

**JEFFERSON DAVIS**  
AND  
**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

---

**MILDRED RUTHERFORD**

*Compliments of the Author -*

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2010 with funding from

The Institute of Museum and Library Services through an Indiana State Library LSTA Grant

# JEFFERSON DAVIS

The President of the Confederate States

· AND

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The President of the United States

1861-1865

— BY —

Mildred Lewis Rutherford

Athens, Ga.

State Historian Georgia Division, U. D. C.

---

“Be just and fear not.  
Let all thou aimest at be the truth.”

---

1916

*"The time has come when men may speak freely, kindly, and truly of the past. The War Between the States, with its sacrifices, has ceased, and peace between the sections with its ennobling, refining and uplifting influences, has come to abide forever. They who would stay its marches and delay its reign are the enemies of the Nation's happiness."*

BENNETT H. YOUNG, U. C. V.,  
Louisville, Ky.

---

## INTRODUCTION

Mothers and teachers are urging the Historian General to suggest histories for the true life of Jefferson Davis and of Abraham Lincoln, saying that the children in the schools today are getting distorted facts concerning both and when urged to write essays about these two men cannot find the right kind of reference books at home or in the school and public libraries.

Complaints are coming that the teachers in our schools, many of them men and women of Southern birth, are teaching that Abraham Lincoln was "a greater man, a man of more exalted purpose than was Jefferson Davis, and that the cause for which Davis stood was an unworthy cause."

They make a plea that something shall be done and done quickly to meet the needs of the hour.

In the cause of TRUTH, then, these sketches are prepared with the hope of undoing much of the evil already done, and with the hope of presenting these two leaders in a simple, truthful way so that they may be known and appreciated by even the youngest child in our schools.

Many things not needful to know or discuss, because children cannot understand them, have been omitted, and only salient facts presented. That young people may be interested, anecdotes of childhood, as far as possible, have been collected, also the public life and services of the two men to the United States Government have been stressed on account of Essay Contest U. D. C.

# THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Born June 3, 1808. Died Dec. 6, 1889.

Three Davis brothers left their homes in Wales and came to America and settled in Philadelphia. Evan Davis came to Georgia and married a widow, Mrs. Emory, with two sons. By this marriage there was an only child named Samuel.

The Revolutionary War was in progress when Samuel reached the age of fifteen, and his mother sent him very often over the line into South Carolina to take food and clothing to his half-brothers serving in the American Army. The young boy became so infatuated with army life that he begged to be allowed to join his brothers in camp, and was permitted later to raise a company of infantry and, young as he was, he was made captain.

He led this company to Savannah and gained honors for himself in rendering aid to the Americans against the British. When the War ended and he returned to his home he found his mother had died, the home a wreck, all buildings burned, fences and crops destroyed. He then moved near Augusta, Ga., and began life as a farmer.

When a soldier in South Carolina he had stopped one day on a march to ask for food at the home of pretty Jane Cook, and he never forgot the charms of that young hostess.

As soon as the War ended and he had a home of his own he returned to ask her to be his wife. She was Scotch-Irish, and he was Welsh, so no better blood could be united. He was handsome with a well developed body and a very active mind; she was very beautiful, intelligent and full of life.

The home life was happy and congenial, and many children came into the home nest. Samuel Davis found it now much harder to provide for many than few, so he left his Georgia farm to seek life in the new State of Kentucky, because it gave better promise of a living for his family.

He settled in Christian County, now known as Todd County, and where Fairview is today was the modest home of Samuel Davis. He planted tobacco and began to raise fine-blooded horses and succeeded admirably well.

It was at this Kentucky home that Jefferson Davis, the

youngest of ten children, five boys and five girls, was born June 3, 1808. The names of the boys were Joseph E., who became a lawyer, and lived at "Hurricane Plantation"; Benjamin, a physician, beloved and pious; Samuel and Isaac, both planters; and Jefferson, the youngest child. The names of the girls were Anne, Lucinda, Amanda and Mary, called Polly.

For some reason the family moved later to Bayou Têche, Louisiana, but this place proved unhealthy, and another move became necessary, so a farm was bought near Woodville, Mississippi. The sport was fine for the Davis boys. They shot bear, deer, wild game of all kinds, and found fish to be abundant there.

The near-by school was kept in a log cabin, and the teacher knew little beyond "the three R's— readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic." This was Jefferson Davis' first school, going at the early age of five with his sister Polly, only two years older. The two little children had to go every day through a lonely wood, carrying the little dinner basket between them. One day a noise in the bushes made Polly believe the "old drunken chair-mender" was after them, and she was trembling from fright. Little Jefferson, with brotherly pride, while his little body also trembled, said, "We must'nt run, Polly. Don't be afraid, I'll protect you."

It was not the chair-mender after all, but a great wild deer with branching horns, that gazed at the children for a few moments, then bounded away and was lost in the forest.

Little things sometimes lead to great resolves. Little Jefferson overheard two of his sisters talking one day. Amanda said, "Jeff is so little he'll never amount to a thing in this world." Polly said, "Yes, he is little, but he is such a dear boy." Jefferson then and there determined to learn how to wrestle so that he would grow big and do something worthy of Polly's love.

The War of 1812 was on and three of the brothers joined Andrew Jackson's army. The other brothers took care of the home affairs and, realizing that Jefferson could get no education worth while at such a school, begged that he be sent to St. Thomas, a Roman Catholic school somewhere in Kentucky. They were obliged to slip him away from his mother for she could not abide the thought of separation from her baby boy.

There were no stage coaches, no railroads and no steamboats to take him in that direction, so he had to go on horseback. This, however, was no hardship for, as soon almost as he could walk, he had learned to ride horseback—as all Southern boys

did. Major Hinds was taking his son Howell to the same school, so together the two little boys rode side by side for several weeks, camping at night or stopping at Indian "Stands" as they were called.

Jefferson was the youngest boy in the school, but the Dominican priests were very kind to him, and one of them took him into his own room and into his own bed. There were mischievous boys in this school, as there are in all schools, so these boys planned a trick on this priest, because they did not like him, and persuaded little Jefferson to blow out the light so that they could enter the priest's room in darkness. The trick was successful and the priest felt that Jefferson must know who the boys were, and attempted to force him to tell on them. Jefferson would not do it, even when carried to the loft and strapped to a frame to be whipped in order to force confession. "If you will tell," said the priest, "I will not punish you." "I know one thing," said Jefferson, "I know who it was that blew out the light." "Tell me that then," said the priest, "and you shall not be punished." "It was I," and the little fellow said this so boldly that it amused the priest, and he unstrapped him and let him go unwhipped.

He stayed at school two years, and grew very much and looked very different from the slender lad of seven, for he was taller and stronger every way. His father then decided that he should be put at Jefferson Academy near home, so sent for him to return. Little Jefferson determined to play a joke upon his mother, by pretending that he was a stranger. He approached the house and seeing her standing in the doorway he called to her in a very careless way, "Good morning, Madam, have you seen any stray horses around here?" His mother looked at him closely, then recognizing him, folded him in her arms and said, "No—no stray horses but I see a little stray boy." She was so glad to see him, and when this greeting was over, he bounded off to the fields to find his father.

When spring time came, Jefferson had the spring fever—or rather "school fever," so common to growing children—and said he didn't want to go to school. "All right," said his father, "every one about this place must work either with the hands or with the head. I need some hands on the farm, so I will give you some work to do." The next day he went into the field with the negro hands. It was so hot and he became so tired that he decided to go back to school, to study harder and to complain less.

At twelve years of age, he entered Transylvania College, Ky. Here, "he was considered the brightest and most intelligent of all the boys as well as the bravest and handsomest." He was always noted for respect to his professors, and his teachers all acknowledged that Jefferson Davis was "the most polite boy in college." While "brimful of buoyant spirit" he was no violator of rules, and was at all times gentle and refined.

His next move was to West Point to receive his military training. His father had died while he was at Transylvania College, and he grieved greatly over his death, and never even in after life could read one of his father's letters without being choked with sobs.

The discipline at West Point was very rigid, but there he distinguished himself "for his manly bearing and high-toned, lofty character." He was not very studious, however, for, out of a class of thirty-three, he stood twenty-third, and yet he was the only one of his class whose name has come down in history as famous. He saved every month part of the money paid him for expenses and sent this money to his mother.

It was at West Point he studied Rawle's "View of the Constitution," which taught him that if a State seceded—showing that it was an acknowledged fact by the Constitution that a State had the right to secede—the duty of a soldier reverted to his State—hence Davis, Robert E. Lee, Thomas J. Jackson, the Johnstons and others, acting upon this instruction, cast their lot with their States in 1861. Thus it happened then when in 1865 the question of a trial of Jefferson Davis was agitated, Chief-Justice Chase said that a trial would condemn the North, and so no trial was ever held. He was released on bail but his political disabilities were never removed.

Jefferson Davis was only twenty years of age when he was graduated from West Point. When the Black Hawk War was threatening volunteers offered their services, and then it was that Captain Abraham Lincoln of Springfield, Ill., came to be mustered into service by Lieut. Jefferson Davis of the United States army. Little did either dream that their lives would clash so strongly in after years. This is the only record that these men ever met or were brought in personal contact with each other. Both made good soldiers, but only Davis attained any distinction. Black Hawk surrendered rather than be captured by him, and became very fond of the young officer.

The red chieftain knew a soldier when he saw him, and he was irresistibly drawn to this frank, bold and magnetic young



soldier. Jefferson Davis advised him to go home and advise the braves to divide their land with the whites—they could help them, and they could both dwell in peace together—this would be better than to be driven into the sea. Black Hawk seized Davis' hand, gave it a cordial grasp, and marched away without a word. He told his men what Davis had said and counseled them never again to raise their hand against the men in blue.

The War with Mexico followed, and then Jefferson Davis became a hero many times. At Monterey he distinguished himself; at Buena Vista he was wounded; and he scaled the walls at the City of Mexico.

After his return his State sent him to the United States Senate. Later he was given a place in Pres. Pierce's Cabinet, as Secretary of War. When Buchanan was elected, Mississippi sent him again as United States Senator.

The dark cloud of war was gathering and Abraham Lincoln was elected by the Republican Party on a minority vote, because of the split in the Democratic Party, the Republicans standing, *not for the abolition of slavery*, but against forming new slave states out of newly acquired territory, fearing the growing political power of the South.

Dr. Battle, of Charlottesville, Va., said, "Had the doctrine contained in that series of seven resolutions formulated and introduced into the United States Senate in the late fifties by Jefferson Davis been observed in good faith, there would have been no war."

The South saw that their State rights were again so threatened that they could never hope for those rights guaranteed them, not only by the United States Constitution, but those also granted by the Declaration of 1776, so State by State began to secede.

South Carolina was first to act and Mississippi followed next. Jefferson Davis, although a strong Union man, had made a wonderful speech on State Sovereignty in the U. S. Senate and showed how the continued aggressions upon the rights of Sovereign States would finally force secession; so when he learned that his own State had seceded, he immediately resigned his seat in the Senate and returned to cast in his lot with Mississippi as he had been taught to do at West Point.

As soon as he reached home he was made Major General of the army, an honor he had always craved. Therefore it was with extreme regret that he heard of his nomination for President

of the Southern Confederacy. He realized he was unfitted for that office, that a military life would be far better for him and more according to his own desires, but duty to his country forced him to yield his ambition in this matter.

