

The Great Transgression

By Lula A. Smith

After our Creators had formed heaven and earth, and all therein perfect, they then made man "in our image," instilling within him the principles of God's character, enabling him to appreciate his Master and glorify Him as God wished man to do.

In the Garden of Eden He placed the man He formed out of the dust of the ground, to attend it, where he might behold above, and all around him the handiwork of his Creator, and enjoy the blessings daily provided for his comfort, with no thought of anxiety on his part, enjoying the beauties and harmony existing therein, which God created for his happiness.

Only one command given, "Thou shalt not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." God's test to the man whether he would obey or would worship his Master only, that he might be accounted worthy of Paradise entrusted to his care. But we see the enemy of all souls sees his opportunity, which he never wastes, and in his subtle manner he turns Eve's mind from what her Creator had said and seeks to impress upon her mind the good qualities of this fruit pleasant to the taste and would impart wonderful knowledge to her, and contradicting God's word, "Thou shalt not die," he became triumphant, and caused Eve to fall in transgression, destroying man's happiness, marring his image, dishonoring his God, bringing sin and death on all mankind. Because knowing God as they did, they glorified Him not as their creator nor gave the honor due to Satan causing within them vain reasonings and that wisdom from above was now changed for the wisdom from beneath, darkening their minds, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and has sown the seed among the inhabitants of the earth of confusion, to change the glory of the incorruptible God, for the likeness of things on earth.

Man did not stand the test, but exchanged the love of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature, rather than the Creator, and thus refusing to have God in their knowledge, he gave us all up to a reprobate mind, until the wickedness of man became exceeding great and the imaginations of his heart evil continually. "Because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be." And we cannot please and glorify God in the flesh and the result is death hath passed on all mankind. The result of Eve being tempted, not of God, but through the lust of the flesh, which was not of faith, causing lawlessness to transgress and bring upon mankind the mind of the flesh, from which proceed the whole catalogue of evils existing in the earth, having Satan as the father of them all, for the truth abideth not in him. David said, "If thou Jehovah shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" "For there is no man that sinneth not. All we, like sheep, have gone astray and turned every one to his own way. All are unclean in heart; there is none righteous, no, not one." It has caused man not to understand or seek after God. Since the fall, mankind must tell by the sweat of their brow. The earth cursed, that it yieldeth not its fruit in perfection or quantity. All creation is changed, "and groaneth and travaileth in pain until now." Thus, we see man ruined by the fall and sin fallen on his descendants, God is dishonored, misery, desolation and death are the fruits of sin. Paradise is lost to him "because he was exalted in stature" and his heart lifted up. "I have driven him out for his wickedness." "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; and man hath no pre-eminence above the beasts: for all is vanity. All go unto one place: all are of the dust,

and all turn to dust again." "For the wages of sin is death." "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him. (For the redemption of their life is costly.) And it falleth forever.) That he should still live always, That he should not see corruption, For he shall see it. Wise men die; The fool and the brutish alike perish; And leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is that their houses shall continue forever."

WORN OUT

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NOT FOR LINCOLN.

The citizen was buying a dozen flags at a notion store, when a friend entered and saw what was going on and said:

"That's right, Brown. I got some of those flags myself yesterday. We should make some sort of a display in honor of the day."

"Y-ees," replied Brown in an absent minded way.

"You admired Lincoln, didn't you?"

"Oh, yes."

"Considered him a great man?"

"Yes."

"So did I. Few men could have done as well as none better in his place. How many flags are you going to put out?"

"A dozen or so."

"That will make a good show. Why don't you buy a half-dozen of the lamented president to put in the parlor window?"

"Um! Um! Well, you see—you know—"

"They cost only fifteen cents apiece."

"Yes, I know, but you see this display is not exactly for Lincoln."

"No? But you are not mixing him up with St. Valentine, are you?"

"Oh, no; but you see it happens to be my wife's birthday, too, and it's in her honor. Yes, Mr. Lincoln was a good man and a great man, and I rever to his memory, but—but Mrs. Brown says she's as good as any man ever born, and rather than argue the matter with her I'll hang out the flags in her honor, and let Mr. Lincoln go until sometime next summer, when she goes up to visit her mother. No use having any doors kicked in or windows broken when you can avoid it, you know."

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Lincoln's Mistake.

Henry—Yes, Lincoln was a mighty brainy man. I'll admit, but I never had any use for him.

Helen—Why, how is that?

Henry—He didn't cut down a cherry tree or do any other stunt that would give a fellow a chance to work off jokes on him.

A Warning.

Jack—Yes, I am going to propose to Miss Sweet at the skating rink to-night. She is my only opportunity.

Fred—Then be careful, old fellow, and don't let your opportunity slip.

No Bank Rolls.

Butcher—Is it true you have given up your bakery, Schmidt?

Schmidt—Yah, mine money iss in de mistrust company, not how can I make bread if I can't get mine dough, ain't it?

