

# PERSONAL SIDE of LINCOLN

**W**HEN Lincoln lived in Springfield, Ill., and practiced law, he worked hard by fits and starts, and gave a considerable portion of his office hours to newspapers, story-swapping, poetry, history, geometry—anything but work. His house was near his office, but if it be true that "home is the other person," his home was not a place to turn to with glad relief when the time came to put on his rickety plug hat and leave the office.

Lincoln generally got to the office in the morning at 9 o'clock, and when it was later, Herndon, his partner, knew there had been trouble at home, for Lincoln then had no cheerful morning greeting, only a grunt, as he fell wolfishly upon the morning's mail. He might have lunched, easily enough, at home, but he preferred crackers and cheese at the office, and often stayed there until after dark.

Sometimes he would "knock off" in the late afternoon and clean out the stable and saw wood, feed the horse and milk the cow. He had a passion for "chores" of his boyhood days on his father's pitiful acres. He was his own hired man until and even after his election as president. At midnight a neighbor saw him once chopping wood for his supper when his wife was away.

In the evening, having no club, Lincoln would ordinarily go to the grocery store and spellbind the cracker box habitues with some more of his everlasting anecdotes—only two of which, he insisted, were his own invention. If a minstrel show came to town he was sure to be a front-row, first-night patron, and, next to blackface comedy, he was enamored of "magic-lantern" entertainments. He had a passion for probing into the mysteries of anything mechanical, and if he were alive today the automobile would have given him great joy.

When circuit riding in the ante-railway days he would utilize the rest of the noon hour after luncheon at some wayside farmhouse in crawling under and prowling over the harvest machinery, as full of questions as a schoolboy, more insatiably curious than any of Eve's daughters. As he walked the streets of Springfield every vehicle he saw interested him, and the interior economy of the kitchen clock pleased him unutterably.

In the house he spent most of his time indulging his children, playing with the cat, like Montaigne, or lying sprawled out, like Caliban, on the floor of the hall reading. He didn't like the parlor, because the haircloth chairs and marble table, the wax flowers under a glass bell, the portrait album and the family Bible, with their gait glass clasps, represented Mrs. Lincoln's ideas of magnificence and not his own notion of solid comfort. He would be in his shirt sleeves, and if loud knocking at the front door disturbed his elegant leisure he would go to the door just as he was and promise to "trot the women folks out" without delay. Mrs. Lincoln never forgave him for helping himself to butter at the table with his own knife.

Lincoln's favorite outer garb as he sallied forth in winter for his office was an ancient gray shawl; he took particular pains never to have his hat brushed or his shoes blacked; his carpet bag threatened at the seams to disgorge its burthen of legal documents; his green cotton umbrella had no handle to speak of, and inside was the legend, "A. Lincoln," the letters cut out of white muslin and sewed to the faded cloth. Altogether he looked like the advance agent of a Denman Thompson show. In 1856 a pair of spectacles cost him thirty-seven and one-half cents.

The office was in character with the notorious indifference to appearances of the senior partner of the firm. Once a young law student attempted to blaze a trail through the accumulated rubbish, and found that some seeds given by a congressman had taken root and sprouted in the dirt.

The mailbox was Lincoln's old plug hat, as was formerly the case when he was postmaster at New Salem. He also used the hat as a repository for legal papers of importance. Miscellaneous transactions were confided to the safekeeping of a mammoth envelope, on which Lincoln had scrawled, "When you can't find it anywhere else, look into this."

When Lincoln went into court there was none of the see-the-conquering-hero swagger about him. He would say, "Well, here I am, ain't you glad to see me?" and if in the course of the argument it was necessary for him to concede a point to the other side he would remark, "I reckon it would be fair to let in that," and when overruled by the court would laugh and say, "Well, I reckon I must be wrong."

When a lawyer asked him if an attachment had the force of a summons his confession of ignorance was cheerfully frank, "Damnfo." On a long palavering letter requesting his legal service he wrote laconically, "Count me in. A. Lincoln."

The accounts of the firm never bothered him—he left all that to Herndon. He never disfigured the account book himself with a reckoning. When anybody gave him money for legal services he would divide with Herndon, if the latter was in the office, and when Herndon was not there he would wrap the money up in a piece of paper, mark it in pencil, "Case of Smith vs. Jones—Herndon's half," and leave it in a drawer of his partner's desk.

When they made him president and he was just about to take the train for Washington he went to the old office for the last time and found Herndon there



"Billy," he said, "you and I have been together for more than 20 years, and in all that time we've never had a hard word. Will you let my name stay on the old sign till I get back from Washington?"

The tears came into Herndon's eyes. He took the bony, prehensile hand of the "rail splitter" in his own.