Two sons of Kentucky thus became leaders in the most gigantic struggle that mankind had up to this time ever witnessed. These men were born near to each other in the same State, and there was only a few months difference in their ages. Strange to say neither now lies buried in his own native State. Davis' grave is in Richmond, Virginia, and Lincoln's is in Springfield Illinois.

Gen. Bennett Young said in a speech made at Fairview, Davis' birthplace: "Jefferson Davis, misjudged in life, disfranchised until death, is finding his true place in history. He bore the crown of sorrow and persecution and humiliation because of his steadfastness, his loyalty, and his devotion to the people he loved. Twenty years have passed since he died, and the limelight of history has only brightened every spot in his pure, unsullied life."

He had his enemies, and some were among his own people. Pollard, a Southern historian, has possibly more maligned him than any writer, North or South. Davis' imagined injustice to Jos. E. Johnston, his friend, may account for this. Many of his own Cabinet and Members of Congress disagreed with him in regard to his policy and accused him of being autocratic and partial.

In private letters to his wife, never intended to be made public, Gen. T. R. R. Cobb gives some glimpse of the opposition President Davis had to endure.

"Richmond, Jan. 12, 1862."

"Stephens is openly opposing the administration and trying to build up an opposition party."

This shows the attitude of the Vice-President to him.

Again:

"Richmond, March 16, 1862.

"Davis vetoed the bill making a Commanding General yesterday on Constitutional grounds, and it raised a perfect storm in Congress. I heard that the House of Representatives were debating the propriety of deposing him."

Again:

"Jan. 24, 1862.

"Mr. Davis has lost his power in Congress, but Howell [his brother Howell Cobb], Toombs and I have agreed that, while in private we may boldly condemn his errors, we will in

public generously uphold him when he is right. HE IS OUR REPRESENTATIVE. Stephens, on the contrary, is trying to create factious opposition to everything."

Then others testified that "Gov. Vance, of North Carolina, and Gov. Brown, of Georgia, though patriotic men, are hampering the Confederate Executive to a degree never before tolerated."

So President Davis had no easy task to guide the Confederacy through its four years of fiery trial.

"Prejudice and passion have sought in vain to drag down his honored name in the dust to make it a synonym of shame in the eyes of every beholder. The more his memory has been defamed the more distinctly has the true nobility of his character been revealed.

"The gentleness, the force and strength of his character; his superiority to adversity; his superiority even to prosperity; his candor; his truthfulness; his fine sense of loyalty; his devotion to his country; his love for the Union; his unyielding adherence to principle; his clean honesty, alike in private and public life; his freedom from malice; the simplicity and purity of his life; his Christian charity—these are the things which made Jefferson Davis great, the memory of which the world will not willingly let die." (*Editorial from the Times Democrat, New Orleans, June 3, 1903.*)

After he had done all that was possible to do, he sent commissioners of peace to the Hampton Roads Conference, and when that mission was a failure, and terms only of unconditional surrender offered, after hearing of Lee's surrender, he left Richmond to go to Texas to do what could be done with the Trans-Mississippi Army. He was captured at Irwinville, Ga., and kept in Fortress Monroe as a prisoner for two years. He was not captured in woman's dress—that is one of the myths of history. As the Government dared not try him he was released on bond, and after travel abroad he returned first to his Mississippi home, then went to Memphis, Tenn., to enter insurance work, for which he had no taste, and for which he was not fitted. Then he moved to Beauvoir to spend his remaining years, unjustly deprived of citizenship by a Government under whose flag he had won such renown.

Summing up his character it will be found that Jefferson Davis was a GENTLEMAN, a SCHOLAR, a STATESMAN, an ORATOR, a SOLDIER, a PATRIOT, a HUMANITARIAN a kind SLAVEHOLDER, a PHILANTHROPIST, and

a CHRISTIAN—a man that may safely be held before the youth of the land for emulation.

As a gentleman:—

He was ever gracious, ever courtly, always refined; he was a devoted husband, a loving, tender father, a just, kind and humane master.

As a scholar:—

His public speeches were gems of literary excellence and polish. His messages as President of the Confederacy show the same excellence of diction, and his "RISE AND FALL OF THE CONFEDERACY" testify the same.

As a statesman:—

His record in the United States Senate, as Secretary of War in President Pierce's Cabinet and as President of the Confederate States is not questioned in statesmanlike qualities.

We think of Jefferson Davis as a warrior under Gen. Zachary Taylor in the Mexican War, and as a Senator in the United States Congress, and as President of the Confederate States, but nowhere did his genius display itself more signally than as Secretary of War under Franklin Pierce.

It was he who first formulated a scheme of building a railway across the continent, also for acquisition of the Panama canal zone and the purchase of Cuba, and the opening of Japan and China to American trade, and for close commercial relations with South America.

Under him the army was enlarged, improved guns were introduced, young officers sent off on various surveying expeditions for better training. He sent young George B. McClellan as a special representative of the War Department to study the movements of the British and Russian armies in Crimea. R. E. Lee, his boyhood friend, was made superintendent of the West Point Academy, and he advanced Albert Sidney Johnston to important commands. He had camels brought from Arabia to transport military stores across the Western deserts. He planned large things for the nation.

He revised the Army Regulations, showing a thorough knowledge of the subject and a masterful grasp of the needs of our army, as well as the armies of Europe.

That he believed in preparedness is shown by the fact that he insisted upon the addition of four regiments to the army and organized a cavalry service peculiarly adapted to the wants of the country; introduced light infantry, or the rifle system of tactics, and caused the manufacture of rifles, muskets and pistols. He gave such valuable suggestions to workmen at Colt's Armory that they made him a pistol on the silver breech of which they engraved the words: "To a brother inventor."

Through his influence numberless forts were repaired and rehabilitated, the frontier defences strengthened, and the western part of the continent explored for scientific, geographical and railroad purposes. It is with pride we look back upon his work in the Coast Survey question, for he was recognized as the ablest and best posted defender in this work. Under the supervision of the War Department, during the first year of Mr. Davis' service, the extension of the new Capitol was energetically prosecuted. He stood by General Meigs in all his efforts to construct the waterworks, finish the Capitol building on the grandest scale, and to push forward the extension of the Treasury Department. A splendid stone aqueduct, which spans 220 feet, a few miles from Washington, built during Mr. Davis' term as Secretary of War, still remains a monument to his earnest labor for the benefit of the capital. It is known as "Cabin John Bridge."

During the War Between the States his name, cut in solid granite blocks, was, by the order of either Secretary of War Stanton or Secretary of Interior Caleb B. Smith, erased. Through the efforts of the Confederate Memorial Association—especially Mrs. Behan and Mrs. Enders Robinson, nobly assisted by Mrs. Cornelia Branch Stone, of Galveston—U. D. C. President-General—that name was replaced.

As an orator:—

His speech at Faneuil Hall, Boston, 1858, was a masterly effort in defence of the South and the Constitutional right of slavery. When it was known that he was to make his FAREWELL ADDRESS to the Senate in 1861, the House of Representatives came in a body to hear him.

As a soldier:—

No other testimony is needed beyond his record in the Mexican War.

A tribute from one of the North who served with Davis in the War with Mexico is:

"Fellow-citizens: I was at Buena Vista. I saw the battle lost and victory in the grasp of the brutal and accursed foe. I saw the favorite son of 'Harry of the West,' my colonel, weltering in his blood as he died on the field. I saw death or captivity worse than death in store for every Kentuckian on that gory day. Everything seemed lost and was hopeless when a Mississippi regiment with Jefferson Davis at its head appeared on the scene. I see him now as he was then—the incarnation of battle, the avatar of rescue. He turned the tide; he snatched victory from defeat; he saved the army; his heroic hand wrote 'Buena Vista' in letters of everlasting glory on our proud escutcheon. I greeted him then, a hero, my countryman, my brother, my rescuer. He is no less so this day, and I would strike the shackles from his aged limbs and make him as free as the vital air of heaven, and clothe him with every right I enjoy, had I the power."

That was the chivalrous sentiment one of the bravest soldiers who ever girded sword on thigh held of another brave soldier, an adversary, who was then a fallen chieftain.

As a patriot:—

He was ever ready to give up personal ambition to serve his country. He bore in his body and soul the deepest anguish for his people whose representative he was.

As a humanitarian:—

He loved his fellowmen, and never willingly was known to harm them. He grieved for the fallen brave whether in victory or defeat.

He travailed in agony over the rejection of exchange of prisoners or of medical aid for the Andersonville prisoners.

As a slaveholder:—

He loved his negroes and taught them the Word of God. He resented colonization and said, "The South is the home of the negro, for we know him and he knows us."

If told anything derogatory of any one of his negroes he said, "I will ask him about it." The servant was always heard in his own defense.

Milo Cooper, Davis' body servant, at one time living in Florida, hurried to New Orleans when he heard the news of President Davis' illness, and entering the room burst into tears and threw himself on his knees in prayer that God would spare his old Master and bless those so dear to him.

Among the telegrams received after his death was one from his former servants: "We, the old servants of our beloved master, have cause to mingle our tears over his death. He was always so kind and thoughtful of our peace and happiness. We extend our humble sympathy."

Jim Jones, who was with Davis when arrested, says he never saw a braver man.

As a philanthropist:—

He always gave liberally of his means to advance every good object.

He deeded his old birthplace at Fairview for a Baptist Church in memory of his father, and gave also a beautiful silver communion service.

As a Christian:—

He was ever an humble follower of Him of Whom he was ready to testify. When the news came that Lee must fall back from Petersburg, which meant the evacuation of Richmond, and a possible surrender, he was found on his knees in prayer in St. Paul's Church, Richmond, Va.

Dr. Craven, his prison physician, gave this testimony:

"The more I saw of him the more I was convinced of his sincere religious convictions. He impressed me more with the divine Origin of God's Word than any professor of Christianity I ever met."

Did his Christianity extend to forgiveness of his enemies? A Northern man, Ridpath, the historian, a guest at Beauvoir, testified that during his visit he never heard one word of bitterness toward any man. A quotation from a speech made to the Mississippi Legislature March 10, 1884, will in itself suffice to answer this question.

"Our people have accepted that decree; it therefore behooves

them, as they may, to promote the general welfare of the Union, to show to the world that hereafter as heretofore, the patriotism of our people is not measured by lines of latitude and longitude, but is as broad as the obligations they have assumed and embraces the whole of our ocean-bound domain. Let them leave to their children's children the good example of never swerving from the path of duty, and PREFERRING TO RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL RATHER THAN TO CHERISH THE UNMANLY FEELING OF REVENGE."

Would one think from this that President Davis regretted the stand he took in '61? Never! Hear him again in that same speech:

"It has been said that I should apply to the United States for a pardon; but repentance must precede the right of pardon, and I have not repented. Remembering, as I must, all which has been suffered, all which has been lost, disappointed hopes, and crushed aspirations, yet I deliberately say, if it were to do over again, I would do just as I did in 1861."

Would one say while stressing loyalty to the Union and to the National flag, President Davis meant that our children should be taught to forget the things for which their fathers fought?

