

packed with millions of people. Just as she left the palace she pressed an electric button. Instantly this message was sent to her colonies all over the world:

"From my heart I thank my beloved people. May God bless them. Victoria, R. I."

To forty different points in her empire sped the electric message. In sixteen minutes a reply came from Ottawa in Canada; then one by one the answers came in from more remote provinces; until, before the Queen reached London Bridge, the Cape of Good Hope, the Gold Coast of Africa, and the great continent of Australia had sent responses to her message.

We should pay great honor to Professor Morse and Cyrus W. Field for their heroic efforts and the perseverance by which they have given to the world the American telegraph and the ocean cables.

Give the circumstances which turned Morse's thoughts to the invention of the telegraph.

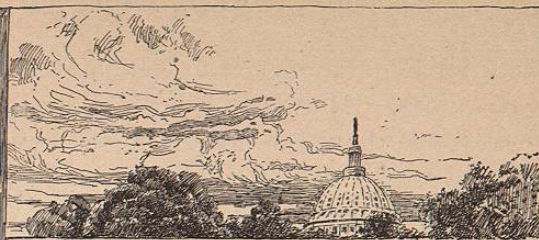
Give an account of the difficulties which Morse met; of the bill in the United States Senate.

Tell the story of the first message; of the political convention.

Give an account of the ocean cable.

Tell the story about the Queen's message.

What did the painter West mean by stating that what George III. said "was creditable to his heart"? Professor Morse, at the dinner-table, used the words "be made visible"; why did he not say "be seen"? Why did Morse need an alphabet? Why are most inventors poor? Why do telegraph wires most often run by the side of the railroads? What did the Queen mean when she wrote her name "Victoria R. I."?



CHAPTER XXXI

Abraham Lincoln

1809-1865

It is related that Horace Greeley once advised a friend: "Go West, young man, go West, and grow up with the country."

By this remark he meant that there were then more opportunities for a young man to rise in the world, to make a name for himself, in the West, than if he stayed in the more thickly settled portions of the East.

The history of the United States gives us the stories of many young men who have shown that, in their cases at least, Greeley's advice was good.

The West has gradually moved farther and farther west, as the Eastern country has become more and more closely settled. A hundred years ago the New West was just over the Alleghany Mountains; now even the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast are almost too old to be called the New West.

The first Western movement of our American people was of course across the Atlantic Ocean to these shores, and among the earliest Puritan emigrants was one Samuel Lincoln, who settled in the new country about Boston.

Samuel Lincoln's grandson, Mordecai, moved west to

New Jersey, and thence to Pennsylvania when that colony was young. Mordecai Lincoln's son John continued the western journey—southwest it was—and made a home in western Virginia. John Lincoln's son Abraham was one of the early pioneers in the territory of Kentucky, where he was killed by the Indians. One of his sons, Thomas Lin-



THE HUT WHERE LINCOLN WAS BORN.

coln, continued the migration after the birth of his son Abraham, and moved northwest into Indiana, and finally into Illinois.

In this State Abraham Lincoln, who was destined to be one of the greatest of our Presidents, spent his manhood.

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky early in the present century. His father, who had lived all his boyhood in that new region and had met with many of the trials and hardships of rude frontier life, was very poor and had almost no school education. His mother, whose family also had come to Kentucky many years before, had no property, but she had received more schooling than her husband had.

Their home was the ordinary one of a poor Western settler, a log cabin of one room. It had one door, and a great log chimney outside of the house. To such a rude, uncomfortable life was Abraham Lincoln born.

The boy could have had but little remembrance of his Kentucky life, for he was still young when his father moved

into Indiana. After the arrival of the family, the new house was built in the midst of a dense forest.

Even the seven-year-old boy Abraham used an axe to aid in making a clearing. The cabin was ruder than the home which they had left in Kentucky. It contained no furniture except of home make; its chairs were boards into which legs were fitted; its bedsteads were made of two upright posts with cross poles running from these and inserted into the walls of the cabin. The boy's bed was of dry leaves in the loft.

Plenty of food could be easily obtained; but it was mainly that of camp life. Game and fish they had in great abundance; but corn and wheat were scarce. Potatoes were almost the only vegetables raised. Food was cooked in a very simple and rude manner; the new settlers had few cooking-vessels, and grocery stores were far away.