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New Facts About Lincoln

His Visit to Council Bluffs, the Most Westerly Point He Ever Visited—The War President's Brief Experience as Railroad Lawyer and Real Estate Speculator—His Invention of Device to Help Steamboats Over Snags and His Last Pardon.

New York, Feb. 6.—The one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, which is to be observed on February 12, has brought to light some facts regarding his career which were little known before notwithstanding the many volumes that have been written about him. Two of these comparatively obscure features of his career are brought out by a magazine article in which it is shown that Lincoln was once a corporation lawyer and that he never saw more than a third of the territory of the United States, never having penetrated west of the Missouri river.

According to General Grenville M. Dodge, one of the few men still living who was closely associated with Lincoln before the war between the states, as well as during that struggle, Lincoln's visit to Council Bluffs, the westernmost point in the country that he ever visited, was made in 1859, just fifty years ago. At that time Gen. Dodge was an engineer in the service of the Chicago and Rock Island railroad engaged in work on its line west from Chicago to Council Bluffs. Mr. Lincoln had been one of the legal representatives of the road in some of its litigation and through this connection was induced to purchase some lots at the western terminus of the line. The fact that Lincoln was at one stage of his career a railroad lawyer is not generally known. If he had had to do with the politics of the present day no doubt greater publicity would have been given to the fact and it might have been used against him, but at that time it was not considered anything against a man to serve a corporation.

Lincoln's visit to Council Bluffs was made to inspect the property that he had bought and in this connection an interesting coincidence is brought out by the Appleton writer.

"About this same time," he says, "Clement L. Vallandigham bought property adjoining the lots owned by Mr. Lincoln. The fact that they had neighboring interests in Council Bluffs does not seem to have brought them any closer in their political views, for as is known to all, Mr. Vallandigham in his public speeches during the civil war denounced Mr. Lincoln and the government, was arrested, tried by court martial, and sentenced to close confinement. The president obeying the generous instincts of his big heart, commuted the sentence to banishment into the Confederate lines. Mr. Vallandigham, however, was disappointed with his receipt by the Confederates, and sought refuge in Canada, so that the affairs of the two men apparently never met again.

Mr. Lincoln came from Chicago to St. Joseph, Missouri, by rail, and then proceeded up the Missouri river by steamboat to Council Bluffs. These steamboats were stern wheelers, and so rigged that they could lift themselves by spars over the shallow places and sand bars in the river. We may feel certain that the voyage was of great interest to the traveler, for he himself devised an apparatus for that purpose. Having planned a mechanism of bellows, ropes and pulleys, he made a model of it, sent it to Washington, and a patent was issued, although it is not recorded that the invention was ever utilized.

During Lincoln's visit, some of the citizens of Council Bluffs took him to a high bluff known as Cemetery Hill just north of the town. From this point could be had a view of the country ten miles north and ten miles south, up and down the great Missouri river valley, and across the Missouri river five miles west. He was greatly impressed with the outlook, and the bluff from that time has been known as Lincoln Hill. It is

now in contemplation to place upon the spot where he stood, as a memorial to his visit to Council Bluffs, a suitable monument or tablet bearing a proper inscription and recognizing the historical fact that from here he looked down upon the place where by his order, four years later, the terminus of the first transcontinental railroad was established.

"It is a singular fact that while the United States had spent a great deal of money in exploration for a feasible line for the Pacific railroad, the government never had examined the natural route along the forty-second parallel of latitude. All the surveys had been made and all the data obtained by private citizens connected with the Rock Island Railroad, at the head of which was Henry Farnam of Connecticut. President Lincoln, after going over all the facts that could be presented to him, and from his own knowledge, finally fixed the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad where our surveys determined the proper locality—at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

"After this discussion of the location, he took up with me the question of building the road. The law of 1862 had failed to bring any capital or men to undertake the work, and I said to him that in my opinion private enterprise could not build the road. Mr. Lincoln said that the government had its hands full, and could not assume the task, but was ready to support any company to the fullest legal extent, and amend the law so as to enable such a company to issue securities that would furnish the necessary funds."

While President Lincoln is remembered for his personal interest in the cases of condemned military offenders, there are not a few such which have never been known to the public. One of these General Dodge relates.

"While in command of the department of Missouri," says he, "I daily saw what a kind heart Mr. Lincoln had, how his sympathy went out to everyone in trouble and how his great desire was to save life. The conflict in Missouri was a bitter, personal revengeful one. I remember the day before President Lincoln's assassination a lady came to see me whose son was about to be executed for murder committed as a guerrilla. She had been to Washington to save him, and had seen the president. She brought me Mr. Lincoln's card, on the back of which he had written: 'My Dear General Dodge: Cannot you do something for this lady, who is in much trouble.'