Not at all! Hear him again:

"Never teach your children to admit that their fathers were wrong in their effort to maintain the sovereignty, freedom and independence which was their inalienable birthright. I cannot believe that the causes for which our sacrifices were made can ever be lost, but rather hope that those who now deny the justice of our asserted claims will learn from experience that the fathers builded wisely and the Constitution should be construed according to the commentaries of those men who made it."

Davis' life touched many Southern States. His mother was from South Carolina; his father was from Georgia; he was born in Kentucky; he lived in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Virginia; and he fought to free Texas.

Jerome E. Titlow, the one sent to manacle him, said, "Upon him criticism expended all its arrows and yet no blemish was found."

Men who did not love him or admire him as a politician were forced to acknowledge his fine traits of character. This is what the editor of the *New York World* said of him when the news came of his death:

"Jefferson Davis was a man of commanding ability, spotless integrity, controlling conscience, and a temper so resolute that



at times it approached obstinacy. He was proud, sensitive and honorable in all his dealings and in every relation of life."

The editor of the New York *Sun* said:

"Amid irreparable disaster, Jefferson Davis was sustained by a serene consciousness that he had done a man's work according to his lights, and that, while unable to command success, he had striven to deserve it. Even among those who looked upon him with least sympathy it was felt that he bore defeat and humiliation in the highest Roman fashion."

The worst things that any of his enemies could find to say of him were that he was "a man of the strongest prejudices, the harshest obstinacy, and the most ungovernable fondness for parasites;" that he had "a grudge against Jos. E. Johnston," and that he made a fatal error in having Hood displace him in the Atlanta Campaign; that he was unjust to Beauregard and partial to Bragg and Northrop; that he always favored West Point men, and was most unjust to men with no military training. He was accused of leaning to imperialism. The same accusation brought against President Wilson today is the one that was brought against President Davis then—that is, that he was an autocrat and wanted to have his own way, and tried to force Congress to do his will. Mistakes were made, but where was there ever an executive that made no mistakes?

Not one could touch his character morally—pure in thought, pure in speech, pure in life, and pure in religious professions. His mistakes had to be conceded were of the head—not the heart. Why is it that such a character as this is not oftener held up by ministers of the gospel, public speakers and teachers for the youth of our land to emulate?

Bishop Gaylor paid a fine tribute to Jefferson Davis. He said:

"The character of Mr. Davis as a man, as a soldier, as a statesman, and as a President, has passed into history, and our children will be better able than we are rightly to estimate his place in the records of our country. To say that he was a knightly and chivalrous Christian gentleman, brave, true, consistent, without a stain upon his honor, without a moral blot upon his fame, is simple justice—that some day the world will recognize. That he deserves and should receive the unstinted and uninterrupted honor of those to whom the Southern Confederacy is a sacred memory, no reasonable man can question. 'The fierce light that beats against the throne' threw into bold relief the outlines of his character, and he became the shining mark for

criticism. But whatever else may be said, he alone embodied and represented with consistent and patient heroism to the day of his death the cause for which he had sacrificed all that men hold dear."

"God, I believe, judges men by their motives. Jefferson Davis, in his heart, was an honest patriot."—(*See Wrongs of History Righted, p. 22.*)

Abraham Lincoln was a martyr and died by an assassin's bullet; Jefferson Davis, too, was a martyr but he was forced for more than twenty years to live out a life of martyrdom. Sudden death would have been preferable.

It is easy to die in the moment of victory, but hard to live under defeat. If there should be any glorification it should better come to Jefferson Davis than Abraham Lincoln.

Hugh McCulloch said he admired Lincoln for his unwavering adherence to principle; for his personal righteousness; for his humanity; for his patriotism and for his desire for peace and for his love of his fellowmen.

It was Jefferson Davis not Abraham Lincoln who stood for the principles as laid down by the Declaration of 1776, and the Constitution.

It was Jefferson Davis not Lincoln who stood for personal righteousness; his life private and public was one of absolute rectitude.

It was Jefferson Davis not Lincoln who stood for humanity and pleaded for those Andersonville prisoners whom Lincoln could have relieved and would not.

It was Jefferson Davis not Lincoln who was the patriot and sacrificed personal ambition for the sake of his country.

It was Jefferson Davis not Abraham Lincoln who pleaded for peace and did all to enforce it and Lincoln it was who refused four times to make it when he could.

It was Jefferson Davis not Lincoln who was a lover of his fellowmen and agonized over the suffering and dying on the battlefield, and it was Davis not Lincoln who loved the slaves too much to see them freed suddenly because so totally unprepared for freedom.

No man has been more misrepresented in history who less deserved it.

When Senator George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts, in the United States Senate, began that abuse of Jefferson Davis L. Q. C. Lamar quietly retorted, "When Prometheus was chained to the rock, it was the vulture and not the eagle that buried its

cruel beak in his vitals and tore and tortured him." This is the finest retort recorded in parliamentary history, and it was effectual—since that day no man in the United States Senate or House of Representatives has dared utter words derogatory of the man who for four years stood for all the South stood for.

Singular as it may seem Henry Watterson, a Southern man and a Confederate soldier is Abraham Lincoln's greatest glorifier, and Charles Francis Adams, a Northern historian, grandson of John Quincy Adams and a Union soldier has paid highest tribute to Jefferson Davis. He said: "No fatal mistakes either of administration or strategy were made which can be fairly laid to his account. He did the *best possible* with the means that he had at his command. Merely the opposing forces were too many and too strong for him. Of his austerity, earnestness and fidelity there can be no more question that can be entertained of his capacity."

#### JEFFERSON DAVIS' FIRST MARRIAGE.

Legend deals freely with the lives and loves of most great men, but traditions about the early love affairs of Jefferson Davis are very few. At the time of his first marriage he was not a famous man, and so little happened about his love affairs that would be remembered except by intimate friends and those directly concerned.

After he became famous tradition began its work, and so we have a mass of conflicting stories, most of which had no foundation.

Walter Fleming has written a paper for the Mississippi Historical Society on Jefferson Davis' first marriage, in which he attempts to extract from numerous contradictory records and accounts the true story of the marriage of Jefferson Davis and Sarah Knox Taylor.

When Jefferson Davis served in the United States Army on the north-western frontier, life at military posts was monotonous in the extreme. The coming of a woman to any of those posts was an event to be celebrated. At Fort Winnebago, where Davis served for two years, there was for a time no white woman. Later there were two, but both were married.

When a young officer had the good fortune to be transferred to a post where there were young women, he was usually in a susceptible mood. So it was with Jefferson Davis, who in 1831, after a three years' tour of arduous duty in the woods and on the plains of Wisconsin and Iowa, was ordered to Fort Crawford.

The home of Colonel Zachary Taylor was the center of social life there. Mrs. Taylor, after long and rough frontier experience, had learned to make her home anywhere. She had three daughters, Anne, Sarah Knox and Betty. Sarah Knox was 18 years of age when Davis met her, and she was her father's favorite.

Life was very monotonous at the fort and to while away the time the women and girls occupied themselves at Indian bead-work. The only souvenir of Sarah Taylor in existence is a small reticule worked with colored beads which is in the possession of a grand-daughter of Mary Street, who was a close friend of Sarah's.

Davis spent most of his time, we are told, in reading law, but was often thrown with the young people and soon formed an attachment and became engaged to Sarah Knox.

By most people it would have been considered a good match. Davis was a fine officer. Personally, he was attractive, though reserved and considered austere by some.

One who knew Davis when he was an officer in the United States army, and saw him while he was engaged to Sarah Taylor, said this: "I shall never forget him as I first saw him, a young lieutenant in the United States army, straight as an arrow, handsome and elegant. It was at the Governor's Mansion in Detroit; my brother was Governor of Michigan; Lieutenant Davis was our guest; the Black Hawk War in which he had greatly distinguished himself was just ended, and he was bringing Black Hawk through the country. I was much impressed with the young lieutenant."

Col. Taylor wanted his daughter to marry a business man and not an officer in the army. Sarah had been educated in the East and had always lived in comfort. Mrs. Taylor agreed with her husband that their daughter must not suffer the hardships of frontier life and so the marriage was forbidden. But Sarah had much of her father's decision of character, and so the lovers would not accept as final the parents' decision.

Sarah would not break her engagement to please her father, and Davis was forbidden the house, but they met at the home of friends and Betty Taylor described them as "ideal lovers."

In 1833 Davis left Fort Crawford to join the New Dragoon Regiment at Fort Gibson in the Indian Territory.

During the two years he was in the West, Davis and Miss Taylor kept up their correspondence.

During the War Between the States all the papers Davis

left at his Mississippi home were confiscated and among the papers, a Federal soldier, named Spillman Willis, of 33rd Illinois Regiment, found a letter from Davis to Miss Sarah Knox Taylor, written at Fort Gibson and dated December 16, 1834. I wish that the letter were not so long so that it could be included in this paper.

He tells her of his dreams about her, and his jealousies. He longed to look into her eyes, so eloquent of purity and love. He tells her that he has no secrets from her, and that there must be no formality between them, and signed his letter "Jeff." And so we find him like all other lovers.

In 1835 he sent in his resignation, and was granted leave of absence during the month of June, and so he left Fort Gibson and went to St. Louis and made arrangements for his wedding.

There are many conflicting stories about the elopement and marriage, also about Col. Taylor's conduct. These reports are too long to be given in this paper. Some have said that Taylor never forgave his daughter and others say that although he forbade the marriage, yet they were never estranged. There are letters in the Boston Public Library from Col. Taylor to Col. Davis written in 1846, showing that there was no ill feeling.

When Taylor was President of the United States, Davis was a frequent visitor at the White House, and members of the Taylor family were his dearest friends.

But to return to the wedding. Miss Taylor was in Kentucky and the wedding took place at Beechland, home of John Gibson Taylor, and we have Davis' own statement that "In 1835 I resigned from the army, and Miss Taylor being in Kentucky with her aunt, the oldest sister of General Taylor, I went thither and we were married in the presence of Gen. Taylor's two sisters, of his oldest brother, of his son-in-law, and many other members of the family."

This statement omits many details which have been handed down by the Taylor family.

Mrs. Anna Magee Robinson, who was one of the Taylor children present at the wedding, said: "My cousin Knox Taylor was very beautiful, slight and not very tall, with brown wavy hair and clear gray eyes, very lovely and lovable, and a young woman of decided spirit. She was dressed in a traveling dress with a small hat to match. Lieutenant Davis was dressed in a long tail cutaway coat, brocaded waist-coat, breeches tight fitting and held under the instep with a strap. He had on a

high stove-pipe hat. He was of slender build, and had polished manners, and was of a quiet intellectual countenance."

The ceremony was performed by Rev. M. Ashe, rector of Christ's Church in Louisville. In Mr. Fleming's paper may be found a letter written by Sarah Taylor to her mother on her wedding day.

After the ceremony the bride and groom left for Mississippi to visit Joseph E. Davis at his plantation called "Hurricane."

Joseph E. Davis was the oldest brother of Jefferson Davis, and he gave to his brother Jeff a tract of land known as "Briarfield."

From Warrenton, Miss., Mrs. Davis wrote her last letter to her mother. On a visit to his sister-in-law in Louisiana Davis and his wife both fell ill with malarial fever. His wife died, and was buried in Locust Grove Cemetery, and there in a dark grove is her neglected tomb today. It is related that once after her death, Davis in looking through the contents of an old trunk came upon one of her slippers, and was so overcome by emotion that he lost consciousness.