"Abe," he said, "I'll never have another partner while you live," and until the day of Lincoln's assassination the dinky "shingle" before the office bore the name "Lincoln & Herndon."

On January 9, 1863, with the aftermath of Fredricksburg on his hands, and the mooted appointment of Hooker to chief command and a thousand and one other things obsessing his mind and his heart, Lincoln telegraphed his wife at Philadelphia:

"Mrs. Lincoln, Philadelphia, Pa.  
"Think you had better put Tad's pistol away. I had an ugly dream about him."

"A. LINCOLN."  
In August of the same year, the month after the surrender of Vicksburg, we find Lincoln writing to his wife:

"Tell dear Tad poor 'Nanny Goat' is lost, and Mrs. Cutbert and I are in distress about it. The day you left Nanny was found resting herself and chewing her little cud on the middle of Tad's bed; but now she's gone! The gardener kept complaining that she destroyed the flowers, till it was concluded to bring her down to the White House. This was done, and the second day she had disappeared, and has not been heard of since. This is the last we know of poor Nanny."

The next year there were two goats, and Lincoln incurred the cordial displeasure of his entourage by his fondness for the society of these animals.

It seemed to be Lincoln's peculiar misfortune to be surrounded most of the time by people who knew not the meaning of the expression, "The saving sense of humor." The mere hint of an appropriate parable, or a quotation from Artemus Ward, was enough to excite Secretary Stanton.

Senator Wade strode in one day like a rotary snowplow and wanted Grant dismissed. Grant had been winning victories, sleeping on the ground with no overcoat or blanket and with a toothbrush for his entire baggage. Halleck and McClellan had had him arrested for "drunkenness;" Lincoln had often been asked to remove him, and had replied, "I can't spare that man; he fights."

So when Wade came in with the demand that Grant should be deposed Lincoln caught eagerly at a chance remark of the irate and pompous senator and said, "Senator, that reminds me of a story."

"Yes, yes," retorted Wade, "of course; with you it's always a story! You are the father of every military blunder that has been made during the war. You are on your road to hell, sir, with this government, by your obstinacy; and you are not a mile off this minute."

"Senator," said Lincoln very mildly, "that is just about the distance from here to the Capitol isn't it?"

Wade, in speechless indignation, to use Lincoln's words, "grabbed up his hat and cane and went away."

Secretary Chase's ambition to supplant Lincoln in the presidential chair did not worry Lincoln half so much as it did the Job's comforters who surrounded him. To one of these Lincoln said, "You were brought up as a farmer, weren't you? Then you know what a chinly is. My brother and I were once plowing corn on a farm. I driving the horse and he holding the plow. The horse was lazy, but on one occasion rushed across the fields so that I, with my long legs, could scarcely keep pace with him. On reaching the end of the furrow I found an enormous chindly fastened upon him and knocked him off. My brother asked me what I did that for. I told him I didn't want the old horse bitten in that way. 'Why,' said my brother, 'that's all that made him go.' Now, if Mr. Chase has a presidential chinly biting him I am not going to knock him off if it will only make his department go."

Edward Dicey, in the Spectator, gives the impression made by Lincoln's outward appearance on the mind of a typical cultivated Englishman. "To say that he is ugly is nothing; to add that his figure is grotesque is to convey no adequate impression. Fancy a man 6 feet high and thin, bony arms and legs, which, somehow, seem to be always in the way, with large rugged hands which grasp you like a vice when shaking yours, with a long, scraggy neck, and a chest too narrow for the great arms hanging by his side; add to this figure a head, cocoon-shaped and somewhat too small for such a stature, covered with rough, uncombed and uncombable lank, dark hair, that stands out in every direction at once; a face furrowed, wrinkled and indented as though it had been scarred by vitriol; a high narrow forehead, and sunk deep beneath bushy eyebrows, two bright, somewhat dreamy eyes, that seemed to gaze through you without looking at you; a few irregular blotches of black, bristly hair in the place where beard and whiskers ought to grow; a close set, thin lipped stern mouth, with two rows of large white teeth; and a nose and ears which have been taken by mistake from a head of twice the size. Clothe this figure, then, in a long, tight, badly fitting suit of black, creased, soiled and puckered up at every salient point of the figure—and every point of this figure is salient—put on large, ill-fitting boots, gloves too long for the long bony fingers, and a fluffy hat, covered to the top with dusty, puffy traps; and then add to all this an air of strength, physical as well as moral, and a strange look of dignity coupled with all this grotesqueness, and you will have the impression left upon me by Abraham Lincoln. You would never say he was a gentleman. You would still less say he was not one—there are men to whom the epithet 'gentleman' appears to be incongruous, and of such the president is one. Still there is about him a complete lack of pretension, and an evident desire to be courteous to everybody, which is the essence of the outward form of high breeding. There is a softness, too, about his smile, and a sparkle of dry humor about his eye, which redeem the expression of his face and remind one more of the late Dr. Arnold, as a child's recollection recalls him to me, than any other face I can recall to memory."

