

HOW LINCOLN ESCAPED

A Ludicrous Alliance Which Might Have Altered History.

One of the most romantic episodes in the life of President Abraham Lincoln has recently been brought to light by Norman Haggood, in an old letter, dated Springfield, Ill., April 1, 1838, and written by Mr. Lincoln to Mrs. O. H. Browning. From this ancient document whose genuineness is undisputed, it seems that Mr. Lincoln, as the result of a rash promise, made to the sister of a young lady whom he had not seen since his formal introduction to her some three years previous, became the dupe of matrimonial entanglements which might have changed materially the whole course of his career had he not been fortunate enough to extricate himself from them in the most unexpected manner. At the time Mr. Lincoln was an obscure young barrister still short of thirty. But the story is best told by the letter itself which is full of the whimsical touches of humor so characteristic of Mr. Lincoln.

"Springfield, Ill., April 1, 1838. Dear Madam—Without apologizing for being egotistical I shall make the history of so much of my life as has elapsed since I saw you the subject of this letter. And, by the way, I now discover that in order to give you an intelligible account of the things I have done and suffered I shall necessarily have to relate some that happened before.

"It was, then, in the autumn of 1836 that a married lady of my acquaintance who was a great friend of mine, being about to pay a visit to her father and other relatives residing in Kentucky, proposed to me that on her return she would bring a sister of hers with her on condition that I would engage to become her brother-in-law with all convenient dispatch. Of course, I accepted the proposal. You know I could not have done otherwise had I been really averse to it; but privately, between you and me, I was most confoundedly well pleased with the project. I had seen the said sister some three years before, thought her intelligent and agreeable and saw no objection to plodding through life, hand in hand, with her.

"Time passed on, the lady took her journey and in due time returned, sister in company sure enough. This astonished me a little; for it appeared to me that her coming so readily showed she was a trifle too willing; but on reflection it occurred to me that she might have been prevailed on by her married sister to come, without anything concerning me ever having been mentioned to her; and so I concluded that, if no other object presented itself, I would waive this.

"This all occurred to me on hearing of her arrival in the neighborhood, for, be it remembered, I had not yet seen her, except about three years previous, as above mentioned. In a few days we had an interview; and, although I had seen her before, she did not look as my imagination had pictured her. I knew she was over size, but she appeared a fair match for Faletta. I knew she was an 'old maid,' and I felt no doubt of the truth of at least half of the appellation; but now, when I beheld her, I could not for my life avoid thinking of my mother; and this, not from withered features, for her skin was too full of fat to permit of its contracting into wrinkles, but from her want of teeth, weather-beaten appearance in general and from a kind of notion that ran in my head that nothing could have commenced at the size of infancy and reached her present bulk in less than thirty-five or forty years; and, in short, I was not pleased with her.

"But what could I do? I had told her sister that I would take her for better or for worse; and I made a point of honor and conscience in all things to stick to my word, especially if others had been induced to act on it, which in this case I had no doubt they had; for I was now fairly convinced that no other man on earth would have her and hence the conclusion that they were bent on holding me to my bargain. 'Well,' thought I, 'I have said it and, be the consequences what they may, it shall not be my fault if I fail to do it. At once I determined to consider her my wife; and, this done, all my powers of discovery were put to work in search of perfections in her which might be fairly set off against her defects. I tried to imagine her handsome, which, except for her unfortunate corpulency, was actually true. Exclusive of this, no woman that I have ever seen has finer features. I also tried to convince myself that the mind was more to be valued than the person; and in this she was not inferior, as I could discover, to any with whom I had been acquainted.

"Shortly after that, without coming to any positive understanding with her, I set out for Vandalia, where and where you first saw me. During my stay there I had letters from her which did not change my opinion of her intellect or intention, but, on the contrary, confirmed it in both. 'All this time, though I was fixed, 'armed as the surge-repelling rock,' in my resolution I found I was continually repenting the rashness which led me to make it. Through life I have been in no bondage, either real or imaginary, from the thralldom of which I so much desired to be free. After my return home I saw nothing to change my opinion of her in any particular. She was the same and so was I. I now spent my time in planning how I might get along through life after my contemplated change of circumstances had taken place and how I might procrastinate the evil for a time which I really dreaded as much and perhaps more than an Irishman does the halter.

"After all my suffering upon this deeply interesting subject, here I am, wholly, unexpectedly out of the scrape, and now I want to know if you can guess how I got out of it—clear in every sense of the term—no violation of word, honor or conscience. I don't believe you can guess and so I might as well tell you at once. As the lawyer says, it was done in the manner following, to-wit: After I had delayed the matter as long as I thought I could in honor do, I concluded I might as well bring it to a consummation without further delay; and so I mustered my resolution and made the proposal to her direct; but, shocking to relate, she answered 'No.' At first I thought she did it through affectation of modesty, which I thought ill became her under the circumstances of her case, but on my renewal of the charge I found that she repelled it with greater firmness than before. I tried it again and again, but with the same success or rather the same want of success.