He lived in seclusion at Briarfield for more than eight years after her death.

Nothing but a crumbling chimney remains of the Mississippi home to which Davis brought his young bride in the morning of the century.

Half a hundred years after his first wife's death, a gray old man, whose deeds rank him with the Immortals, made his last visit to Briarfield, there contracted the same fever that had killed his young wife, and made the journey down the river to New Orleans to die.\*

AN INCIDENT (*Copied from an old newspaper*): Queer things happen in this world. A few years ago a young man on the banks of the southern Mississippi eloped with the daughter of an old planter, as the father would not consent to the marriage. Time rolled on; the daughter died, and the father and the widowed husband met on the bloody but victorious field of Buena Vista. On that terrible day, amid scenes of carnage and valor, the gallant young hero sustained well and nobly the gallantry of his countrymen, and the old hero, extending to him his hand for the first time since the marriage of his daughter, said: "Sir, my daughter was a better judge of character than I am. Here is my hand."

---

\*This sketch of President Davis' first marriage was sent in by the Chas. E. Hooker Chapter, Hazlehurst, Miss.

Two years have passed away. A President is to be inaugurated. The son-in-law, now a member of the United States Senate, is appointed chairman of a committee to wait upon the President and inform him of his election. Then again the father and son-in-law met. That was a proud day for Jefferson Davis. It was his hour of victory. We would rather have been Davis than Taylor. The sweetest whisperings of the spirit voice of the "departed one" must have been with him there.

### JEFFERSON DAVIS' SECOND MARRIAGE—HIS CHILDREN

After the death of his wife, Sarah Knox Taylor, Capt. Davis went to Cuba, and when he returned he remained quietly eight years on his plantation, Briarfield, which had been a marriage gift from his brother Joseph. His bride had only lived three months and his grief was great at her loss.

He met later Miss Varina Banks Howell, the daughter of William Burr Howell, and descendant of Lieut. Howell of the War of 1812 and of Gen. Howell of Revolutionary fame. Her home was Natchez, Miss. She was a woman of many gifts and charms—quite literary—all of her life accustomed to a social life. She, therefore, was in many ways a fit companion of Mr. Davis, not only in the Cabinet circles in Washington City but was ready to meet the requirements of the "Lady of the White Hoyle" in Richmond during the days of the Confederacy.

There were five children that came into the home: Margaret, who later married Addison Hayes of Denver, Colorado; Anne Varina, called by her father lovingly "WINNIE" and named by General John B. Gordon, "THE DAUGHTER OF THE CONFEDERACY"; and three sons, one killed by a fall as a child, and both of the others died before the father or mother. Winnie outlived her father but died in 1898 at Narragansett Pier, where she had gone for her health. Mrs. Davis never recovered from the shock of her death and followed her in a short time.

Winnie was a war baby, born in Richmond in 1864. She had the most wonderful charm of manner, drawing all with whom she came in contact with cords of love. Her memory was remarkable, seeming never to forget any she ever met. She was also quite literary in her tastes and contributed for several years to the leading periodicals of the North.

No woman of the South so endeared herself to its people. She possessed intelligence, culture and refinement, and, gifted

with a charming personality, she made friends wherever she went, and the South truly mourned her when she died. The United Daughters of the Confederacy erected in the Hollywood Cemetery at Richmond a beautiful white marble monument to her memory, and the Georgia Division U. D. C., the beautiful Winnie Davis Dormitory, built in old Southern style, which is used by daughters of Confederate soldiers while attending the State Normal School at Athens, Georgia. Many chapters of the Daughters and Children of the Confederacy and schools have been named for her in the different States.

She was educated in Europe and possessed the rare accomplishments that travel gives. She wrote three books. One is "AN IRISH KNIGHT," the story of the life of Robert Emmett. It is said the description of the knight in this book was meant by her for a picture of her father in his trials. Another book is "THE VEILED DOCTOR," and the third is "ROMANCE OF SUMMER SEAS," and besides these she wrote many magazine articles. She and her mother felt after President Davis died that it was best to leave Beauvoir, for they were not able to keep open house, as many expected them still to do, and besides it was better to be in New York to be near the publishers of their books. Many blamed them, but those who knew them well felt that it meant no disloyalty to the South.

It was thought by many that this beautiful home of Beauvoir in Mississippi was a gift from a friend, Mrs. Sarah Dorsey, but it was not. (*See Vol. IV, "Our Leaders."*) Mr. and Mrs. Davis purchased it before Mrs. Dorsey's death, and the deed of purchase is to be seen in the Confederate Museum at Richmond. Mrs. Dorsey did mention them in her will, and this may have given rise to the mis-statement.

In mind, manners and heart President Davis was a type of that old race of Southern gentlemen whom these bustling times are fast crowding out of our civilization. He did not seek nor desire to be President of the Confederacy, preferring to be the Commander-in-Chief of the army of Confederate soldiers, but when placed in the executive chair by the voice and will of his constituents, he accepted without a murmur and was faithful to the cause even unto death.

He died in New Orleans, Louisiana, 1889, and was buried there, as his wife desired, but two years afterwards his body was removed to Richmond, Virginia, the fitting burial place of the chieftain of the Confederacy, and the highest respect and honors were shown as the body passed through the Southern States on



the way to its final resting place. There has been unveiled at Richmond a very handsome monument which was erected to his memory by Confederate Sons and Daughters.

Mrs. Davis wrote a MEMOIR of him, and she was well qualified to do this as she was her husband's confidante during those memorable years of his life.

### DAVIS MEMORIAL PARK.

There is an effort being made by the JEFFERSON DAVIS HOME ASSOCIATION to preserve the place of President Davis' birth as a Memorial Park. This spot at Fairview, Ky., has been placed in the hands of the U. D. C. Chapters at Fairview as custodians. President Davis before his death visited this spot and presented the land for a Baptist Church to be built upon it. In his speech of presentation he said it seemed strange that as he belonged to the Episcopal Church he should give this land for a Baptist Church, but it was in memory of his father who was a Baptist. This was in March, 1886. Mr. Davis said:

"After many a long and weary wandering, I return to the place of my birth, and I come with those feelings which ever cling around the heart of every man who feels that he treads upon his native soil. My friends, my condition is not unlike that of some tempest-tossed mariner, who, turning to his home with high hopes, is shipwrecked upon the coast and finds himself stranded and cast helpless upon the shore to which he hoped to return and bear rich treasure and gifts for his loved ones. But it would indeed be ungrateful for me to dwell on such sad thoughts when before me is presented this grand galaxy of happy, friendly faces."

He explained that the family left the place during his infancy, but he had visited it once before; that then and now he felt like exclaiming: "This is my own, my native land." After a tribute to the worthy purpose to which his birthplace had been consecrated, he concluded with this remark: "I come only to tender you formally the site upon which this building stands." Then, raising his face upward and extending his hands in the attitude of blessing, he said with tones of deepest solemnity: "May He who rules in heaven and on earth bless individually and collectively this whole community, and may His benedictions rest on this house always!"

Mr. Davis presented the congregation a solid silver salver and chalice for the communion service. Shortly after the dedi-

cation, Mr. Davis returned to Clarksville, Tenn., and after a visit to M. H. Clark, his secretary, in Richmond, he returned to Beauvoir, Miss. This was his last visit to the scene of his birth.

The log house in which Mr. Davis was born was constructed from timbers cut in the neighboring forest. It was purchased in 1897 by the Rev. J. W. Bingham and associates and removed to the Nashville Centennial Exposition, where it was placed on exhibition. Its location now is unknown.

On Sunday Mr. Davis attended divine services at the Episcopal church in the morning and at the Baptist church at night. On Monday he went to Fairview and spent several hours in his old home.

Dr. C. C. Brown, of Bowling Green, conceived the idea of founding the memorial, and he has been ardent for its success. The undertaking included at first a large area of the land long ago owned by the father, Samuel C. Davis, at Davisburg (now Fairview); but the committee, after visiting the premises, concluded that a smaller area would be preferable. Upon this choice ground, including several residences, options were secured, and to save them to the committee, Gen. Bennett H. Young, commanding the Kentucky Division, United Confederate Veterans, advanced the cash necessary to complete the purchase. The Davis Memorial Home is therefore established, and it is to be a Mecca, the Mount Vernon of Kentucky, a credit to the South and the country at large in proportion to the liberality of those who honor the memory of the Confederacy's only President.

The Association hopes to raise about \$20,000. They wish to have a concrete Shelter House with four stained glass windows representing the four Confederate flags. Then have the doorway marked "JEFFERSON DAVIS MEMORIAL" on a bronze plate.

This land is on the proposed JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY and it will be but fitting that something worth while be erected. The Association has already put a beautiful stone fence on the two avenue sides. Miss Florence Barlow, Peewee Valley, Ky., is Director General.

It was the MARGARET JONES CHAPTER, U. D. C., Waynesboro, Ga., that first secured legislation to have Jefferson Davis' birthday, June 3, made a state holiday. Other States are following this lead.

Summed up, the United States government is indebted to Jefferson Davis for the following services:

Educated at West Point Academy.

Lieutenant in the U. S. Army.

Distinguished services in the Black Hawk War.

Served valiantly in the war with Mexico.

Hero at Monterey; wounded at Buena Vista; scaled the walls of the City of Mexico.

He introduced the wedge movement and saved the day at Buena Vista.

United States Senator from Mississippi.

Secretary of War in Pierce's cabinet.

First to suggest trans-continental railroads connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific.

First to suggest camels as ships of the uninhabitable West to convey military stores.

First to suggest buying Panama Canal Zone.

First to suggest buying Cuba.

He planned American trade with China and Japan.

He suggested closer relations with South America.

He urged preparedness for war.

He enlarged the U. S. Army by four regiments.

He organized cavalry service adapted to our needs.

He introduced light infantry or rifle system of tactics.

He caused the manufacture of guns, rifles and pistols.

He rendered invaluable services to Colt's Armory.

He ordered the frontier surveyed.

He put young officers in training for surveying expeditions.

He sent George B. McClellan to Crimea to study the military tactics of the British and Russian armies.

He appointed Robert E. Lee as Superintendent of West Point.

He advanced Albert Sidney Johnston to important posts.

He had forts repaired and many of them rebuilt.

He strengthened forts on the Western frontier, frequently drawing on arsenals in the South to do it.

He had the western part of the continent explored for scientific, geographical and railroad work.

He was responsible for the new Senate Hall, the new House of Representatives, and for the extension of many of the public buildings in Washington, especially the Treasury Building.

He was responsible for the construction of the aqueduct system in the Nation's capital.

He was responsible for "Armed Liberty" on the Capitol having a helmet of eagle feathers instead of the cap of a pagan goddess.

He had Cabin John Bridge built with its span of 220 feet.

He was United States Senator under President Buchanan.

He was nominated for President by Massachusetts men in 1860.

He refused to allow his name to be presented for President at the Charleston Convention.

He stood strongly for the Union, but stressed the constitutional right of a State to secede.

He did secede with Mississippi, as he had been taught at West Point.

He stood for what Lincoln preached but did not practice—"not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who perverted the Constitution."

## PART TWO

---

### THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

1861-1865.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

Born Feb. 12, 1809. Died April 14, 1865.

