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Two Things of Which Lincoln Was Ashamed

By ROBERTUS LOVE.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN, whose life was never a model of dignity and convention, engaged in two affairs during his career which he always wanted to forget. Of his connection with these events he seemed to be heartily ashamed. One was almost a duel, and the other was a revolutionary act as a legislator. Lincoln as a Whig served in the Illinois legislature of 1840-41. There was a bitter fight against the state banks, led by the Democrats. The state of affairs was such that the Democrats believed that an adjournment of the legislature since die would kill the banks. The Whigs undertook to prevent this by absenting themselves and thus reducing the attendance below a quorum. Lincoln and Joseph Gillespie, another Whig, were delegated to attend the sessions and call the yeas and nays. The sergeant at arms was sent out to gather in enough Whigs to make a quorum. Lincoln and Gillespie, with another Whig, then ran to a window of the church in which the legislature sat and jumped out.

Gillespie said after Lincoln's death, "I think Mr. Lincoln always regretted that he entered into that arrangement, as he depressed everything that served of the revolutionary." But it was what Lincoln in a letter to his close friend Joshua F. Speed called his "dupel with Shields" that caused him more regret than any other incident connected with his public life. This also was brought about indirectly because of Lincoln's attitude regarding state finances, though there was a more romantic side to it.

In 1842 Lincoln was engaged to Mary Todd, whose particular charm was in her eyes, afterward the wife of Lyman Trumbull. James Shields, a young Irishman, was the state auditor. He was said to be "inordinately vain" and to have set himself up as a great beau, though unfitted by nature for playing that part. Mary Todd and other Springfield belles seemed to take delight in ridiculing Shields for his social pretensions. Miss Todd had some talent as a sarcastic writer. There appeared in the Sangamon Journal a Springfield newspaper a series of articles, presumably humorous, in which Shields was made the butt of ridicule. The first article criticised him in a good natured way for his management of state finances. The succeeding articles held him up to public ridicule on account of his social ambitions. Lincoln wrote the first, and the two girls wrote the other articles, but when Shields demanded of the editor the name of the author Lincoln gallantly "stepped for" all.

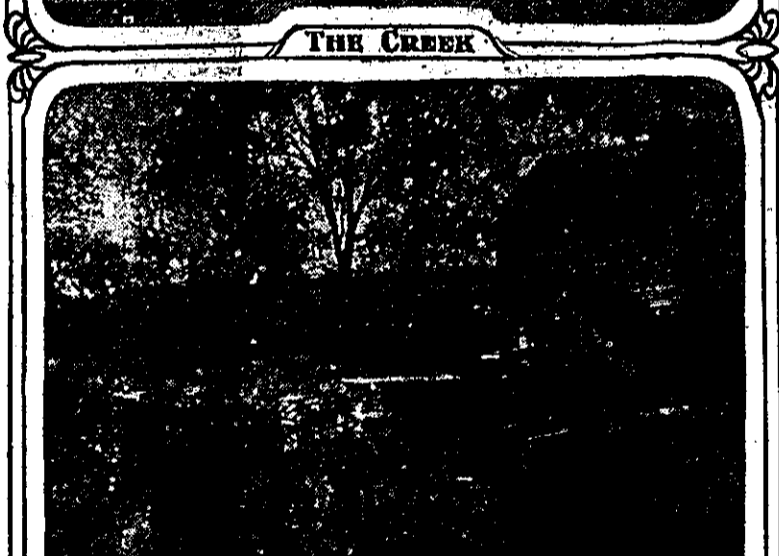
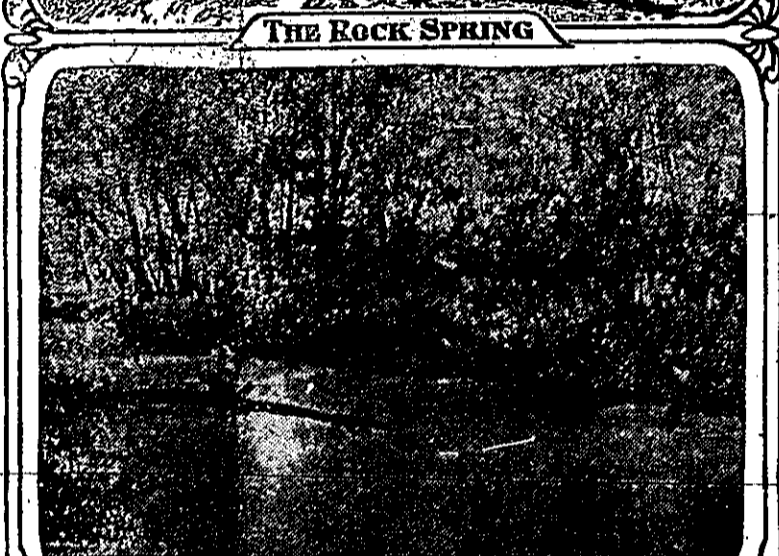
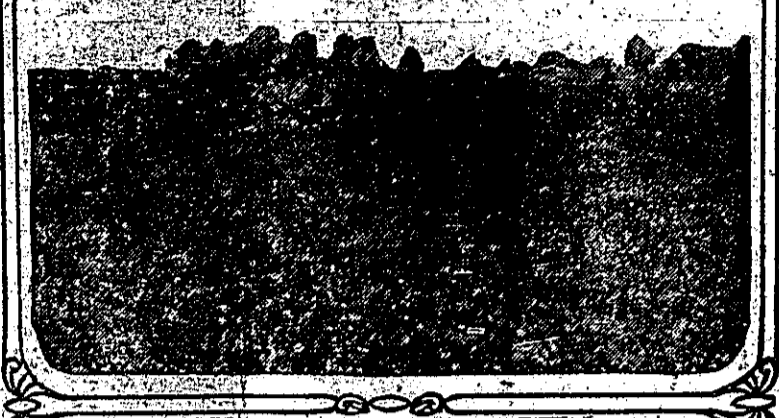
Shields demanded a retraction. Lincoln considered his letter offensive and requested him to withdraw the letter and state his case more mildly. This Shields refused to do. He challenged Lincoln to fight him. Lincoln had been strongly opposed to duelling, but under the circumstances he felt compelled to accept the challenge. As weapons he named cavalry broadswords of the largest size. A point in Missouri opposite the town of Alton was designated as the place.