He is a humorist, not a buffoon.

## BANKERS FIGHT THE SCOTT BILL

MEASURE CREATES A FUND TO GUARANTEE STATE BANK DEPOSITS.

## BERRY IS CLERK OF HOUSE

He Succeeds Colonel Stone Who Retires to Become Collector of Income Tax—Anti-Railroad Pass Bill is Reported Favorably—Honor Paid Goebel's Memory.

(By Ernest W. Helm.)  
Frankfort.—Bankers from all parts of Kentucky appeared before the senate to protest against the passage of the R. S. Scott bill to create a fund to guarantee state bank deposits. The bill contemplates raising the necessary fund by the collection of an assessment of one fourth of 1 per cent. on deposits placed in banks. The bankers are fighting the measure on the grounds that it is unfavorable from an economical view point, and that it is inequitable at this time. They say it will place an unfair burden on the state banks. The bill will tend to cause "wildcat" banking, they claim. Senator Scott, author of the measure, declared that an identical law had been in operation for five years in Texas, and that there have been only three bank failures in that time.

## Clerk of House Resigns.

J. E. Stone, clerk of the Kentucky House of representatives, has tendered his resignation in order that he may take up the duties of collector of income tax in Kentucky, to which office he recently was appointed upon recommendation of Senator Ollie M. James. Gov. McCreary appointed Mr. Stone aide de camp on his staff with rank of colonel. He first accepted a position in the house in 1876, a year after Gov. McCreary's first inauguration. Eli Berry, of Owensboro, was elected to succeed Col. Stone.

## Honor Paid Goebel's Memory.

With the fourteenth anniversary of the death of former Gov. William Goebel, the legislature adjourned for one day as a tribute to his memory. The anti-railroad pass bill was reported favorably and the Finn railroad bill has a good chance to pass, it is said. The committee on revenue and taxation decided to report favorably the bill increasing the state license for saloons from \$200 to \$300 a year. The same committee will report favorably the Hatcher uniform accounting bill.

## Smith Bill is Adopted.

Representative Smith's bill, making the securing of property or credit by false statements a felony, was adopted by a vote of 70 to 1. The bills reported favorably include the measure providing for election of senators by popular vote, amending the state primary law, senate bill requiring state employes to furnish itemized expense account, authorizing state banks to own stock in Federal reserve banks. Representative Stone's two-centure bill was reported favorably by the committee, several of the members refusing to sign the report. The committee's action was concurred in.

## Road Work Act Sent Back.

The proposal for a constitutional amendment, providing for convicts to work on the public roads, was defeated in the house by a vote of 40 to 39. It was recommended to the committee on constitutional amendments. The bill providing for the state text-book commission was recommended to the education committee at the suggestion of its author, Representative J. C. Duffy. The purpose of the recommendation is to make certain amendments that will include the cities in the uniform school-book act.

## Pension Act is Amended.

The confederate pension act was amended so that soldiers who took oath of allegiance under duress and widows of soldiers who married before 1890 are entitled to pensions under the act. The bill passed by a vote of 56 to 24.

## New Senate Bills.

- W. W. Boyles—To amend Criminal Code so as to require prompt trials—Codes and Legal Procedure.
- W. W. Boyles—To regulate the introduction of expert testimony in civil and criminal trials—Codes and Legal Procedure.
- W. W. Boyles—Act to amend Criminal Code by limiting number of peremptory challenges—Codes and Legal Procedure.
- J. W. Cray—To provide for sale of franchise for public utilities in cities of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes—Public Utilities.
- W. C. Scott—To regulate and control fraternal benefit societies—Library and Historical Records.
- J. C. Speer (by Request)—To amend law relating to revenue and taxation—Library and Historical Records.
- A. C. Speer (by Request)—To prohibit bill boards within 100 feet of State Capitol—Library and Historical Records.
- J. F. Howarth—To change time of holding court in thirty-fourth judicial district—Judicial Districts and Reorganization.
- W. F. Welch—To prohibit sale, gift or use of cigarettes to or by persons under 21 years of age—Regulation of Intoxicating Liquors.
- C. Holman—To provide for sale of farm attached to Colored State Normal School—Library and Historical Records.
- H. M. Brock—To appropriate money to build highway across Pine Mountain—Appropriations.
- H. M. Brock—To authorize appointment of deputy constables—Federal Relations.