To write the life of Abraham Lincoln is no easy task. Had he lived out his allotted years it would not be difficult, but his death by the cruel hand of an assassin caused him who had been vilified in life to be glorified in death.

The *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 6, 1898, said, "where now is the man so rash as to even warmly criticize Abraham Lincoln?" One adverse comment subjects one to the accusation either of prejudice or injustice.

In seeking the truth about him, it would be most unjust to take only the testimony of his enemies, and it would be equally as unjust to take only the testimony of his glorifiers. Lincoln was a man as other men with weak points and strong points of character, and the fairest testimony ought to come from those who knew him best, loved him well, honored him and yet were friendly enough, truthful enough and just enough to see and acknowledge his faults.

William H. Herndon and Ward H. Lamon from youth up were the closest and most trusted friends of Abraham Lincoln. They knew him and loved him in his days of poverty, and they were devoted friends of his in his days of power and high fortune. Both, after their friend's death, desired to write his life as they knew it; both scorned his glorifiers as much as they scorned his detractors, and both have given faithful portraits of the man they loved. No one ever questioned or doubted the fairness of these biographies when they were first written—Herndon's just after Lincoln's death, and Lamon's when Herndon's had been destroyed; and it is mainly from these biographies this sketch is taken. No adverse quotation shall be given from any Southern writer.

Herndon and Lincoln were practically in daily contact for over twenty years and their relations were always amicable, although Herndon was an abolitionist and Lincoln was not,

and Herndon testified that he had a hard time trying to win his friend over to his belief.

Life went hard with Herndon in later years after Lincoln's death. He fell heir to a farm near Springfield, Ill., dropped the law and went into fancy stock raising, which soon resulted disastrously. He took to hard drinking and died in poverty. He had been Lincoln's law partner for over sixteen years, so he knew him as an intimate friend and loved him with the love of a brother.

His biography of Lincoln is acknowledged to have been the best that has ever been written, because it is true to facts, and Lincoln's faults—while not magnified—were not covered. He said Lincoln would never have stood for a biography that was not true.

Ward Lamon began his biography, but hearing that Herndon had written one, laid his aside and decided to wait. In 1872, knowing that Herndon's work had been destroyed—even the publisher's plates broken to pieces—he paid Herndon \$3,000 for the privilege of using his material, and this biography was published and also pronounced good. However, by 1903 all of these copies were spirited away, and it is almost impossible to find even a second-hand copy of either Herndon's or Lamon's *Life of Lincoln*. \*

Ward H. Lamon, like Herndon, was a man whom Lincoln loved, and one who loved Lincoln. He was selected to accompany the President when he went in disguise to the capital. This disguise was no disgrace, however, but Lamon told him it would be considered unmanly, for there was no need to fear assassination at that time; and there was not, so this disguise looked cowardly.

Lincoln appointed Lamon United States Marshal of the District of Columbia, in order to be a body guard to him, for he knew Lamon loved him and would protect him. At times, it is said, Lamon often would act as private secretary for the President. In this position, he was able to know both the animus and the friendship of the men of Lincoln's Cabinet. Into his ears Lincoln poured many of his troubles, small and great.

Nicolay and Hay were also his secretary at different times, and friends of his who had lived at Springfield. Nicolay said, "Robert E. Lee should have been hanged as a traitor." This makes him a biased writer and slow to be followed. Hay

---

\*Unless recently destroyed, Herndon's "True Story of a Great Life" may be found in Pratt's Library, Baltimore; Peabody's Library, Baltimore; and Congressional Library, Washington. D. Appleton & Co., published the second Edition, with introduction by Horace White

said, "Lincoln, right or wrong, we will stand by him." This makes him an unfair writer and not to be followed.

Many are the legendary stories told of Abraham Lincoln's youthful days. Many myths have been repeated until it is hard at this day to get from this mass what can be relied upon as truth. After a careful search among the sources which are most just to him, the following facts are gathered:

Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Ky., Feb. 12, 1809. His childhood was a sad and unhappy one. His mother was in poor health, a disappointed wife, overworked and discouraged, and her sadness affected the child. Thomas Lincoln, whom she had married, was an unambitious, easy-going, shiftless man, satisfied with shabby surroundings, and never felt the slightest responsibility in caring for others. He seemed perfectly indifferent to the comfort or happiness of his wife and her son. She, poor creature, died a consumptive in 1818 leaving only one child, Abraham, a boy of nine years of age. She could read and write, but her husband could not, so she was very anxious that her child should not grow up in ignorance. She taught Abe his letters and then taught him to spell, to read and to write. She encouraged him and urged him to grow up to be a man—not idle and ignorant—but to do something worth while. She made an earnest effort to instill ambition into the child. There was little in the cabin home to bring brightness or joy—no comforts, no amusements, no diversions—nothing but poverty and hard work. This intercourse with his mother was the child's only pleasure—learning to read and write and cipher while he watched her sad face, wondering what it was she wanted him to know and do and why.

When his mother died there were no funeral services; she was simply put in the grave and left there, for this home was not a Christian home. It is said that the young boy realized that other people who died did have funerals, he walked a long way to ask a minister to come and have a funeral for his mother. Three months had passed, but the minister, Mr. Head, who had performed the marriage ceremony for Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, did come and a funeral service was held over the grave in the presence of about twenty onlookers.

Before the year was out, Thomas Lincoln had married again, and to this stepmother, who was a widow Johnston with one son and two daughters, Abraham Lincoln was more indebted than to any other one person. She was young, she was cheerful, she was energetic, and she greatly improved the looks of things in

the home. Then, too, she took a great fancy to the sad, motherless boy who seemed absolutely without an earthly friend.

Mr. Lincoln had moved to Indiana several years before this marriage, and Mrs. Johnston had heard that he was a well-to-do farmer and worth marrying, so was greatly disappointed when she reached her new home. However, she determined to make the best of a bad bargain. She apparently made no difference between Abe and her own children in the home, and her daughters became very fond of the young boy and preferred in later years his home to that of their own brother. Abe appreciated all that this good stepmother did for him, and often said all that he accomplished in life was due to this sainted mother. She said in speaking of him, "Abe never gave me a cross word or look, and he never refused to do anything I asked him to do."

She roused Abe's ambition, and, as he grew older, he read every book he could lay his hand on. He acquired a habit of writing down anything that struck him—then learned it and repeated it. They were too poor to have any lights to study by at night, save the fire light, and there, after a hard day's work, Abe would be found reading, writing and ciphering. He borrowed an arithmetic, as they were too poor to buy one. He worked his sums on the back of the shovel and then scraped off the shovel to begin again.

His work was very hard even when a child—he worked in the field and did the drudgery about the home and later he went on a ferryboat, he split rails, he clerked in a store, he became postmaster, he did all sorts of odd jobs for the farmers around—ploughing, sowing and reaping. Abe Lincoln was not lazy. The first money he made he shared with his stepmother.

At the age of twenty-one, he left home never to return except on visits. Thomas Lincoln had never appreciated the boy and home was never home to him if Thomas Lincoln was in it—so he visited it only once or twice after this during his lifetime. His stepmother continued to take an interest in him after her husband's death, and when she heard he was running for President of the United States, she greatly grieved and said she didn't want him elected—she seemed to fear some evil would come to him. When he went to tell her goodbye, she kissed him with tears streaming from her eyes and said, "Goodby, Abe, I shall never see you again," and she did not.

Lincoln had studied law in Springfield, borrowing a copy of Blackstone from a friend. He became a good lawyer, settling in Springfield, Ill. He was very ungainly in appearance, with a

very homely face, but there was strength and firmness in it. He never even when President cared about his personal appearance or how his clothes fitted.

Abraham Lincoln's married life was not happy. He had three romances connected with his early days. One, Amy Rutledge, belonged to his own social circle. Had he married her possibly his whole life would have been changed, but unfortunately she died while attending school. His other loves were Mary Owens and Mary Todd. He really loved neither, but in turn addressed each, became engaged to each, but advised both not to marry him, as he did not belong to their social set. It is said that Mary Owens jilted him, which greatly mortified him, but Mary Todd agreed to marry him. The day, January 1, 1842, was appointed, the bride and attendants were waiting at the church, but no bridegroom appeared. It is said that his most intimate friends were never able to account for Lincoln's behavior upon this occasion. Mary Todd forgave him, however, and married him one year later. It was a most unfortunate marriage, for she was not suited to make him happy, and while children came into the home, there was no real joy, for that can only come from a perfectly congenial atmosphere. He lost one of his sons while living at Springfield, Ill., and he became very morose and melancholy. This boy's name was Willie; then another son was buried at Georgetown; then there was Tad (the one with a defective palate), so greatly petted by his father; and Robert, the only child who survived him by many years.

Lincoln had great influence among his companions and friends and was always a leader. When the Black Hawk War came on, he raised a company and they made him Captain. Lieut. Jefferson Davis of United States army mustered him into service. He ran for the legislature and was defeated, but afterwards elected. He became a member of Congress in 1846. Then in 1860 was a candidate for United States President on the Republican ticket upon an anti-slave extension platform and was elected. He was no abolitionist, as his speech at Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854, will testify.—(See "*Abraham Lincoln*" by *Nicolay and Hay*, Vol. 1, p. 186.)

"Before proceeding let me say that I think I have no prejudice against the Southern people. They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not now exist among them, they would not introduce it. If it did exist now among us, we would not instantly give it up. This I believe of the masses, North and South. Doubtless there are individuals on both



sides who would not hold slaves under any circumstances, and others who would gladly introduce slavery anew, if it were not in existence. We know that some Southern men do free their slaves, go North and become tip-top abolitionists, while some Northern men go South and become most cruel slave masters.

“When Southern people tell us that they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery than we are, I acknowledge the fact. When it is said the institution exists, and it is very difficult to get rid of in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying. I surely will not blame them for not doing what I should not know how to do myself. If all earthly power were given me, I should not know what to do as to the existing institution. My first impulse would possibly be to free all the slaves and send them to Liberia to their own native land. But a moment’s reflection would convince me that this would not be best for them. If they were all landed there in a day they would all perish in the next ten days, and there is not surplus money enough to carry them there in many times ten days. What then? Free them all and keep them among us as underlings? Is it quite certain that this would alter their condition? Free them and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this, and if mine would, we well know that those of the great mass of whites will not. We cannot make them our equals. A system of gradual emancipation might be adopted, and I will not undertake to judge our Southern friends for tardiness in this matter.”

The Republican leaders were very much afraid of having imputed to them any desire to abolish slavery—especially was Lincoln afraid of this. He wrote Alexander Stephens before he was inaugurated that the slaves would be as safe under his administration as they were under that of George Washington. He told a friend in Kentucky that if he would vote for him every fugitive slave should be returned. At Peoria, Ill., in 1854 he said, “I acknowledge the constitutional rights of the States—not grudgingly, but fairly and fully, and I will give them any legislation for reclaiming their fugitive slaves.”

The point the Republican Party wanted to stress was to oppose making slave States out of the newly acquired territory, not abolishing slavery as it then existed. Lincoln spoke of anti-slavery men in 1862 as “Radicals and Abolitionists.” Rhodes said that the abolitionists said, “The President is not with us; he has no anti-slavery instincts.”—(*Rhodes’ History of United States, Vol. IV., p. 64.*)

Abraham Lincoln was elected by the Republican Party on a minority vote because of a split in the Democratic ranks. Three candidates divided that vote. Lincoln knew that many leading men of the North were not with him, and he would have this to contend with from the first.