"I understood the case; that, while he would not interfere, he hoped that he could see my way to do so, and he disposed of the lady in that way. The lady, in presenting the case, supposed that card alone would pardon her son, but when I told her I would consider it, she was indignant, and left, no doubt, determined to report me to the president and appeal over my head. That evening President Lincoln was assassinated. All officers holding important commands were notified in the night, so that they could prepare for the excitement that was bound to come. I was especially cautioned to prepare for trouble in Missouri. It was thought the crime would anger the Union men in the state and cause an uprising and acts of revenge upon the rebel sympathizers. I brought into the city of St. Louis such troops as were near, and issued an order suspending all business, warning both sides to remain in their houses, and prohibiting any gathering of crowds on the streets. But found that the southern people were more distressed at the great crime, if possible, than the Union sympathizers. The streets of St. Louis were deserted for two days and there was nothing but sorrow exhibited on both sides.

"The lady called the next day and asked me for the card. She said she desired to keep it as a memento, no doubt giving up all hope for her son, but I did not have it in my heart, after Lincoln's death, to carry out the order of the court, and therefore commuted the sentence to imprisonment."

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First Farmer—I dunno. I can say I ain't gittin' a long well.

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PLEASED WITH THE EVERGLADES

Members of Florida Fruit Lands Co., Amazed at What They Found.

Members of the Florida Fruit Lands company, who recently passed through the city en route to Miami and the Everglades, in which the company purchased 508,000 acres of land in alternate sections, were amazed at the progress made in draining the immense area of land, also at the magnificent character of the soil, which they think will eventually bring millions of dollars to Florida, says the Jacksonville Metropolis.

From now on the company will extensively advertise the lands in all sections of the country, pursuing a thoroughly organized plan of inducing farmers to come to Florida and cultivate the reclaimed lands of the Everglades, and thousands of dollars will be expended in this work alone. Those interested in the Florida Fruit Lands company have ample means to push the gigantic project to success, and will not be sparing in the use of these means.

Expressed Opinions.

As an illustration of the impression made upon the visitors, the names of whom were published in the Metropolis, the following brief interviews are taken from a recent issue of the Miami Metropolis:

"In speaking of their visit here, the gentlemen are most enthusiastic. Mr. E. A. Kellett, of Minneapolis, said to a Metropolis reporter: 'If the people of any state could see and realize the value of the Everglades land, with its inexhaustible soil, wonderful climate, unexcelled location and the forces of the two men who are making development possible, ex-Governors Broward and Jennings, the sale of this tract would be over in less than one week.'

"Mr. D. R. Mosher, of Wichita, Kas., said: 'I came to Florida expecting to find the Everglades one vast swamp of stagnant water. You may imagine my surprise to see swift running rivers and the soil the best I have seen in any state after leaving Missouri.'

"Mr. L. A. Bone, of Wichita, Kas., was most enthusiastic and said: 'In the Everglades, the state of Florida undoubtedly has the possibilities of one of the richest agricultural and fruit districts in the world. Some of your urban and suburban homes are a realization of my most extravagant dreams of fairland, and demonstrate what glories are within the reach of the thousands more who love delightful climate, beautiful scenery, products of the very highest quality and rare hospitality. The Florida East Coast, supplemented by the Everglades, stands unsurpassed in all these. The city of Miami, within the next four months, will be the best advertised and most talked of city in the south through the work of the Florida Fruit Lands company, as it will be talked in every city and hamlet in the United States.'

"Mr. R. A. Lilley, of Kansas City, is of the opinion that Florida, to a nature enthusiast, surpasses the wildest imagination, and predicts that within two years the Everglades will be another Eldorado which will open the eyes of the whole country.

"Mr. Fred L. Hoag, of Sioux City, Ia., says: 'The wonder and beauty of Southern Florida to me is the climate and the fruit. I came here expecting to find an alligator swamp and found a paradise.'

"Mr. James Smith, of Central City, Neb., entertained a similar idea of the Everglades, and said: 'We came here expecting to find a large area of land covered with stagnant water, covered with a thick seam, filled with frogs and alligators, but instead, we found a large body of fresh water, some of which we drank during our stay in the Florida lands. The climate is simply grand, and the soil rich and fertile, growing all kinds of fruits and vegetables.'

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His One Mistake. When the man with the blue goggles on had got through telling a funny story which was laid to President Lincoln, the old veteran spoke up and said: "Gentlemen, I knew President Lincoln personally, and the return of his anniversary always gives me a few solemn hours. I may say that he made me what I am."

"Tell us the story," was chorused.

"I will. At the battle of Cedar Mountain I was only a lieutenant. The captain of my company was killed, the colonel of the regiment went down, and other officers were wounded, and at a critical moment I sprang forward and took command of the regiment. The Confederates were pressing us, but I not only stopped that but regained our position, and then, with a single regiment, held 20,000 at bay for two hours."

"And Mr. Lincoln heard of it?"

"He did, and sent for me to come to Washington. When I arrived he patted me on the back and gave me a colonel's commission."

It was a minute or two before anyone said anything, and then the man with a cast in his left eye observed: "I have always heard that Mr. Lincoln never made a mistake as president, but I now realize that he certainly made at least one."

"In what way," asked the old veteran.

"In not having you cashiered and dismissed from the service at once for not trying to lick the whole rebel army at once and so ending the war two years sooner."

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