Soap and candles were always made at home, and clothing was never purchased. All cotton clothes had to be made from the raw material; the cotton must be raised, picked, spun, and woven by the women of the home. Often deer-skin trousers, coonskin caps, and home-made moccasins formed part of the boy's attire.

Young Abraham grew up a strong boy; he continued to wield the axe; he entered into all the work on the farm. He ploughed the ground, he harrowed the soil, he mowed the grain, he threshed the wheat, he carried the grist to mill. He hired out to the neighbors to do anything that was needed, the pay going to his father. Not until he was eighteen did he earn any money for himself.

"After much persuasion," as President Lincoln later told the story, "I had got the consent of my mother and had constructed a flatboat. A steamer was going down the river. We had, you know, no wharves on the Western streams, and

the custom was, if passengers were at any of the landings, they were to go out in a boat, the steamer stopping and taking them on board. I was on my new boat when two men with trunks came down to the shore, and, looking at the different boats, singled out mine and asked:

“‘Who owns this boat?’

“I answered modestly, ‘I do.’

“‘Will you take us and our trunks out to the steamer?’

“‘Certainly,’ said I. I was very glad to have the chance of earning something and supposed that each of them would give me a couple of bits. The trunks were put in my boat, the passengers seated themselves upon them, and I sculled them out to the steamer. They got on board, and I lifted the trunks and put them on the deck. The steamer was about to put on steam again, when I called out:

“‘You have forgotten to pay me.’

“Each of them took from his pocket a silver half-dollar and threw it on the bottom of the boat. I could scarcely believe my eyes as I picked up the money. I could scarcely credit that I, the poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day; that by honest work I had earned a dollar. I was a more hopeful and thoughtful boy from that time.”

During all his boyhood Abraham strove for an education. He obtained little from schools, for he was not able to go to school more than a year in all. But he did read; he read everything that he could obtain. He not only read the books, but came to know them through and through. Very few books belonged to the family, but Abraham borrowed from his neighbors. One of these books, Weems’ “Life of Washington,” unfortunately got wet and soiled. It required three days’ labor to make good the loss, but after that the injured book belonged to the studious boy.

Lincoln once said that he had “read through every book he had ever heard of in that country for a circuit of fifty miles.” He would read and cipher after his day’s work was done; he would often be found stretched out on the floor, reading by the light of the fire; he found time for reading when ploughing, as his horse must be allowed to rest at the



YOUNG LINCOLN STUDYING BY FIRELIGHT.

end of the furrows. Every newspaper that came to the village somehow found its way into his hand.

Time passed on and Abraham grew to manhood. His father moved to Illinois, carrying his goods and those of two other families in a wagon drawn by four oxen. Abraham drove the team and took the opportunity to do a little trading business of his own. Before leaving Indiana he spent all his

money, about thirty dollars, for notions—pins, needles, thread, buttons, knives, forks, and other needful household articles. These he peddled at the houses along the road, selling them all before he reached the end of his journey, and doubling his money by the little business operation.

Wishing to be more among people, young Lincoln became a clerk in a store. Here his natural talent for speechmaking was much used, until one day he had an open debate with a candidate for office, and was congratulated by his opponent for his clever speech. This roused the young man's ambition still further, and he began, as he said, to study "subjects." By the advice of the schoolmaster of the place he sought a grammar. Hearing of a copy six miles away, he walked to the place and borrowed it.

After that he spent many evenings at a cooper's shop, studying by the light of the fire of shavings. He recited from the book, he obtained help from the schoolmaster, and finally he said, "If that is what they call a science, I think I'll go another."

Lincoln was very popular among his neighbors, and though but a poor, unschooled country boy, he ran for the State Legislature from his county, when but twenty-three years of age. The Black Hawk Indian War broke out just at this time, and Lincoln served through the war as a captain. When he returned, it lacked but a few days of election. Lincoln was defeated, as the county gave a majority for the candidate of the other party; in his own neighborhood, however, where he was best known, he received two hundred and seventy-seven votes out of two hundred and ninety cast for representative.