Abraham Lincoln was very sensitive, and Lamon says, suffered greatly from attacks made upon him personally as well as those upon his administration. He relates the following incident illustrating this trait of his character. "I went one day to his office and found him lying on a sofa, greatly distressed. Jumping to his feet, he said, "Lamon, you know better than any living man that from my boyhood up my ambition has been to be President of the United States—but look at me! I wish I had never been born! I would rather be dead than as President abused in the house of my friends." This was the time, says Lamon, when members of the Cabinet were referring to him as the "Baboon at the other end of the avenue," and the "idiot of the White House." To the men of his Cabinet this sensitive side of his nature was never shown—to them he always appeared indifferent to ridicule and abuse.

Lamon, like Herndon, did not believe in falsifying even for a friend, and Boswell-like he told things as they were. It is from Lamon's pen that we have what really occurred after Lincoln's death, and he it is who tells how men who had most vilified him in life began at once most to glorify him after death, and even to give to him the attributes of God. Quoting his words: "There was the fiercest rivalry as to who should canonize Mr. Lincoln in the most solemn words; who should compare him to the most sacred character in history. He was called prophet, priest, and king. He was said to be Washington, Moses, and even likened to Christ the Redeemer, and unto God Himself. After that came the ceremony of apotheosis: the deification took place with showy magnificence; men who had exhausted the resources of their skill and ingenuity in venomous detractions of the living Lincoln were the first after death to undertake the task of guarding his memory, not as a human being, but as God. Who were these men who had been his detractors in life? Salmon P. Chase, his Secretary of Treasury; Edwin Stanton, his Secretary of War; Hannibal Hamlin, the Vice-President; Seward, his Secretary of State; John C. Fremont, Charles Sumner, Trumbull, Ben. Wade, Henry Wilson, Thaddeus Stevens, Henry Ward Beecher, Wendell Phillips, Winter Davis, Chandler and Horace Greeley. With

the exception of Greeley, they now assumed a reverential attitude toward the dead man and tried to make the world believe that Lincoln had been their wise and trusted ruler, their guide, their head, their Moses who had led them out of the awful Wilderness of War."

Herndon and Lamon both loved Lincoln but scouted and despised this deification "twaddle" which these detractors began to put in play even before Lincoln was cold in his grave.

When Herndon's and Lamon's biographies had fast disappeared, Jessie William Weik asked Herndon to aid him in preparing a larger and fuller "Life of Lincoln." Herndon consented, provided he would be allowed to write the preface. Weik did not wish to grant this request, but, under the circumstances, he had to consent, hoping few would read a preface. Here it is:

"With a view to throwing light on some attributes of Mr. Lincoln's character, heretofore obscure, these volumes are given to the world. The whole truth concerning Mr. Lincoln should be known. The truth will at last come out, and no man must hope to evade it. Some persons will doubtless object to the narration of certain facts which they contend should be assigned to the tomb. Their pretense is that no good can come from such ghastly exposures. My answer is, that these facts are indispensable to a full knowledge of Mr. Lincoln. We must have all the facts concerning him. We must be prepared to take Mr. Lincoln as he was. He rose from a lower depth than any other great man did—from a stagnant, putrid pool. I should be remiss in my duty if I did not throw light on this part of the picture. Mr. Lincoln was my warm and devoted friend. I always loved him. I revere his name today. My purpose to tell the truth about him need occasion no apprehension. God's naked truth cannot injure any man's fame. The world should be told what the skeleton was with Lincoln, what cancer he had inside."

Lamon and Herndon were greatly distressed at the continued falsehoods told regarding Lincoln's hatred for slavery and his piety. Herndon says, "Lincoln was in no sense religious. In 1854 he made me erase the name of God from a speech I was about to make. He did this also to one of his friends in Washington City. I know when he left Springfield for Washington he had undergone no change in his opinion on religion." Nicolay says the same thing Lamon says, "After Mr. Lincoln became President, while he never changed his views of the Christian religion, he did become more discreet in talking against

it." Again, "He did study his Bible, he did sometimes go to church, and he did quote Scripture but it was to confound not to convert." Herndon says, "To the day of his death Mr. Lincoln denied the inspiration of the Scriptures and the Divinity of Jesus Christ, and he never connected himself with any religious denomination. He was not pious in any sense of the word."

It is, however, a very serious matter to enter into condemnation of any man in his relation to his Maker, and this is a matter which should be left for him and his God to settle—but is it right that a man who made no profession of religion in life should be held up for emulation to the Christian children of this generation? Is it right that ministers of the Gospel, Christian public speakers and teachers should place Abraham Lincoln as "our greatest American"? Shall our children be taught that great Americans need not love God, need not believe the Divinity of our Lord and in the inspiration of His Holy Word, and need not acknowledge Him before men?

Now the question arises wherein shall Abraham Lincoln be held up as an exemplar for the imitation of our American Youth? We cannot hold him up as a GENTLEMAN OF REFINEMENT AND CULTURE. Herndon says: "Lincoln's highest delight was to be in the midst of rowdy men engaged in a fist fight while the crowd betted on the result, and money, whiskey and tobacco were at stake."

Herndon and Lamon both say: "Lincoln was extremely fond of horse races and cock fights, and had a passion to spin yarns on street corners or in dram shops to a crowd of boys. These yarns Lincoln would tell even in the presence of preachers." Even Holland, one of his glorifiers, admits that "Lincoln's vulgar stories are too indecent to be printed," and some of these stories were told after he entered the White House. Lamon says: "Lincoln did not like strong drink, but he drank his dram with others for fear of giving offense. ABE WAS ALWAYS FOR DOING WHAT THE PEOPLE DID." He must have been lacking in true refinement of feeling, or he would never have stood for Ben Butler's insult to those women in New Orleans.

We cannot commend Lincoln for *integrity of character*. It is true Abraham Lincoln could not be bribed, nor was he ever guilty of graft. Herndon calls him "Honest Abe Lincoln," and he was, but he was not above bribing others. When McClellan was running against him for President, Lincoln used his office as Commander-in-Chief of the army to defeat McClellan by ordering furloughs to be given to 5,000 soldiers

in order that at the polls they might carry Pennsylvania for him in the election.—(A. K. McClure—*Our Presidents and How We Make Them*. p. 195.)

We cannot hold him up as *humane or tender hearted*. Had he been he would not have allowed Sheridan's cruelty in the Shenandoah Valley; Sherman's cruelty in his "March to the Sea;" nor would he have denied medicine, vessels, or exchange to those poor suffering, dying men in Andersonville Prison. By a word he could have prevented all. President Davis urged him to do the latter, General Howell Cobb urged it, Capt. Wirz urged him to do it—the surgeons and prisoners themselves urged him to do it.

Had he been humane, he would not have allowed 38,000 men and women—editors, politicians, clergymen of good character and honor—imprisoned in gloomy, damp casements, for no overt act, but simply because they were "Democrat suspects."—(*Life and Times of Hannibal Hamlin*, p. 393.) (*Bancroft's Life of Seward*, Vol. 2, p. 254.)

His Emancipation Proclamation was not issued from a humane standpoint. He hoped it would incite the negroes to rise against the women and children.—(*Rhodes History of United States*, Vol. IV., p. 344.)

One may say the spirit of that Gettysburg address should be emulated. Lamon says that "is not the speech Mr. Lincoln made at Gettysburg." Nicolay says "it was revised." Lamon says all that his biographers say of "Mr. Everett's commendatory words is bosh." Mr. Everett was disappointed in the speech and so was Mr. Seward.

We cannot hold him up as a *hater of slavery*. Abraham Lincoln did not free the slaves because he hated slavery, nor for any love for the African race, nor for any desire to give them suffrage or social equality. In his campaign speeches, he said he had no thought of freeing the slaves. In his Inaugural Address he said the same. He made Hunter and Fremont countermand their acts freeing the slaves in conquered territory in the early years of the War, saying "they could not by the Constitution do it," and "the war was not being fought with any view of freeing the slaves." His Emancipation Proclamation was intended only as a punishment for the seceding States. It was with no thought of freeing the slaves of the more than 300,000 *slaveholders then in the Northern army*.

His Emancipation Proclamation was issued for a fourfold

purpose and it was issued with fear and trepidation lest he should offend his Northern constituents. He did it:

FIRST:—

Because of an oath—that if Lee should be driven from Maryland he would free the slaves  
(*Barnes and Guerber.*)

SECOND:—

The time of enlistment had expired for many men in the army and he hoped this would encourage reenlistment.

THIRD:—

Trusting that Southern men would be forced to return home to protect their wives and children from negro insurrection.

FOURTH:—

To prevent foreign nations from recognizing the Confederacy.

Was he satisfied with its effect? Let us see what happened. "Many and many a man deserted in the winter of 1862-63 because of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The soldiers did not believe that Lincoln had the right to issue it. They refused to fight."—(*McClure's Magazine Jan. 1893, p. 165.—also Tarbell.*) Wendell Phillips said Lincoln acknowledged that "the Emancipation Proclamation was the greatest folly of his life." "There were great losses in the elections in consequence of the Emancipation Proclamation.—(*Nicolay & Hay, Vol. II. p. 261.*) "While I hope something from this proclamation, my expectations are not so sanguine as are those of some friends. The time for its effect Southward has not come; but Northward the effect should be instantaneous. It is six days old and while commendation in newspapers and by distinguished individuals is all that a vain man could wish, the stocks have declined and troops come forward more slowly than ever. This looked squarely in the face is not very satisfactory. We have fewer troops in the field at the end of six days than we had at the beginning—the attrition among the old, outnumbering the addition by the new. The North responds to the proclamation sufficiently IN BREATH; but breath alone kills no rebels. I wish I could write more cheerfully."—(*Extract from letter, Sept. 28, 1863, from Abraham Lincoln to Hannibal Hamlin.*)

There was not an instance of insurrection among the negroes of the South. It was not necessary for one Southern soldier to return to his home on this account.

The only good result to the North was it did prevent foreign nations from recognizing the Southern Confederacy.

Can he be held up as an example of what a man can do born under the most adverse circumstances? Yes, Lincoln rose in a marvellous way above poverty and adverse surroundings to the highest position in the Nation's gift—but because Lincoln was a self-made man he should not be held up as "The Typical American." The term is misleading. If by typical is a high type of his kind—then it is all right. He was a fine type of a self-made man and all should honor him for what he did with his opportunities—but this need not place him on a pinnacle of glory that makes him pre-eminent over such men as George Washington, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and a host of others North and South deserving far more praise.

We can extol Lincoln as a brave man physically and an athlete, as it were. "A gang of negroes came on board of a flat boat, he was taking with a cargo to New Orleans, to rob the boat, but Abe Lincoln had no fear. He picked up a club and the negroes bruised and bleeding were glad to get off with their lives."

"While clerking in a grocery store at New Salem a bully named Jack Armstrong, belonging to a gang of ruffians, used to test every stranger that came amongst them. He tried Abe, but soon found his match and left him unmolested." When in the White House a man came to demand what Lincoln had before refused. Upon leaving he said, "A man need not expect justice from the White House." Lincoln took him by the collar and led him to the door and ordered him to go and never to return, saying, "I can stand abuse but not insult."

