



## LINCOLN'S ONLY DUEL.

(By Col. T. B. Thorpe.)  
THE memory of Mr. Lincoln will always be popular. Embodying within himself the humanitarian triumph of one of the most tremendous revolutions that ever convulsed the world and therefore possessing all the grandeur of association that is accorded to the most noted personages in history, still he has never been, in any public act of his life, elevated above the understandings and affections of the masses of the people. Kind-hearted and overflowing with sympathy by nature, yet he was controlled by an honesty of purpose that kept him unyielding where principle was concerned, making him self-poised amid opposition, and perfectly self-reliant when the hour of action arrived, yet in small as well as in great matters the inherent humor of his mental composition prevailed. It is easy, therefore, to imagine, that if Mr. Lincoln deemed it necessary to appear as principal in a duel, he would naturally attract to himself such surroundings as might turn all the intentions of a tragedy into the realities of a farce. The year 1842 was one of great political excitement in the state of Illinois, and conspicuous among the master spirits were Mr. Lincoln and Gen. Shields. Both at the time were practicing lawyers at the Springfield bar, both held prominent official positions, and both were accepted leaders in their respective parties. These gentlemen were warm personal friends, though opposed in politics, and differing as much in their mental qualities as they did in their personal appearance. Gen. Shields being of medium height, Mr. Lincoln of unusual altitude.

What eventually brought about a disagreement between these gentlemen, that made Gen. Shields feel it necessary to send a challenge to Mr. Lincoln, was never certainly known. When it is recollected, however, that these gentlemen, as party leaders frequently came together on "the stump," it is not difficult to imagine that Mr. Lincoln may have got off one of his telling stories at the expense of his friend that might have been at the moment destined into a personal affront. Whatever was the cause, it is certain that the "cartel" was seriously written and solemnly borne to Mr. Lincoln by Gen. Whitesides, a gentleman then holding a prominent place at the bar and an important command in the Illinois militia.

Up to the time of which we write there had been but one duel fought within the limits of Illinois, and that occurred in her territorial condition. One of the combatants was shot dead on the field, and the survivor was instantly hanged to the limb of a neighboring tree by the friends of the slain. Such summary punishment made the "code of honor" unpopular, and a provision was consequently engrafted upon the state constitution rendering principals and seconds engaged in a duel ineligible for any political office. This made "affairs of honor" impolitic and unfashionable, and all personal difficulties were deemed honorably settled by a rough and tumble fight, or by an appeal for justice to the good sense of the community.

In society, therefore, where dueling had been for years morally and legally offensive, it was not easy to find a "friend" possessed of the requisite knowledge to conduct such a proverbially delicate affair; in fact, at this time there was but one person in or about Springfield who was supposed to have the required experience, and the reputation was founded upon vague tradition rather than from any absolute knowledge. The gentleman alluded to as this expert was Dr. Merriman, a popular physician, distinguished for his good nature, professional skill and varied literary and scientific attainments. In his youth he ran off to sea. Trained in this rough school, he naturally, in his maturer years, after obtaining his diploma as surgeon, accepted a professional position on board of a South American privateer. The doctor was fond of a joke, and not indisposed, while attending to his business calls, to lighten the gloom of the sick room by detailing to his patients his terrible experiences on the "Spanish main," all of which the honest "island people" received with due awe.

and admiration. The doctor was also known to have acted once as a principal in a duel, and to have been associated with several in his capacity as surgeon, and he boasted, in his peculiar way, that he had killed a white man, a negro and an Indian by virtue of his diploma. He was, withal, a good shot on the wing, a capital fencer and a conscientious believer in the thirty-six articles of Galway.

To this gentleman, his most intimate personal friend, bearing the warlike message put in his hand by Gen. Whitesides, Mr. Lincoln went for advice, expressing in advance his readiness to meet the demand made upon him if the cause of the misunderstanding could not be amicably arranged. The doctor, with this authorization, called upon the aggrieved party's "friend," and after all proper endeavors to bring about peace failed, formally accepted the challenge, the principals were officially notified of the result, and the seconds proceeded to ar-



MR. LINCOLN SAT IN THE STERN OF THE BOAT.

rage the preliminaries for a hostile meeting. Gen. Whitesides was totally ignorant of all and singular of the thirty-six articles of Galway, and he therefore naturally deferred everything regarding details to the presumed experience and superior knowledge of the doctor. It was, therefore, speedily settled that the belligerents should meet at an early day in the state of Missouri, and opposite to the town of Alton. The weapons, broadswords, United States pattern (then a very heavy and clumsy weapon). The fight to be across a barrier four feet high and four feet wide, and the duel to cease at the "first blood."