"Finally I was forced to give it up; at which I unexpectedly found mortified almost beyond endurance. I was mortified, it seems to me, in a hundred different ways. My vanity was deeply wounded by the reflection that I had been too stupid to discover her intentions, never doubting that I understood them perfectly, and also that she, when I had taught myself to believe nobody else would have, had actually rejected me with all my fancied greatness. And, to cap the whole, I then for the first time began to suspect that I was really a little in love with her.

"But let it all go. I'll try and outlive it. Others have been made fools of by the girls, but this can never with truth be said of me. I was temporarily in this instance made a fool of myself. I have now come to the conclusion never again to think of marrying, and for this reason: I can never be satisfied with any one who would be blockhead enough to have me.

"When you receive this, write me a long yarn about something to amuse me. Give my respects to Mr. Browning. Your sincere friend, A. Lincoln."

Though it is difficult to imagine, one of Mr. Lincoln's shrewdness being the dupe of circumstances such as this letter describes, there seems to be no good ground for questioning the authenticity of the document itself which Mr. Haggood reproduces in his recent life of Mr. Lincoln, published by the Macmillans. Admitting the genuineness of the letter, it shows that Mr. Lincoln's proverbially keen insight into character was not possessed of the virtue of infallibility and that his wonderful common sense which safe-guarded his political policies and made his public utterances almost oracular must not have been or duty when he allowed himself to get into this awful muddle.

A Statue of Washington.

London, July 20.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Pilgrims' Club tonight, a committee was appointed to give effect to the recent suggestion to erect a statue of George Washington in London. It was decided that the subscription should be entirely confined to British subjects. Archdeacon Sinclair, in submitting the plan to the Society, said: "Englishmen have at last fully recognized the great qualities of Washington. I feel assured that nothing will be more popular in this country than such a tribute to that great man of English birth, who has done so much for the world's history, not only for the young nation across the sea, but for Great Britain as well."

—The Berlin newspapers tell of a wonderful baby giant which was recently brought by his parents before the medical faculty of that city for examination. He is the son of a baker at Drivers, and, although only eighteen months old, stands three and a half feet high. He measures thirty-six inches around the chest.

—The longer his wife sits on his lap the more a man wishes some company would call.

POWER OF IMAGINATION.

The Story of a Dinner at Which Alligator Was Not Served.

The distinguished geologist Dr. Buckland one day gave a dinner after dissecting a Mississippi alligator, having asked a good many of the most distinguished of his classes to dine with him. His house and all his establishment were in good style and taste. His guests congregated. The dinner table showed splendidly with glass, china and plate, and the meal commenced with excellent soup.

"How do you like the soup?" asked the doctor after having finished his own plate, addressing a famous gourmand of the day.

"Very good, indeed," answered the other. "Turtle, is it not? I only ask because I do not find any green fat."

The doctor shook his head. "I think it has somewhat of a musky taste," said another; "not unpleasant, but peculiar."

"All alligators have," replied Buckland, "the cayman peculiarly so. The fellow whom I dissected this morning and whom you have just been eating"—

There was a general rout of the whole guests. Every one turned pale. Half a dozen started up from the table. Two or three of them ran out of the room and vomited, and only those who had stout stomachs remained to the close of an excellent entertainment.

"See what imagination is," said Buckland. "If I had told them it was turtle or terrapin or bird's nest soup, salt water ammonia or fresh, or the gluten of a fish from the maw of a sea bird, they would have pronounced it excellent and their digestion been none the worse. Such is prejudice."

"But was it really an alligator?" asked a lady.

"As good a calf's head as ever wore a coronet," answered Buckland.

The Man and His Cane.

Next to the woman who jabs us with her umbrella comes the man with the cane which he flourishes in a manner that menaces our faces. I happened to follow two young men thus armed into an office building, says the Brooklyn Eagle. On the way to the elevator they gesticulated so violently with their canes that I deemed it prudent to keep out of their reach. While waiting for the elevator to come down they tapped and poked around with their sticks until one of them ran his through the grillwork surrounding the elevator shaft. Just then the elevator came down lickety swizzle and, catching the inner end of the cane, yanked the outer end up so suddenly that it hit its owner a resounding whack under the chin. Then it broke the cane in two.

Of course I was very sorry for the young man, but even sorrow cannot always make us forget that an elevator, properly interpreted, may carry a young man up to heights of wisdom.

Tips About Your Timepiece.

A watch should be wound up every day at the same hour. Avoid putting it on a marble slab or on anything excessively cold, as the sudden change of temperature, contracting the metal, may sometimes cause the mainspring to break. The cold coagulates the oil, and the pivots and wheels, working less freely, affect the regularity of the time-keeper. In laying aside a watch be sure that it rests on its case. If suspended the action of the balance may cause oscillation, which will interfere with its going. To keep your watch clean take care that the case fits closely and see that your pockets are free from fluff which is so often given off by cotton, cloth or calico linings.

Their Different Errands.