His physical strength was beyond the ordinary. It is said when quite a young man he could lift a barrel of cider and drink from the bung-hole.

Wherein was Lincoln weak? Lincoln had it in his power to make peace four times and refused to do it. The Crittenden Resolutions were a most generous proposition from the South to allow out of the 1,200,000 square miles of territory acquired by conquest and purchase, 900,000 square miles for free territory and the remaining 300,000 square miles to be free or slave as each new State formed might choose, and this, too, when Southern prowess had largely gained the territory. These resolutions in the interest of peace were offered by Northern and Southern

Democrats. Lincoln notified all Republican States through Senators Harlan and Zach Chandler to vote against these resolutions. Had he not done this they would have passed. Unjust as they were to the South, the South would have accepted them, and Thurlow Weed and Seward would have seen that they were passed by the North. It was Lincoln's fault they were rejected.

A peace convention was called at Washington City of delegates from the non-seceding Southern States. Lincoln assured them there would be no trouble at Fort Sumter. They returned to their homes. On the same train by which they left Washington was his "Call to Arms." Peace could have been made but was not.

Again, Peace Commissioners were sent from the Confederate government to Washington to ask for the peaceful surrender of Fort Sumter. THE SOUTH DID NOT WANT WAR. On the 12th of March, 1861, the following note addressed to Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, was sent by the three Commissioners from the Confederate States.

"The undersigned are instructed to make to the Government of the United States overtures for the opening of negotiations, assuring the Government of the United States that the President, Congress, and people of the Confederate States earnestly desire A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THESE GREAT QUESTIONS: that it is neither their interest nor their wish to make any demand which is not founded in strictest justice, nor do any act to injure their late Confederates." A peaceful spirit would have kept peace—who was responsible for the answer?

Lincoln could have granted this request and peace would have followed. The method he took forced war. He determined, contrary to the Constitution, to coerce the States back into the Union. He knew he could not call for an armed force without resentment from the North and a violation of the compact. He must have an excuse, and that excuse was to force Fort Sumter to be fired upon.

Lincoln was a shrewd politician. He would not openly meet the peace commissioners. He sent Seward. Seward, an equally shrewd mediator, would not meet the peace commissioners—he sent Judge Campbell to carry the messages so worded as to cause delay while giving hope of success. During this delay the vessels for arming, and provisioning the fort were fitted out and sailed. Fort Sumter was fired on, the excuse for



war was given, the call to arms that Lincoln wished was made and made without consulting his Cabinet. It was Lincoln and Seward and Blair who forced war.

Again, at Hampton Roads Conference, Lincoln had an opportunity to make peace, but no terms that could be accepted were offered and he knew it, because he saw that surrender would soon be inevitable. Every man lost after this on either side, Lincoln was responsible for. Henry Watterson to vilify Davis in order to glorify Lincoln says Lincoln did offer terms of peace that could have been accepted, but Lincoln himself never said so, nor did the commissioners in their report to President Davis and his Cabinet say so.

Lincoln never hesitated to violate the Constitution when he so desired. The Chief Justice testified to this. Lincoln suspended the writ of Habeas Corpus in 1861; he allowed West Virginia to be formed from Virginia contrary to the Constitution; he issued his Emancipation Proclamation without consulting his Cabinet and in violation of the Constitution.

He consented to a cartel for exchange of prisoners Feb. 14, 1862. When it was to the advantage of the North, faith was kept; when it was to the advantage of the South, it was violated.—(*See Cor. Lieut.-Col. Ludlow and Col. Ould, July 26, 1863.*)

Lincoln, to carry out his point, sacrificed the lives of 1,000,000 men, 800,000 wore the blue, 200,000, the gray, and \$10,000,000,000 of the United States' money, and allowed more than one billion of the South's property to be confiscated or destroyed.

In what respect was Lincoln strong?

He had a shrewdness and cunning that was unparalleled and which enabled him to master and thwart some of the keenest intellects in the political life of the day. He managed Stanton, Sumner, Chase, Ben Wade, Thad Stevens and Seward in a most marvellous manner. He met their attacks with smiling indifference which angered them and made them all the more resentful. He went quietly on and had his own way. When he feared their opposition, he did not ask their advice, but, as a dictator, he violated the Constitution when he pleased to carry any point. He bore with marvellous fortitude and silence the unhappy relation in his home. None but his most intimate friends, Lamon, Herndon, Nicolay and Hay, ever dreamed of much that he bore in heroic silence. His tenderness to his children was always very beautiful. There is not an instance of harshness recorded that was shown to any one of them. To Tad,

the afflicted boy, he was especially tender—often holding him on his knee during State interviews. He was always kind to little children.

He realized that he would be obliged to free all slaves by war, so he planned a bill to introduce into Congress to pay \$400,000,000 for slaves belonging to the slaveholders of the North. He realized how his act of coercion which brought on the War and his freeing of the slaves, and destruction and confiscation of the life and property of the Southern States had been caused by the acts of War, so his policy for Reconstruction was made as magnanimous as he dared or could be expected.

He had a way of illustrating by anecdote what his wishes were and thus not openly committing himself to anything that could politically be brought against him.

By an anecdote he let Grant know that his terms of surrender for Lee must be magnanimous. By an anecdote he showed very plainly he desired President Davis to escape and not fall into the hands of the North. He knew Davis could never be tried for treason, therefore, he did not wish the test made. Had he lived, Sherman's terms of surrender to Johnston would not have been so severely dealt with by the Cabinet, for those were the very terms Lincoln would have wished.

His death was the greatest blow that could have befallen the South. Jefferson Davis said this, Howell Cobb and other Southern statesmen said this. No statesman, North or South, rejoiced over the news of his death except Thad Stevens who desired to carry out his own Reconstruction policy instead of Lincoln's.

"Lincoln died in the hour of victory. He had attained to the loftiest pinnacle of success and he died at his zenith." George R. Wendling said of him: "Elected by a minority vote, unknown to all party leaders, no executive experience, no treasury, Congress full of factions, Seward playing for control, Chase intriguing, Stanton arrogant, Cameron dishonest, foreign nations unsympathetic, and the public discouraged—yet in the face of all this and with the passions of all men inflamed to the highest pitch, Lincoln, with clear vision and serene temper, never faltered."

Abraham Lincoln was an enigma—a man in many ways different from other men. He was original to the point of eccentricity. Of Southern origin he was reared away from the South. Of Southern inheritance his environment was the Western prairie, and his habits were habits of Western life.

An untrammled child of nature, he was a rare product of rural energy.

He was simple, he was wise; he was gentle, he was firm; he was frank, he was astute; he was melancholy, he was full of mirth; he was patient, he was restless; he was a meek husband; a lenient father; he was weak, he was strong; he hated the slave, he freed the slave; he was tactful but without tact; a curious contradiction, a bundle of paradoxes. He was a true representative of the plebeian class. He studied men more than he studied books. He knew their strong points, and their weak points; he knew their faults, their foibles, their whims and their caprices.

He had few friends and fewer intimates. He unbosomed himself to none. He responded quickly to distress. He was physically and morally brave. His will was immovable yet he was the child of policy and expediency. He was ambitious and aspiring. He was self confident and never hesitated to cross mental swords with the most brilliant.

His real strength lay in knowing plain people for he was one of them, and there are more plain people in the world than any other kind. He saw their struggle and toil, their griefs and tears. He knew how they thought and felt and acted. He was their friend and they knew it. He knew how to communicate with them in their speech and amuse them by his jokes. He was an American, but an American of a new national type.

Jefferson Davis was not only at home with the aristocrat, but with the lowly and the negro. He knew how to adapt himself to all classes of people—but Lincoln could better meet the plebeian than Davis could, because he was one of them. He was never at home with the aristocrats, and was awkward in their presence. Neither in dress, in manner nor in social intercourse, was he at ease—he was awkward and ungainly in appearance. The members of the Cabinet were ashamed of his careless dress and felt that the dignity of his position warranted greater care and thought, and they said so, but Lincoln cared not for any criticisms along this line. He had never given thought to this personal appearance and he did not notice their jests about him, nor did he seem to care for the caricatures in *Punch*.

There has never been any character in history about whom such conflicting opinions prevail, and this undoubtedly is the result of his "speedy taking off." His biographers say:

"He was very ambitious."—"He was without a particle of ambition."

"He was the saddest man."—"He was the jolliest man."

"He was very religious."—"He was not religious at all."

"He was a sincere Christian."—"He was far from being a Christian."

"He was the most cunning man in America."—"He had not a particle of cunning in him."

"He had the strongest personal attachments."—"He had no personal attachments at all."

"He was a man with indomitable will."—"He was a man without a will."

"He was a perfect tyrant."—"He was the softest-hearted man in the world."

"He was remarkable for his pure-mindedness."—"He was known for his coarse and vulgar jests."

"He was the wittiest of men."—"He retailed only the wit of other men."

"He was candor itself."—"His candor and frankness was always assumed."

"He was a gentleman by instinct."—"He was a perfect boor."

"He was cool and impassive."—"He was susceptible to the strongest passions."

"At the bar he was a genius."—"As a lawyer he was a cunning clown."

"He was a man without duplicity."—"His duplicity is without a parallel."—"His duplicity brought on the War."

"The relation between Lincoln and his wife a model for married people."—"The relation between him and Mrs. Lincoln notoriously unpleasant."

"Abraham Lincoln did not believe in secession." Abraham Lincoln on the floor of Congress Jan. 13, 1848, said: "Any people anywhere, being inclined, and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government and to form one that suits them better."

Gen. Donn Piatt, who stumped the State of Illinois for Lincoln in his Presidential campaign, said, "I read of Lincoln today in eulogies and biographies, but I fail to recognize the man I knew in life."—(*Men Who Saved the Union*, p. 28.)

What shall be believed?

Shall the evidence after it is weighed be taken that he was a man of "ineffable purity, piety, and patriotism," and his cause "the cause of humanity, patriotism and righteousness?" and Jefferson Davis, "an arch traitor and felon," and his cause

“treason, rebellion and inhumanity?” The evidence of history is far from proving this to be the truth.

Mr. Lincoln in all fairness must be judged by the truth of history alone as recorded by the men of the North—those who placed him in power. The evidence is very strong against him as A VIOLATOR OF THE CONSTITUTION: Wendell Phillips at the Cooper Institute, 1864, said:

“I judge Mr. Lincoln by his acts, his violations of the law, his overthrow of liberty in the Northern States.

“I judge Mr. Lincoln by his words, his deeds, and so judging him, I am unwilling to trust Abraham Lincoln with the future of this country.”

Percy Gregg said, “Lincoln’s order that Confederate commissions or letters of marque granted to private or public ships should be disregarded and their crews treated as pirates; and all medicines declared contraband of war, violated every rule of civilized war and outraged the conscience of Christendom.”

April 4, 1861, Seward writes to Russell, the correspondent of the *London Times*:

“It would be contrary to the spirit of the American Government to use armed force to subjugate the South.”

Again, April 10th to Charles Francis Adams, Sr., the Minister to England:

“Only a despotic and imperial government can coerce seceding States.” And yet this is what Mr. Lincoln did. “James Buchanan in his Message to Congress announced that there was no Constitutional warrant to coerce the seceding States.”—(*John T. Morse—American Statesman Series.*)

If “the will of the people shall rule” be one of the fundamental principles of the Constitution, why should Lincoln be glorified for making war on the South in opposition to the will of the people? Blair was the only member of the Cabinet who encouraged him to force the firing on Fort Sumter; every one of the others to whom the matter was suggested saw and said it would bring on war.

