN'S TRUEST PORTRAIT. This picture, taken in 1861, is counted by many as his most characteristic photograph.



"WILLIE" LINCOLN, WHO DIED IN THE WHITE HOUSE. The death of this loved son occurred at the time President Lincoln was being urged to present a plan of compensated emancipation, and it caused a cessation of the pleas for action.

win the affection and allegiance of all classes; also whose sympathetic interest in the problems of the South will go far toward completing the healing processes which doubtless would have been carried well forward by the continued life of Lincoln.

Like Lincoln, Mr. Taft possesses a broad grasp of national conditions and is firm in his convictions; a lover of justice and of the common people, sympathetic and approachable. Lincoln's arguments were the arguments of the sunshine. Without irritating he won people to his point of view. Mr. Taft is sometimes called the Great Pacificator. He also brings warring factions to peace through the geniality of his temperament. And Mr. Taft has shown a desire to continue Lincoln's work of emancipation by doing something to make more general educational opportunities for the negro. In his speech before the North Carolina Society in this city he pointed out that primary and industrial education for the masses of the negro race would be one of the greatest factors in eliminating the race question, and declared that he believed that the growing interest of the Southern whites in the development of the negro was one of the most encouraging reasons for believing that the problem would be solved. This was a forward step. Lincoln and Taft may be unlike physically, but they have not a few points in common.

Even if Lincoln had never become the great war President, it is probable that anecdotes regarding him would still be floating about the section of the country in which he travelled as an itinerant lawyer, for his physical and mental prowess and his ability in pointing a moral

and adorning a tale with illustrations from the picturesque scenes with which frontier life teemed were such as to make him a marked and much quoted man. The dramatic unfolding of his life, begun in a pioneer's cabin and terminated in the White House, not only has supplied many stories, but has served to preserve and nationalize them.

Lincoln himself helped to keep alive anecdotes of his youth by occasionally drawing upon that period of his life for a story. One of these which has been preserved in this way is that of how he got his first dollar.

When Lincoln was seven years old his father moved from Kentucky to Indiana. He settled near Little Pigeon Creek, about fifteen miles north of the Ohio River, in the middle of a dense forest. As Abraham grew older he became a lad of all work and a useful adjunct to the neighborhood, for his services could be hired for 25 cents a day, paid to his father. He became hostler, ploughman, wood chopper and carpenter and assistant to the women folk in doing their chores. According to stories still told, he was ready to carry water, make the fire and tend the baby.

A few miles from Gentryville, in whose neighborhood Thomas Lincoln lived, Anderson Creek flowed southward into the Ohio River. In 1826, when he was seventeen years old, Abraham added to his other accomplishments that of ferryman on the Ohio at the mouth of Anderson Creek. This experience opened new possibilities to him, and he became ambitious to try the river as a boatman and float some produce down to New Orleans. It was through this pro-



SAID TO BE LINCOLN. This picture was made about 1849, and shows



LAW OFFICE OF LINCOLN. He occupied the front room in the



LINCOLN'S FIRST HOME IN ILLINOIS. In this house he was living when he became of age. The place was called Gooseneck Prairie, and was near Farmington. Thomas Lincoln, his father, died here.



MOUTH OF ANDERSON CREEK. As a ferryman at this point, at the age of