An English landowner out unusually early one morning for a walk on his estate in turning a corner came suddenly upon an Irishman whom he knew as an inveterate poacher. This is the conversation that took place between them: "Good morning, Pat." "Good mornin', yer haner. An' phwat brings yer haner out so airly this mornin'?" "I'm just walking around, Pat, to see if I can get an appetite for my breakfast. And what brings you out so early, Pat?" "Och, be jabbers, Oi'm jest walkin' around to see if Oi can't git a breakfast fer me appetite!"—What to Eat.

Old Enough to Break.

It was in the hall of antique casts in the Brooklyn Institute museum. A "little mother" of seven or eight was leading about a tiny sister in each hand, evidently doing the honors of what she was convinced must be a place of entertainment.

One little tot, evidently disappointed in her expectations, said, "But they're all broken!"

"They can't help that," replied the little champion. "They've been here ye-ars and ye-ars!"—Brooklyn Life.

—The longer his wife sits on his lap the more a man wishes some company would call.

Schlitz

A Doctor's Reasons

Patient: "Why do you say Schlitz beer? Isn't any other beer as good?"

Doctor: "Perhaps; but I don't know it. I do know that Schlitz beer is pure."

Patient: "What do you mean by pure?"

Doctor: "I mean free from germs. Impurity means bacilli; and in a saccharine product like beer bacilli multiply rapidly. I do not recommend a beer that may contain them."

Patient: "How do you know that Schlitz beer is pure?"

Doctor: "I have seen it brewed. Cleanliness is carried to extremes in that brewery. The beer is cooled in plate glass rooms, in filtered air. The beer is then filtered. Yet, after all these precautions, every bottle is sterilized—by Pasteur's process—after it is sealed. I know that beer treated in that way is pure."

Patient: "And is pure beer good for me?"

Doctor: "It is good for anybody. The hops form a tonic; the barley a food. The trifle of alcohol is an aid to digestion. And the custom of drinking beer supplies the body with fluid to wash out the waste. People who don't drink beer seldom drink enough fluid of any kind. A great deal of ill-health is caused by the lack of it."

Patient: "But doesn't beer cause biliousness?"

Doctor: "Not Schlitz Beer. Biliousness is caused by 'green' beer—beer that is insufficiently aged. But Schlitz beer is always aged for months before it is marketed."

Ask for the brewery bottling.

THE BEER THAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS

To Stove Buyers!

Special attention is invited to a new shipment of—

ACORN STOVES AND RANGES!

Which we have just received, and which includes the very latest patterns, both coal or wood, adapted to the requirements of this market.

If you require anything in the Stove or Range line we solicit an opportunity to explain the merits of **THE ACORN**.

We also carry a complete and up-to-date line of **TINWARE, WOOD-ENWARE and HOUSE FURNISHINGS.**

Guttering, Plumbing and Electric Wiring executed on short-notice.

Yours truly,

ARCHER & NORRIS.

DR. MOFFETT'S TEETHINA

(TEETHING POWDERS)

Rev. J. W. Berry (of Arkansas Methodist Conference, writes): "Enclosed find fifty cents for which please mail me two packages of 'TEETHINA.' We wonder how we have raised children without it. The other day a lady in Missouri sent us a package and it came at a most opportune time; our babe was in a serious condition; his bowels had been in bad condition for days, and nothing that we gave did any good; the second dose of 'TEETHINA' gave perfect relief and he has had no further trouble. Other members of the family have used it and every dose has been a perfect success."

CHINA

CHINA

FINE FRENCH CHINA

TEA-SET!

BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED

NOVELTIES

AND

ODD PIECES

A VARIETY OF

JOHN M. HUBBARD,

JEWELER,

HOTEL BLOCK.

\$9.00 WILL BUY A

FARMING TOOLS!

NOTHING is more gratifying to an up-to-date Farmer than to have a well-equipped outfit to begin his Spring work, and this he is sure to get when he does his trading with us. We can sell you—

PLOWS, PLOW STOCKS, SINGLE TREES, HEEL BOLTS, CLEAVES, HAMES, TRACES, COLLARS, COLLAR PADS, BACK BANDS, PLOW LINES, BRIDLES.

And everything necessary to begin plowing, except the Mule, and we can "right" you to a Mule trade.

We still have a few Syracuse Turn Plows that we are closing out, at a very low price, and can furnish you with the Terracing Wing.

Come in and let us show you our 7 foot Perfection Trace Chain at 50c pair. Nothing in the Trace line compares with this Chain.

Don't you need a hog pasture? We have the Wire Fence for you.

BROCK HARDWARE COMPANY.

Wheat Growers!

TAKE NOTICE.

Do not Fail to try our Specially Prepared 8 1-2 2-2 Petrified--

Bone Fertilizers for Grain.

We have all grades of Ammoniated Fertilizers and Acid Phosphates, also Kainit, Nitrate of Soda and Muriate of Potash; all put up in new bags; thoroughly pulverized, and no better can be found in the market.

We shall be pleased to have your order.

ANDERSON PHOSPHATE AND OIL CO.