At the time agreed upon the principals, with the seconds, pursuing different routes, started for the "field of honor." Mr. Lincoln and his friends made the journey by a small stage coach, the interior of which, for want of capacity, compelled Mr. Lincoln to ride with the driver. From his exalted position, sword in hand, he amused himself with hacking at the overhanging limbs of the trees that lined the road, leaving a swath of green leaves to mark his progress, his second, the doctor, and his friends riding inside,



LINCOLN AND HIS ANTAGONIST TOOK THEIR PLACES.

applauding vociferously the firmness of hand and direful execution that displayed itself when limb of unusual size came whirling to the ground. Arriving at Alton, the two seconds, in advance of the principals, crossed the Mississippi River and selected the ground (which, Mr. Lincoln subsequently remarked, was in sight of the Illinois Penitentiary), and erected the barrier (which, Mr. Lincoln subsequently remarked, was in sight of the Illinois Penitentiary), and erected the

seconds returned to Alton. The belligerents then, in separate skiffs, proceeded across the river.

Mr. Lincoln sat in the stern of the boat, beside his second. As the stalwart oarsman breasted the waves of the Mississippi, Mr. Lincoln said that his situation reminded him of a story. He suggested that he thought he felt like a Kentuckian he knew who volunteered in the war of 1812. In accordance with the time-honored custom of those days, his sweetheart embroidered him a bullet pouch and belt, and proposed to the incipient hero that she would work on the belt the motto, "Victory or Death." "Oh, no," replied the volunteer, "isn't that rather too strong? Suppose you put 'Victory or Be Crippled'?"

Arriving at the place selected for the combat, the forms and ceremonies in such cases being punctiliously insisted on by the doctor, Mr. Lincoln and his antagonist took their assigned places, with the earthwork between them; but before the word was given for the duel absolutely to commence, what was apparent to the least observer from the first, viz., that, according to the arrangements, Mr. Lincoln had the advantage, now that the combatants stood face to face, became doubly apparent. Mr. Lincoln's antagonist had neither the stature nor length of limb fairly to meet his foe; while Mr. Lincoln, with his long body and wonderfully long arm, had nothing to do but reach across the barrier and cut up his helpless antagonist at his leisure, and he could do this with as little risk of personal danger to himself as he did when he slaughtered the unoffending tree limbs that lined his way to the field of honor. The farce of Lincoln's plan of duel now became evident to all present.

As might have been expected, the friends of the challenger promptly protested, remonstrated against the self-evident inequality of terms, and demanded a parley. The doctor, the oracle of the field, replied that the terms were "most solemnly agreed upon" by all the parties necessarily interested, and that, according to the "thirty-six articles of Galway," they could not be amended or altered without commencing the duel over again from the very beginning, and, to reach this point of beginning, the challenge must first be withdrawn.

After much discussion, this practice was adopted, and the way was made, according to the thirty-six articles, for mutual explanations. Thereupon, as might have been expected, all differences were soon amicably settled. Out of "after discussions" some of the parties connected with the duel as friends or spectators edified the community, through partisan journals, with "sharp explanatory cards." One or two other "similar affairs" were talked of, but they never came to a head; and as a consequence the whole matter soon faded out of the public mind; and thus ended Mr. Lincoln's first and only affair of honor. It was Mr. Lincoln's pleasure, long years after, to confer a brigadier general's commission upon his antagonist (already distinguished for his courage and honorable wounds in the Mexican war), who, in the bloody struggle in Virginia, made a gallant stand against Stonewall Jackson in the valley of the Shenandoah.—New York Ledger.

