

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



BORN FEBRUARY 12, 1809. DIED APRIL 15, 1865.

LINCOLN'S LIFE
AN INSPIRATION

Why He Will for All Time Be Numbered With the Greatest of the Earth.

HERE are characters so great that their memorials are tributes to those who read them. It is so with Abraham Lincoln. To preserve a fame that is undying, the appropriation by congress of \$2,000,000 was needed. As proof of a nation's grateful appreciation it was wise and generous.

We hear much these days of philosophy, most of it not understandable. There are societies that study profoundly and profess to comprehend. These circles are small and the results that they gain are uncertain.

But the philosophy of a life like Lincoln's takes hold upon millions; it abides in the hearts and minds of men; it influences nations; it inspires whole races. In comparison with it what other is worth while?

Born in wretched poverty, an ill-favored child upon whom and whose parents our learned professors would

have frowned, and always poor, he had been numbered with the greatest of the earth.

Never in his lifetime regarded as an orator, he is enrolled among the most gifted pleaders of all ages.

Never educated, never widely read, never a traveler, he is conceded to have been one of the wisest of men.

Never a trained soldier, he commanded in war greater armies than any monarch or general.

Never having had more than local celebrity as a lawyer, he had conceptions of justice that were unknown to distinguished jurists of his time.

Never assuming to be a statesman or an economist, and never until his call to the presidency a successful manager of any enterprise, he became a ruler who will be celebrated forever for wisdom, sagacity and firmness.

Never the author of a verse, he has given us poetry in prose that is imperishable.

The humblest, the least assertive of men, it fell to him in an hour of crushing responsibility as commander-in-chief, by the sovereign stroke of a pen, to put human slavery in the way of extinction.

There is no obscurity in the philosophy of such a life. It touches every human being, high or low, rich or poor, wise or simple, strong or weak. It is the flesh and blood life, the life of struggle, sorrow and achievement. Its lessons are for all.

What have Science, Reason and recdite Theory to offer in place of such a life? Nothing but words, most of them meaningless!

EVER READY TO
DO KINDLY ACT

Concert Singer Tells How Abraham Lincoln Helped to Move Her Piano.

WHEN court was in session in Decatur, Ill., Judge Davis presided. Court week was always looked for with great interest by the people of the county seat. It was customary for the entire bar of the district to follow the court from county to county; but although most of the lawyers traveled to only three or four counties, Judge Davis, Mr. Lincoln, and Leonard Swett went the whole circuit; Davis because he had to, Lincoln because he loved it, and Swett because he loved their company.

It was in court week that my piano arrived in Decatur. The wagon backed up to the steps of the Mason house, where I was staying, but the question how to unload it puzzled the landlord. Just then the court adjourned and a crowd appeared. The men gathered curiously around the wagon that blocked the entrance.

"There is a piano in that box that this woman here wants some one to help unload," explained the landlord. "Who will lend a hand?" A tall gentleman stepped forward, and throwing off a gray Scotch shawl, said, "Come on, Swett, you are the best dressed man."

That was my first meeting with Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Lincoln went into the basement where the landlord had a carpenter shop, and returned with two heavy timbers across his shoulders. With them he made a slide between the wagon and the front doorsteps. He got the piano unloaded, with the assistance of Mr. Linder and Mr. Swett, amid the jokes of the crowd.

Before they had screwed the legs into place, dinner was announced, and the men hurried to the back porch, where there were two tin wash basins, a long roller towel and a coarse comb for the guests.

After dinner Mr. Lincoln superintended the setting up of the piano, and even saw to it that it stood square in the center of the wall space. He received my thanks with a polite bow, and asked, "Do you intend to follow court and give concerts?" The immense relief expressed on his countenance when I assured him that he would not be called upon to move the piano again was very amusing.

"Then may we have one tune before we go?" he asked, and I played "Rosin the Bow," with variations.

Some one shouted: "Come on, boys, the judge will be waiting!" After I had assured them that, if they desired it, I would give my "first and only concert on this circuit" when they returned to the hotel in the evening, the crowd dispersed.

That night I played and sang numerous songs, all of which met with applause. As a finale I sang "He Doeth All Things Well," after which Mr. Lincoln, in a very grave manner, thanked me for the evening's entertainment, and said: "Don't let us spoil that song by any other music to-night." Many times afterward I sang that song for Mr. Lincoln; he was always fond of it.—Mrs. J. M. John's "Personal Recollections."

IS A MONEY-MAKER

Big Increase in Coinage Due to "Buffalo Nickel."

Change Made in Dies for Popular Piece—Director of Mint Surprised That Recasting of Coin Should Excite Newspapers.

Washington. — The new "buffalo nickel" has been a money-maker for Uncle Sam.

The credit side of the big ledger in the treasury department devoted to the accounts of the coinage of nickels and pennies in the various mints of the country shows an increase of almost \$1,000,000, and the new nickel played a prominent part in this increase. This is according to the figures of the annual report that Director of the mint George E. Roberts is now compiling.

The "profit" in the coinage of nickels and pennies for the past fiscal year was \$3,417,667, and that for the year preceding was approximately \$2,500,000. In the fiscal year of 1913 the output of nickels was \$2,861,768.55. In the year before it was \$1,392,188.20, and the increase was due to the coinage of the new pieces, the first of which were issued last February.

"This 'profit' is not really a profit," said Director Roberts the other day. "The proper term is 'seniorage,' and it represents the value of the issue over the cost of the metal."

A new issue of coins has to be run for 25 years before any of the administrative officials can make a change. This is provided by law. Congress



George E. Roberts.

may order a new coin whenever it sees fit, but unless the lawmakers order differently the "buffalo nickel" will continue to be coined for the next quarter century.

