

Embryonic Statue of Abraham Lincoln

Two huge and valuable pieces of Tennessee marble lie dormant on the lawn surrounding the state house at Lincoln, in the same condition as when taken from the quarry in Tennessee. They were presented to Nebraska to be used for a statue of Abraham Lincoln. With the exception of a few chips that have been knocked off the corners the rocks have not been touched for five years.

The marble was presented by the state of Tennessee largely through the efforts of John Currie, a stonecutter of Lincoln, who succeeded in raising a fund of \$600 to defray the expenses of cutting the statue of Lincoln. The rocks stood a high pressure water test and are considered very valuable. A day or so after he began work on the marble he was stopped by Governor Holcomb, who claimed that he was incompetent to cut the statue. Currie then presented a claim of \$2,000 to the state legislature, alleging this amount was due to cover expenses he had personally met, but he finally accepted \$200 in full settlement and transferred his claim to the marble over to the state.

Since then several attempts have been made to raise a fund large enough to defray the necessary expenses of cutting the statue, but none of them proved successful. William Stadler, who designed the figure of Transportation on the Burlington depot at Omaha, recently offered to cut the statue and wait on the legislature for compensation, but his proposition was not accepted by the state officials. The disposition of the marble is a problem that several administrations have tried to solve.

On one of the rocks is the following inscription, written by Godfrey:

Everlasting as this rock, from which his statue shall appear,
Is Abraham Lincoln's memory, to Americans most dear,
Waters shall waste away, the valley meet the plain,
But Abraham Lincoln's memory and this statue shall remain.

Stories About Statesmen

Congressman Dolliver relates a good story of General Wheeler. He says that Wheeler came to him in 1898 and besought him to use his influence with the president to get him (Wheeler) a place in the army. Dolliver told him he was too old to fight and that he should stand aside and let the young men do the work. "My boy," replied Wheeler, "you don't understand. I was graduated from the United States military academy, but when the war came I went with my state, and left the service of the federal government. I fought pretty hard in that war, and you can't scare me by telling me what the hardships of this will be. I may die down there in Cuba with the fever, as you say, but you don't know how much good it would do me now to have the privilege of dying in the uniform of a United States soldier."

For many a long day Amos Cummings, representative in congress from one of the New York districts, has been waiting for a chance to get even with "Private" John Allen of Tupelo, Miss., the trouble being that the Mississippi congressman on one occasion raised a roaring laugh at the expense of the New Yorker. The two men are the best of friends and are very fond of joking each other. Mr. Cummings is among the most tender-hearted of men and has long been an especial advocate of any and all measures for the protection of American birds. Some time ago he was speaking on this subject in the house, the occasion being a discussion of Representative Lacey's bill to prevent the importation of certain of the feathered tribe. Mr. Cummings was telling how wicked the English sparrows were.

"Only the other day," he said, "I was walking through the capitol grounds when I saw a poor little robin surrounded by sparrows that were picking it to pieces. At my approach the sparrows fled away, but the robin was unable to use its wings. I picked

it up and took it to my home, a short distance away. There I gave it a drink of brandy and it died a moment later. Under its wings—"

Here Allen broke in, speaking in the most woe-begone tones:

"If it was from the bottle out of which you gave me a drink yesterday I wonder it lived even for that moment."

The house broke into a roar, which was repeated at the look of pained surprise assumed by the Mississippi joker. Mr. Cummings looked reproachfully at his southern friend, shook his fist at him and finally joined in the laugh and sat down without disclosing what was under the robin's wing.

"How did you feel," Theodore Dreiser asked Thomas B. Reed in the June "Success," "when the entire democratic press of the country had pounced upon you for what it called your tyrannical method of



TENNESSEE MARBLE FOR LINCOLN MONUMENT, SHOWING INSCRIPTION



TENNESSEE MARBLE FOR LINCOLN MONUMENT—LAND COMMISSIONER J. V. WOLFE—VIEW FROM WEST.

interpreting the rules of the house of representatives?"

"Oh," replied the ex-speaker promptly, "you mean whether I was disturbed by the uproar? Well, I had no feeling except one of entire serenity and the reason was simple. I knew just what I was going to do if the house did not sustain me."

Then he raised his eyes and with a characteristic twist of the mouth, which those who have once seen do not soon forget, added: "When a man has decided upon a plan of action for either contingency there is no need for him to be disturbed, you know."

"And may I ask what you had determined to do if the house did not sustain you?"

"I should simply have left the chair, resigned the speakership, withdrawn from the house and given up my seat in congress. There were things that could be done, you know, outside of political life. For my part I had made up my mind that if political life consisted in sitting helplessly in the speaker's chair and seeing the majority powerless to pass legislation I had had enough of it."

One of Congressman Cushman's colleagues is authority for the statement, reports Leslie's Weekly, that this jack-of-all-trades assumes to know everything there is to know, and it is impossible to surprise him with a bit of information or a scrap of news. If he should be told in the midst of a speech that the capitol was on fire he would look about nonchalantly and say yes, he knew; he had expected a fire about then. "He makes me think," says his accuser, "of an old lady in our town, who, for want of a better name, I will call Aunt Eliza. Now Aunt Eliza has had few opportunities in her life and is extremely ignorant, but she has always kept up a pretense of su-

perior wisdom, and no one ever betrayed her into an expression of astonishment. She invariably knows what you tell her better than you know it yourself. Once upon a time Aunt Eliza appeared late at the church festival.

"'Oh, Aunt Eliza!' called out one of the girls, 'we're going to have charades. Isn't it fine?'"

"'Yes, yes, child,' responded Aunt Eliza, 'I smelled 'em as I come in.'"

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