Lincoln next bought a store, which he kept for a few years; he became postmaster; he learned surveying and was

appointed deputy surveyor of the county. While in his store he bought a barrel of odds and ends of a man who was moving farther west, and who wished to make his load a little lighter. In this barrel Lincoln found a set of law books, called Blackstone's "Commentaries."

"I began to read these famous works," said he afterward, "and I had plenty of time. The more I read, the more intensely interested I became. I read them until I devoured them." Lincoln was now started on the road to be a lawyer.

Eleven years after Lincoln's defeat for the Legislature, he was again a candidate, was elected, and then served as a representative for eight years. While in the Assembly, he completed the study of law and was admitted to the bar.

Declining another reelection, Lincoln devoted himself to the practice of law until he was sent to the House of Representatives at Washington for two years. Returning to Illinois, he became a leader in the new Republican party, which was formed to oppose the further extension of slavery.

Lincoln was little known outside of his State until he became a candidate for the United States Senate. His Democratic opponent was Stephen A. Douglas, and these two men spoke daily from the same platforms; they kept up a long debate, day after day, as they traveled over the State. Douglas desired to quiet the rising quarrel over the slavery question by leaving all discussion of it to the individual States and Territories. Lincoln hated slavery, and believed that it must not spread into any more States. He stated his idea in this way:

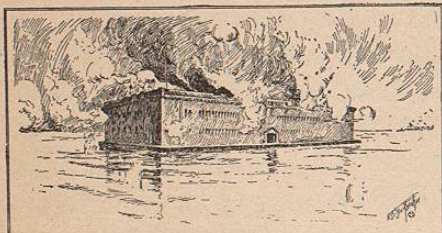
"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."

Douglas, however, was chosen senator; but, two years

later (1860), Lincoln was elected President of the United States.

For many years the people of the North, where there were no slaves, and the people of the South, who held slaves, had become more and more alienated from each other.

The people of the North had very generally come to believe in a strong national government. The people of the South were in favor of "State rights," making the separate States superior to the Union.



FORT SUMTER FIRED ON BY SOUTH CAROLINA TROOPS.

The people of the North thought that slavery was wrong; the people of the South had become more and more attached to their "peculiar institution," as slave-holding was

called. Many people in the North felt strongly that slavery should be restricted to the States where it then existed. The people of the South, on the contrary, held that the entire Western territory should be open to them and their slaves.

Lincoln was elected President by the Republican party, which had declared against any further extension of slavery. For ten years the number of free States had been greater than that of slave States, and the slavery leaders saw that they could not obtain what they sought.

They, therefore, now determined to withdraw their States from the Union and set up a government of their own. Lincoln was inaugurated President, March 4th, 1861, but before that date seven States had seceded and formed a new govern-

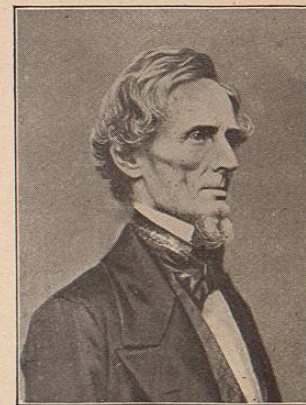
ment, called the "Confederate States of America." This government was begun at Montgomery, Alabama; but, when four more States had joined them, Richmond, Virginia, was made the capital of the Confederacy.

In April, a Confederate force opened fire upon Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, which was held by United States troops. The next day Major Anderson and his small force surrendered.

War was thus commenced. At the North the excitement was intense. At the South the enthusiasm was equally great. President Lincoln called for seventy-five thousand volunteer soldiers. Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, issued his proclamation for troops. The Civil War followed: a war to determine whether the United States should be supreme and indivisible, or whether each State might be superior to the Union and at liberty to withdraw from it.

A terrible strife had begun; a civil war—the worst form of war in which men can engage; a war in which the soldiers facing each other belong to one and the same country; a war in which friends fight against friends, and often brothers against brothers. We will not here follow the course of events in this war. They will be treated in following chapters.

Is it possible for us to form any adequate idea of the burden which Abraham Lincoln carried through those four long years?



JEFFERSON DAVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERACY.