James Parton's Prediction.  
In 1862 James Parton, the celebrated biographical writer, made the following prediction in regard to Abraham Lincoln: History will say of Mr. Lincoln that no man of a more genial temperament, a more kindly nature, ever tenanted the White House; that he gave all his time, his thoughts, his energies, to the discharge of duties of unprecedented magnitude and urgency; that, hating no man, he steadfastly endeavored to win the confidence and love of all the loyal and patriotic, and that, in spite of four chequered years of such responsibility and anxiety as has seldom fallen to the lot of man, he bore away from the capitol the sunny temper and blithe frankness of his boyhood, returning to mingle with his old neighbors as one with them in heart and in manner, in retirement as power a happy specimen of the men whom liberty and democracy train in the log cabin and by the rudest hearth to guide the counsels of the Republic and influence the destinies of the people.

Either the saloon must go, or our boys must continue to go—to hell—Rams Horn.

President Schurman, of Cornell University, who has decided to accept his appointment as a member of the Philippines commission, though at one time, and perhaps still, opposed to expansion, says that from what he has recently learned he is convinced that any other action than that which was followed by the peace commissioners at Paris in regard to the Philippine islands would have precipitated a great international war.

Whenever a young man goes to court and pleads guilty to being in love he ought to get a life sentence.

**Work in the United States Patent Office**  
The latest Official Report we have states there are 5,533 applications pending. But it will be gratifying to inventors to learn that Examiners who were recently 8 months in arrears are now reported to be only one and two months.

Patents have been allowed but not issued to Iowa inventors as follows:

To E. E. Miller, of Elma, for a water tank heater and feed cooker described in one of the claims as follows:

A heater comprising a casting, a fire box in said casting, a boiler in the fire of the fire box and the boiler, draft passages through the fire box and traversing the space between the deflector plate and boiler, and a damper controlling said draft passages.

To J. H. Nelson, upon appeal to the Board of Examiners-in-chief, for an attachment for brooms that is readily slipped on the handle to rest on top of the brush in such a manner that water will percolate from the attachment and be distributed by capillary attraction to the straws for the purpose of moistening dust on the surface that is to be swept and prevent dust from arising and annoyances incident to sweeping.

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THOMAS G. ORWIG & CO.  
Solicitors of Patents.  
Iowa Patent Office, Des Moines, Jan. 30, 1893.

Professor J. B. Johnson of Washington university, St. Louis, who has just been elected dean of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, is an engineer of the first rank, and is president of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. He was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1878, and up to 1883, he was engaged as engineer on the United States take survey.

Chanucey M. Depew says that he was the other day accosted by a beggar, to whom he gave a dollar. "May I ask your name?" said the mendicant. Mr. Depew laughed. "Oh, I'm Grover Cleveland," he replied. "Who are you?" "Well, I'm only Chanucey Depew."

Dr. Johann Aztalos, a noted physician, of Vienna, and his wife Caroline, committed suicide on their golden wedding anniversary, a few days ago because a favorite nephew on whom they had lavished affection and wealth proved an ingrate and brought the aged couple to the verge of financial ruin.

An Economical Rail.  
Chief Engineer W. T. Manning of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has invented a new rail that experts say has many points of interest to railroad owners, the principal one being its economical feature. It is well known that rails wear rapidly on curves and where these are short and traffic heavy, the cost of renewal is very large. Manning has evolved a section, which, he asserts, will reduce the cost 37 per cent per ton per year. He adds materially to the life of the rail by placing additional metal in the head and on the side upon which the wear comes. The new rail will be given a thorough test on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the receivers having ordered 1,000 tons from the Carnegie Steel Co. The Pittsburgh & Western has also ordered 500 tons.

"Daniel Webster once got a check for \$5,000 that he was in no wise looking for," remarked a Washington old-timer the other day. "Webster was in the United States senate at the time and had delivered his masterly speech on the compromise measure, in which he sought to reconcile the differences between the sections. Its broad patriotism appealed to Mr. W. W. Corcoran so strongly that he sent the senator the sum mentioned the very next day in a letter expressive of his admiration for the man and the speech. Years afterward I saw the original of the reply sent by Mr. Webster acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Corcoran's letter."