When Lincoln was stern. Charles Wiegand was major of a German regiment from New York and, being of an enterprising turn of mind, secured a personal interview with President Lincoln and implored him for authority to raise a brigade of German troops. He was extremely optimistic and conceived the affair to be then already accomplished, but after waiting awhile for the desired presidential sanction, he pressed the matter and was discomfited by being turned down in this remorseless mode by the president: "I think this man called on me once or oftener, but I really know nothing as to his capacity or merit. If a brigade was promised him by the department, I know nothing of it, and not knowing whether he is fit for any place I could not with propriety recommend him for any." He treated with equal superciliousness one F. L. Capen, who engrossed some of his attention in an endeavor to establish a belief that the state of the weather could be predicted. The president was bored and cut Capen's career short by this matter of fact indorsement on his letter "April 23, 1863. It seems to me Mr. Capen knows nothing about the weather in advance. He told me three days ago that it would not rain again till the 30th of April or 1st of May. It is raining now and has been for ten hours. I cannot spare any more of my time to Mr. Capen."

Raw Potatoes as "Fruit". John Hayes, assistant secretary to President Lincoln, is authority for the statement that Mr. Lincoln ate his meals mechanically, never seeming to take much interest in eating. That the great president was not brought up as an epicure is indicated by an account of a visit to the home of Thomas Lincoln, his father, by an old lady of Indiana. This woman said that when she, with other visitors, was seated at the Lincoln's table and guests were presented around a table laden with potatoes, sweet corn, etc., she said: "Not having been accustomed to eat this kind of 'fruit'—she called the potatoes—she asked for the officers to give her a pea. They proceeded to eat the potatoes as one ate an apple. With her out maintenance.

less Shields in his later career proved that he was a brave and able man. In many respects his career was most remarkable. He volunteered his services in the Mexican war and was promoted rapidly. Both at Cerro Gordo and Chapultepec he was severely wounded. For his bravery at Cerro Gordo he was promoted major general. President Polk then appointed him the first territorial governor of Oregon, but Illinois elected him to the United States senate in 1849, where he served a full term of six years. Then he returned to Minnesota, and when that territory became a state he was elected to the United States senate for the first short term of two years. Later General Shields settled at Carrollton, Mo., and served two terms in the state legislature. But for

Lincoln's Birthplace As It Is Today (Hodgenville, Kentucky)



THE farm where Abraham Lincoln was born comprises 100 acres. It is less than a hundred miles from the center of population in the United States. The little old log cabin of one room with dirt floor, in which the great man was born has been exhibited to patriotic Americans in a Kentucky fair, but the Lincoln Birthplace Association will restore it to its original site and preserve it as a national monument. The farm will be preserved and described by the association, of which Governor Ford of Missouri is president. Every old landmark connecting the place with Lincoln's boyhood will be preserved.

President Lincoln's One Brief Vacation

By WALTON WILLIAMS

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DURING his more than four years as president of the United States Abraham Lincoln took but one vacation. That was just after the beginning of his new term, after four years of constant application to the nation's business in time of terrible civil war. The vacation ended but a few days before the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, but it was a glorious vacation and was greatly enjoyed by the sad and weary president.