## G. Kelly—To amend act relating to duties of trustees of schools—Education No. 1.

G. Kelly—To amend Section 5 of act entitled "act to amend Chapter 113, Article IV, Kentucky Statutes"—Education No. 1.

G. B. Nichols—Relating to fiscal courts in counties containing cities of second class—County and City Courts.

M. S. Wilson—To provide for employment of competent persons to ascertain fair value of physical properties of common carriers in state—Railroads.

M. S. Wilson—To amend and re-enact law relating to improvement of streets in cities of second class—Municipalities.

Edward Hamilton—Changing time for session of circuit courts of fourteenth judicial district—Circuit Courts.

W. L. Hampton—To further regulate election—Suffrage and Elections.

J. B. Mount—To amend law in case of required of retail liquor dealers—Revenue and Taxation.

J. T. Welch—To amend law so that in valuing real estate for taxation all purchase money notes that the vendor owns on said land, which is a lien on same, shall be deducted from value thereof, and so that owner shall be assessed only for amount paid on same—Revenue and Taxation.

John Brecher—To amend Section 684 of Civil Code of Practice—Codes of Practice.

John Brecher—For protection of persons engaged in selling law, books, etc.—Agriculture.

Adrian Spahn—To regulate operation of private employment agencies—Commerce and Manufacturing.

Adrian Spahn—Relating to protection of employes on buildings—Municipalities.

Adrian Spahn—To prevent fraud by regulating the keeping of eggs in cold storage—Commerce and Manufacturing.

S. M. Wilson—To amend act for government of cities of first class relating to revenue and taxation—Municipalities.

S. M. Wilson—To amend act relating to revenue and taxation—Revenue and Taxation.

S. M. Wilson—To amend act relating to time in which the enforcement of tax titles and tax liens may be effected—Judiciary.

M. C. Wilson—To regulate conduct of physicians and surgeons by counties or corporations obtaining cost money or number licenses—Municipalities.

H. J. Meyer—To create and establish state board of examiners in accountancy—Kentucky Statutes.

M. C. Wilson—Designating Lincoln's birthplace—Kentucky Statutes.

## Two Marriage Bills.

Representative Price's bill, empowering the governor to grant authority to justices of the peace to solemnize marriages, as amended by Representative Labor, giving all justices the right, was adopted by a unanimous vote. Price, of Covington, favoring the bill, declared it was introduced to break up a marriage trust in some cities. The bill of Representative Spain, making 18 the marriageable age of girls, was the source of considerable merriment, the author declaring "Everybody ought to get married," and that youthful marriages will "help to solve the question of the country's future." Much discussion preceded the measure, which was defeated by a vote of 40 to 31.

## The Finn Bill Under Fire.

Representatives of railroads poured volleys into the bill of Lawrence Finn, chairman of the state railroad commission. This measure is designed to give to the commission power to classify, freight, order safety appliances, fine railroads for failure to furnish cars and provide regulations of rates and service. E. S. Jettett, of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, pronounced this bill the most radical and drastic ever presented, giving to the commission more power than had been given to the Interstate Commerce Commission by Congress. The passage of the bill, Jettett said, would stop railroad building and development in Kentucky.

## Appointments Are Announced.

The following appointments of extra help were announced by Speaker Ferrell: Doorkeepers, James F. Dyer, C. F. Nagel and J. Peterson; guard for gallery, William Spawnt; stenographer to chief clerk, Eli Berry; stenographer for the house, Mrs. Alpha Freeman and Miss Lillian Samples; copyist, Howell Scott; bill clerk, James W. Keel; assistants to bill clerk, Homer Spillman and John M. Calhoun; mail clerks, John Newman and Austin Vest; messenger to speaker, George Wilson; assistant-calling clerk, Miss Maud Applegate; messengers, Joseph McCann and Fred Frost.

## Dry Forces Have Incoming.

The house passed three bills relating to the shipment of intoxicating liquors into dry territory. The first provides that search warrants may be issued in such territory; second, that the penalty for minors selling saloons be repealed; and third, the bill prohibiting the shipment of liquor for sale into local option territory and prohibiting persons from having in possession for sale liquor in local option territory. The third bill is for the purpose of putting into effect the Webb-Kenyon law in Kentucky.

## ASSEMBLY BRIEFS

The dog law was so amended as to provide for the payment of goats as well as sheep killed by dogs.

The statute of Gov. William Goebel, assassinated 14 years ago while the legislature was in session, will be unveiled March 4.

The measure of Representative Polin, providing for registration of the names of farmers and to prevent use of registered names was passed.

Free schoolbooks are provided for in a bill introduced by Representative Kietie, which provides that a license shall be levied to pay for same.

A bill, creating a commission to administer funds for erecting and equipping county buildings, was the first measure of this session to go to the governor for his signature.