Charles A. Wolcott, president of the First National bank of Russell, Kan., which closed its doors, has disappeared. He is said to have left a letter advising the directors of the bank that his accounts were so badly involved that he could not stay and face the consequences. It is known that there is a shortage in his accounts and rumor places the amount all the way from \$3,000 to \$20,000. The directors decline to publish the letter left by the missing bank president, but state that all claims against the bank will be paid in full.

Bishop John P. Newman, of the Methodist Episcopal church, who has been compelled to abandoned all kinds of ministerial work for the last few months on account of nervous prostration, is now convalescing at the Murray Hill Hotel, New York. The friends of the bishop will be gratified to learn that he expects soon to be restored to his usual vigorous health. He will attend all of the approaching conferences assigned to him.

Not even a metropolitan newspaper like the London Chronicle is proof against the insidious snare of the question, when the new century begins. It bade farewell to 1893 in this wise: "On this the last day of the last year but one of the nineteenth century, it is but natural that our thoughts should revert to the history of that wonderful century," etc.

A handy blotting pad is formed of a sheet of spring metal shaped into a cylinder, with the edges pressed together tightly enough to hold the edges of the blotter when inserted, the cylinder being carried on a handled base to revolve as it is drawn over the paper.

"A City of Zinc" is the name which may appropriately be given to the mushroom city of Portuguese East Africa, Beira. All the houses, all the hotels and public buildings, says a Natal contemporary, barracks and warehouses, are built of zinc. Even when a person falls ill he is carried on a zinc stretcher to a hospital, which is also, of course, made of zinc. And if he dies he is laid to rest in a zinc coffin.

There is an advantage about the striped collar. It can be worn longer without being laundered.

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The price of liberty often depends upon the judge.

### A CANADA FARM.

What a Former Resident of Idaho Says Regarding Western Canada.

Mr. T. A. Tolman, of Lacombe, Alberta, N. W. T., a former resident of Cascia County, Idaho, who moved to Western Canada in July, 1894, writes as follows:

"I brought here thirty-four head of cattle, fifteen horses, two wagons, two sets of harness and one hundred and fifty dollars in cash. I homesteaded the southeast quarter of Section 28, Township 40, Range 26, west of the 4th Meridian, also purchased a quarter-section of Canadian Pacific Railway land. I have been farming more or less all my life, and I am convinced that you can raise crops 40 per cent cheaper here than where I came from. My capital at present, counting everything, is about five thousand dollars. The yield of my grain all round in 1897 was 60 bushels per acre. This year (1898) yield of wheat per acre, 37½ bushels, oats, 50 bushels, barley, 35, and potatoes, 400 per acre.

I consider that this is a much better country for a man than where I came from, provided he is industrious. You get a free homestead here, and Canadian Pacific Railway lands are cheap and the terms easy. I have now made my seventh payment on the land purchased by me, and am much pleased with my purchase, as the land has already much more than paid for itself. School law here is decidedly ahead of where I came from, and there are schools wherever there are settlers."

Why isn't there money in any business you have your coin invested in?

**WILL MAIL SAMPLE BOTTLE ON RECEIPT OF 25c.**  
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SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., CHICAGO: Dear Sirs—I will say to you and the rest of the world that I have been suffering from rheumatism for over half a century. I commenced taking “5 DROPS” in December last, and I now feel like a new man. I have had the Rheumatism ever since I was 5 years old. I am now 60 odd years old and cured.

Yours gratefully, I. M. DUKE, Lemon, Miss.

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SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., CHICAGO: Gentlemen—This is to certify that “5 DROPS” cured my wife of a very severe case of Rheumatism. I had used various liniments and patent medicines, and had the best physicians in West Texas on her case, all with no effect. She grew worse all the time, and had to give up housekeeping. I had to give up my business. Hay Fever, Catarrh, Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Backache, Asthma, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Neuralgia, Headaches, Earache, Toothache, Earache, Grippe, Malaria, Creeping Numbness, etc.

“5 DROPS” is the same and dose. Large bottle (300 doses) \$1.00, prepaid by mail or express; three bottles \$2.50; samples 25c. Sold only by us and our agents. Agents appointed in every state and territory.

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