Mr. Roberts was surprised at the prominence that the newspapers of the country have given recently to the fact that a change has been made in the dies of the "buffalo nickel."

"The coin is slightly different now from what it was when it first appeared," said Director Roberts, taking up two nickels that lay on his desk.

"This is the coin of the first issue that appeared last February. It was made first in New York. The die was made under the supervision of J. E. Fraser, the artist who designed the coin. When it came out we saw that the outlines of the coin were not as distinct as they might be. Particularly the lettering in the words, 'five cents,' under the buffalo, was a trifle hazy, and there were certain other places that were not clear cut.

"We were much pleased with the coin, and felt an indisposition to make any change, but at the same time we felt that some changes might be practical.

"So we set the die cutters in the mint to work making the lettering a little more distinct. You can see the difference if you look closely," he said, taking up the second of the coins. "All of the lettering is more clearly cut and even some of the lines in the buffalo and the background were brought out more distinctly.

"But this is not 'news,' it's history, and I'm surprised that the papers should have taken it up at this time. The recutting of the dies was done in April, and the new coins have been coined ever since as you see them now."

Uncle Sam now has under his possession exactly 8,000 islands, supporting a population of 10,000,000, or more than the entire United States a century ago, according to a report just received by the National Geographic society. It tells the story of the remarkable development of those islands since the American flag was unfurled over them.

The report shows their commerce exceeds \$300,000,000, or more than that of the United States in any year prior to 1850; American capital invested in them aggregate approximately \$400,000,000; they ship to the United States \$100,000,000 of their products every year, and take in exchange products of about equal value.

The feature of the report is the development of Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Alaskan islands. It shows when Porto Rico came under American possession 15 years ago there was but one building in the island erected for school purposes, while today there are 1,200 such buildings. There were 25,000 pupils enrolled in the public schools in the first year of American

administration, now there are 175,000. Then there was but one good road of 40 miles; now there are about 1,000 miles of good roads. Production of sugar has grown from 65,000 tons a year to 365,000. The foreign commerce was about \$25,000,000 a year; now it is nearly \$100,000,000. Then the island bought about \$2,500,000 worth of American products a year; now nearly \$40,000,000.

According to the report, Hawaii has been extremely prosperous since it came permanently under the American flag in 1900. The assessed value of property increased one-half, the value of the sugar crop more than doubled, deposits in banks trebled and in savings banks quadrupled. Hawaii's irrigation system is the marvel of the engineering world, and the quantity of sugar produced per acre far exceeds that of any other spot on the globe.

"The Alaskan islands and mainland," says the report, "cost us \$7,500,000, an expenditure that many believed to be quite unjustifiable, yet for many years the annual value of the sealskins alone approximated the cost of the entire area, while at present the value of the canned salmon sent us from Alaska in a single year is twice as much as the entire possession cost."

Only 27 per cent. of the tillable land of the United States is actually under cultivation, according to estimates of the department of agriculture, based upon reports of 35,000 correspondents. These reports were obtained in order to gain information as to the tillable area of the United States, the amount of land that cannot be used for crops that have to be plowed, but available for pasture or fruits, and the total number of acres that never can be used for agricultural purposes. From the returns, which were generally very consistent, preliminary estimates have been made for each state and for the United States. Further investigation in the far western states may modify somewhat the present estimate for those states.

The entire United States, excluding foreign possessions, contains about 1,900,000,000 acres. Of this area about 60 per cent. or 1,140,000,000 acres is estimated to be tillable, that is capable of being brought under cultivation by means of the plow. This includes land already under such cultivation and that which in the future may be brought under cultivation by clearing, drainage, irrigation, etc.

Three hundred and sixty-one million acres or 19 per cent. are estimated to be of no use for agriculture present or future. According to the census of 1909 the land area in crops where acreage was given was 311,000,000 acres. This is about 16 per cent. of the total land area or about 27 per cent. of the estimated potential tillable area of the United States, excluding foreign possessions.

In other words, for every 100 acres that are now tilled, about 375 acres may be tilled when the country is fully developed. In the development of the agriculture of the country the land which was most easily brought into a state of cultivation as the great Mississippi valley, was the first to be brought into such use. Extension of tilled area will be at greater expense for clearing, drainage, irrigation, etc. The increased production of the future will be the result of increased yields per acre as well as extension of area.

A vocational guidance bureau which will assist school children and other persons to obtain the employment to which they are best adapted has been established in Washington. Experts will analyze the temperament and capabilities of applicants and advise them as to the calling in which they are likely to succeed. An employment office, operated in connection with the bureau and supported by employers throughout the country, then will find jobs for the applicants in the callings suggested.

This work, which has been founded by a local body of philanthropists, is expected to aid particularly young persons who lack definite aims and parental advice, older persons who are "drifting without getting anywhere" in callings to which, perhaps, they are unsuited, and such "down and outs" as desire to start over again.

Gustave Blumenthal has been engaged as the bureau analyst. He will "size up" the character and attainments of the applicant, who will be required to furnish minute information concerning his education, tastes, attainments and experience. When the analyst determines what calling would afford the best opportunities for the applicant the case will be referred to a board of counselors who are business and professional men and women.

The counselor representing the calling designated by the analyst will judge the applicant and his chances of making good. If the judgment is favorable the applicant will be returned to the bureau with an indorsement and the employment office then will find him a job.

When the applicant obtains employment he will become the subject of the bureau's follow-up system of reports. If he makes good the bureau will be through with him. If he fails to progress the bureau will re-examine him and endeavor to start him along more successful lines.

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