McClure, his friend, said, “Mr. Lincoln swore to obey the Constitution, but in eighteen months violated it by his Emancipation Proclamation.”

Mr. Rhodes—Vol. IV., p. 213, says:

“There was no authority for the Proclamation by the Constitution and laws—nor was there any statute that warranted it.”

Chief Justice Chase said:

“Neither President, nor Congress, nor courts, possess any power not given by the Constitution.”

Godwin of *The Nation* says:

“The first real breach in the Constitution was President Lincoln’s using his war power to abolish slavery.”

Thad Stevens, “I will not stultify myself by supposing that Mr. Lincoln has any warrant in the Constitution for dismembering Virginia.”

What shall be said of Lincoln’s violations of the rules of civilized warfare? It was the duty of Mr. Lincoln, as Commander-in-chief of the army, to conduct the war on principles ADOPTED AND ENFORCED BY CIVILIZED NATIONS. “Private property could be seized only by military necessity for the support and benefit of the army.” General McClellan and General George Thomas understood this and enforced it—Generals Sherman, Grant, Pope, Butler, Sheridan and others understood it, too, but DID NOT ENFORCE IT, and felt that they had the sanction of the official head. General Sherman’s official report:

“I estimate the damage to Georgia at \$100,000,000—at least \$20,000,000 inured to our benefit, THE REMAINDER WAS SIMPLY WASTE AND DESTRUCTION.” Lincoln uttered no protest.

General Grant to General Davis Hunter, Aug. 5, 1864: “Take all provisions, forage and stock wanted for use of your command; SUCH AS CANNOT BE CONSUMED, DESTROY. Lincoln said not a word.

Sheridan said:

“I HAVE DESTROYED over 2,000 barns filled with wheat and hay and farming utensils; over seventy mills filled with flour and wheat, etc.” Lincoln uttered no protest.

Judge Jeremiah S. Black of Pennsylvania said:

“Of the wanton cruelties that Lincoln’s administration has inflicted upon unoffending citizens, I have neither space nor skill, nor time, to paint them—since the fall of Robespierre, nothing has occurred to cast such disrepute on Republican institutions.”  
—(*Black’s Essays*, p. 153.)

Charles A. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War, in speaking of Andersonville, says:

“The evidence must be taken as conclusive: It proves that it was not the Confederate authorities who insisted on keeping our prisoners in distress, want and disease, BUT THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF OUR ARMY.”

That the United States is today a Nation not a Republic of Sovereign States is due, without doubt, to Lincoln's policy of coercion, backed by over-whelming forces and resources and with the world on his side. Did it require such an unusual genius to succeed under these circumstances?

Had the South won in the conflict, Jefferson Davis would have been the wonder of the world, for it would have been said, with an army of 600,000 he put to flight an army of 2,800,000; with no trained military, no navy, little ammunition, few factories, ports blockaded, he conquered the North who had every resource at her command, and the whole world in sympathy, if not in co-operation, with her. It truly would have been a miracle. To have held out four years against such odds was wonderful, as it was.

Had the South won, the Constitution need not to have been changed. The Republic would have remained. The RIGHT OF A STATE TO SECEDE would have remained, but the expediency of seceding again might have been questioned. The slaves would not have been freed in a body, BUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN FREED BY GRADUAL EMANCIPATION there is not a shadow of doubt.

Had the South won, the Government would have been in the hands of men of statecraft at the South—men so far superior in their sense of right and justice to such men as Thad Stevens, Chas. Sumner, Edwin Stanton, Andrew Johnson, William Seward, Ben Wade, and others of that stamp who held the reins of government in Andrew Johnson's administration and brought Reconstruction upon the South. This engendered race problems which have taken more than fifty years to adjust.

Jefferson Davis would doubtless have been put at the head of the United States army, a position he always craved, and Robert E. Lee would have been another Washington to have led us into a stronger Union than ever existed.

The South was the citadel of conservatism. Had she prevailed, no dangers from imperialism and centralization would have beset us. The South was NEVER AN INVADER OF RIGHTS BUT ALWAYS A DEFENDER OF RIGHTS.

One may say the South would never have come to a knowledge of her own possibilities had not the slaves been freed as they were. The War Between the States did teach the South a lesson of unpreparedness by which she discovered her weaknesses and her possibilities. That War taught her that the slaveholders were in bondage far greater than the slaves. Had the slaves

been freed by gradual emancipation, there would probably have been no race problems today—everything would have been adjusted and adjusted in the most amicable way long before fifty years had passed.

The very fact that today the Confederate soldier wears the Cross of Honor; to the Confederate soldier, more monuments have been erected than to any other soldier of any other war; that to Confederate valor, THE GREATEST MONUMENT IN THE WORLD is soon to be erected, proves the cause for which the South fought is anything but a "Lost Cause." What the North achieved by overwhelming odds was not such a wonderful victory, and Abraham Lincoln, because he was at the helm of Government at that time, did not perform such a marvellous deed, and therefore should not be glorified.

It is queer that a Southern born man and a Confederate soldier should be Lincoln's greatest glorifier. Henry Watterson, undoubtedly posted by James Breckenridge Speed, Lincoln's friend, who asked him to present the statue of Lincoln to Kentucky, said among other things, "Your lowly cabin which is to be dedicated on the morrow may well be likened to the Manger of Bethlehem, the boy that went thence to a God-like destiny, to the Son of God, the Father Almighty of Him and us all. Whence his prompting except from God? His tragic death may be likened also to that other martyr whom Lincoln so closely resembled.

"There are utterances of his which read like rescripts from the Sermon on the Mount. Reviled as Him of Galilee, slain, even as Him of Galilee, yet as gentle and as unoffending, a man who died for men."

This seemed sacrilege to those who knew Lincoln as he really was, and what had gone before in Colonel Watterson's speech lost its power.

The log cabin where Lincoln was born was presented to the U. S. government Sept. 4, 1916, and a great memorial to him is being erected in Washington City.

### WHY DID JOHN WILKES BOOTH ASSASSINATE LINCOLN?

President Davis was accused of instigating the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and it was said his imprisonment and the placing of manacles upon him was based on this accusation. When proof could not be obtained, then an attempt was made to bribe Capt. Wirz to implicate him in the cruel treatment of the



Andersonville prisoners. This Capt. Wirz denied most positively even with offer of pardon.

President Davis grieved over Lincoln's assassination, saying, "It is the greatest blow that could befall the South." Why then was Lincoln assassinated by John Wilkes Booth? Surely not because Booth was such an ardent lover of the Confederacy, for had he been HE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE RANKS FIGHTING—and not on the stage acting. There was some other motive that caused Booth to plot to kill Lincoln and Lewis Payne, his accomplice, plan to kill Seward.

Captain John James Thompson, of Gainesville, Fla., knew John Wilkes Booth, Lewis Payne and John Yates Beall. He testified before his death that it was because Lincoln had promised to pardon Beall and then refused to do it when it was in his power to do it—because of his rejection of all testimony in Beall's favor, and because Seward was the one who had prevailed upon Lincoln not to act in the matter, that they determined to carry out this plot.

There was a story prevailing—whether true or not is not known—that Gen. Grant was to have been in the theatre box with Lincoln that night, and some friend arranged to have him called out of the city on business. The assassins had no grudge against Gen. Grant.

Capt. Thompson had intended giving affidavit of all this, but died before doing it. When the account appeared in the *Confederate Veteran*, written by Gen. John Tench of Florida, a gentleman in Mississippi wrote saying he could vouch for the truth of all that he had said. Gen. Tench has this letter. The family of Beall deny any connection with Booth in this matter, saying John Wilkes Booth did not personally know John Yates Beall; but those who were in Washington City during the trial testify to Booth's, McClure's, Payne's and other friends' indignation over the injustice done John Yates Beall, and believe Lincoln's death resulted from it. John Wilkes Booth was an intimate friend of Lincoln's and the story goes that McClure got Booth to extract a promise from Lincoln regarding Beall, and Lincoln, advised by Seward and fearing to interfere with Gen. Dix's order, failed to keep his promise.

#### WHAT BECAME OF JOHN WILKES BOOTH?

The following is an extract from a letter from General James Gordon, of Mississippi, to Miss Mildred Rutherford, of Athens, Ga.

"Oklahoma, Aug. 11, 1894.

'Dear Miss Rutherford:

"I have puzzled my brain considerably over your Plus Questions in your *American Authors*, and will answer one you cannot answer yourself: Page 565—*What was the Fate of John Wilkes Booth?*

"In 1864 I escaped from my captors and not being able to reach home sought refuge in Canada. In Montreal at Queen's Hotel, I think it was, I met Wilkes Booth, who was a star actor at that time. He was a very handsome man, and quite an intelligent and agreeable companion. And as he sympathized with the South in her struggle, we became intimate friends on a brief acquaintance. When he left for Washington, I bade him good-bye with many kind wishes, little thinking that I grasped the hand in friendly farewell that would soon be stained with the blood of an assassinated President. Nor do I think he had such thought at that time. In a few days, I was shocked at the report of Lincoln's death by the hand of John Wilkes Booth!

"Five years after that I visited Memphis, and there met a friend who was also an intimate friend of Booth's. He showed me a letter from a mutual friend, who had been absent since the close of the war, who was then in the Rocky Mountains hunting and trapping. He said in his letter that his companion and friend could not send his name, for he bore a DEAD NAME, yet sent him his photograph to let him know that the original was still alive, and sent his kindly remembrances to him and myself. This photo was a true likeness of John Wilkes Booth.

"I then remembered that no one who had ever seen Booth was permitted to see the body of the dead man that had been killed, and a reward claimed for the capture, dead or alive, of the assassin, Booth. That no coroner's inquest had been permitted to sit on his body. That everything pertaining to his remains were secret, even the spot where buried was unknown to the world. Since that time I have frequently seen vague rumors of some one thinking they recognized John Wilkes Booth in various parts of the world—once in Mexico, again in Havana—then in several European cities. Yet no one gave any credence to it.

"It is my opinion that Booth was not the man killed by Corbett, and may be alive yet. You may take this for what it is worth, yet I think I will be the only reader of your splendid work that will answer this question correctly.

"I am sincerely yours,

"JAMES GORDON."

This original letter is in the Historical Records, prepared by Miss Rutherford, Historian General U. D. C., and is to be placed in the Confederate Museum in Richmond, Va.

Summed up, the services of Lincoln to the United States government were:

Captain in the Black Hawk War. He attained no distinction.

One term in the House of Representatives, 1846. No service of note rendered. Failed to be elected to the Senate.

Elected President of the United States by the Republican Party on a minority vote.

Re-elected President in 1865, over McClellan, by using his power as commander-in-chief of the army.

He involved the United States in war by reenforcing Fort Sumter.

He prevented the "Trent" affair from involving the United States in war with England.

He refused to aid Mexico against Maximilian in 1863, and kept the United States out of war.

He freed the slaves of the Southern States by a proclamation that was unconstitutional.

He preserved the Union, not by a constitutional right, but by armed might.

71.2099.084.04438