Lincoln's vacation was quite different from the presidential outings to which we are accustomed of late. He did not seek a sequestered lake far up in the north, where he could fish, cut bait and swap yarns with cronies, nor

plentifully sprinkled with friends, and no harm came to him, nor was there any threat of harm. He was enjoying his holiday. He talked to many officers regarding the coming peace and what should be done for the restoration of the south. His advice was for liberal terms and kindness to the southern people.

The president returned to City Point, where a squad of Confederate prisoners cheered him. He turned to Admiral Porter and remarked: "They will never shoulder a musket again in anger, and if Grant is wise he will leave them their guns to shoot crows with and their horses to plow with." "Let them down easy," he had said to the military governor of Richmond. Word reached the president at City Point that his secretary of state, Mr. Seward, had been thrown from a carriage and injured. This cut short his vacation, for he returned to Washington at once. It was observed by members of his cabinet upon his return that a great change had come over the president. His thin face had grown thinner during the increasing sorrows of the war, and latterly it had assumed a gray pallor that was almost ghastly. His eyes looked forth an unutterable grief. He had borne the burdens of a great nation in its time of keenest agony, and the terrible stress and strain of those four years were reflected in the features of the man. But now—after his first and only vacation—what a change! The man walked with a springy step, his stoop disappeared from his shoulders, the tense lines in his drawn, sad face began to disappear, and there was a hint of ruddiness in his cheeks, and his laugh was hearty.

Yet it was not the vacation that had rejuvenated Lincoln. It was the very recent success of his armies, the evacuation of Richmond and, last and greatest, the surrender of Lee on the 9th of April—these things had transformed him. For five days he was the happiest man in the United States or in the world, the happiest because for four years he had been the saddest, and now that indescribable sadness, in the words of one of his friends, "had been suddenly changed for an equally indescribable expression of serene joy, as if conscious that the great purpose of his life had been achieved."

During this time he said to his wife: "Mary, we have had a hard time of it since we came to Washington, but now we shall have four more years here of argument."

It was an odd sort of vacation. Lincoln called it his holiday, but as a matter of fact he was still at work, doing his duty by the people, making personal inspection of the army and offering in his almost apologetic manner now and then a suggestion to General Grant.

General Sherman, fresh from his famous march to the sea, visited City Point to confer with Lincoln and Grant. All knew that the war was drawing to its close; that the great struggle was nearly over; that ultimate victory lay just beyond. Grant and Sherman each believed that he must fight one more terrible battle.

"Don't do it if you can help it," urged the humane Lincoln. "No more bloodshed, no more bloodshed," he repeatedly said.

All day on the 31st of March, when Grant was beginning his final movement against Lee, Lincoln sat in the telegraph office at headquarters forwarding to Mr. Stanton, secretary of war, the reports that came in from Grant, who was here and there and everywhere up and down his long line of army maneuvers. Joyous news Lincoln sent to Washington. One item was the victory of General Sheridan at Five Points on the 1st of April. Another was the evacuation of Petersburg. The president himself entered Petersburg but a few hours after the Confederates moved out for a final talk with Grant, who was about to move on from there after the retreating army.

On the 2d of April the joyful news that Richmond had been evacuated reached City Point, and Lincoln immediately said, "I want to see Richmond." Two days later he started up the James river, in Virginia, to see how General Grant's army was getting along. Grant had his headquarters there in a group of cottages on a high bluff where the James and the Appomattox rivers join. For ten days the president lived there, greeting his great generals, chatting with the lesser officers and visiting the private soldiers in their tents. Always for commanding general or for the blue bloused man in the ranks he had a word of cheer and frequently a funny little story that illustrated some wise point of argument.

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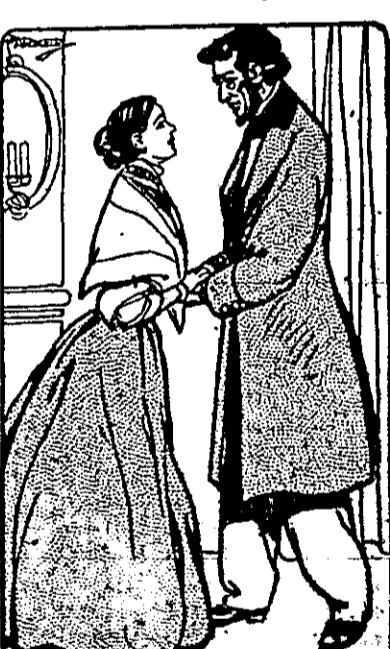
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AN OLD NEGRO THREW HIMSELF AT THE FEET OF LINCOLN.



MARY, WE HAVE HAD A HARD TIME OF IT.