What broad statesmanship was required; what clear vision was needed; what accurate judgment; what even temper; what tender feelings of mercy; what love for his fellow-men, for all humanity; what respect and deference to the conflicting views of the great statesmen and business men of the country; what tact, what skill, what readiness in emergencies; what clear insight; what breadth of outlook; indeed, it is impossible to appreciate the various requirements necessary in the leader of a great people, the executive of a great nation, the commander-in-chief of the armies which included a million of men and more, in carrying forward to a successful conclusion a war of more gigantic proportions than the modern world has elsewhere seen.

But Lincoln was equal to this task. "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right," the man of a sad face performed his great task with nobleness of purpose, with singleness of heart, and with complete success.

A few months after the battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln made a short speech at the dedication of the national cemetery at that place. He closed this famous address with this sentence, which is well worthy to be studied by every boy and girl, by every man and woman, in the country:

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

When the war ended, "government by the people" was firmly established; "a new birth of freedom" had come to the United States.

At the murder of Lincoln the whole world mourned. Tributes were everywhere paid to his great worth. Among them were the burning words uttered in the Spanish Cortes by that great statesman, Emilio Castelar. The closing paragraph of his speech reads as follows:

"I have often contemplated and described Abraham Lincoln's life. Born in a cabin in Kentucky, of parents who could hardly read, born a new Moses in the solitude of the desert where are forged great and obstinate thoughts, monotonous like the desert, and, like the desert, sublime; growing up among those primeval forests, which with their fragrance send a cloud of incense, and with their murmurs a cloud of prayers to heaven; boatman at eight years, on the impetuous current of the Ohio; and at seventeen, on the vast and tranquil waters of the Mississippi, . . . he was raised by the nation to the Presidency of the Republic.

"The wood-cutter, the boatman, the son of the great West, the descendant of Quakers, humblest of the humble before his conscience, greatest of the great in history, ascends the



STATUE OF LINCOLN FREEING THE SLAVE.
(BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND BOSTON.)

Capitol, strong and serene with his conscience and his thought; before him a veteran army, hostile Europe behind him, England favoring the South, France encouraging reaction in Mexico, in his hands the riven country; he arms two millions of men, gathers a half-million horses, sends his artillery twelve hundred miles in a week, from the banks of the Potomac to the shores of the Tennessee, fights more than six hundred battles, renews before Richmond the deeds of Alexander and of Cæsar; and, after having emancipated three million slaves, that nothing might be wanting, he dies in the moment of victory; like Christ, like Socrates, like all redeemers, at the foot of his work. His work! sublime achievement, over which humanity shall eternally shed its tears, and God bestow His benediction."

Describe the route by which the Lincoln family gradually moved from England to Illinois.

Give an account of young Lincoln's homes and his work as a boy.

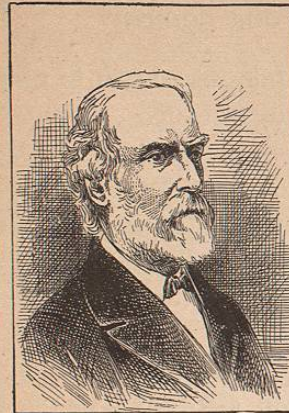
Tell his story about the first money that he earned for himself.

State how Abraham educated himself.

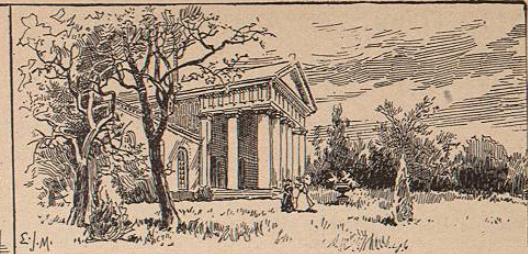
Give some account of Lincoln's public life.

State what separated the North from the South.

Is Greeley's advice good to-day? Why did Abraham grow up "a strong boy"? What did he intend to do with his flatboat? Why did he have so little schooling? Do you suppose he obtained as much from his few books as you do from your many? What two "subjects" did Abraham teach himself? How was the United States a "house divided against itself"? Why did the Southern States leave the Union? Why was Northern excitement and Southern enthusiasm so great after the firing upon Fort Sumter?



Genl. R. E. Lee



Arlington, the Home of Lee

CHAPTER XXXII

Robert E. Lee

1807-1870

AFTER Mr. Lincoln was elected President, and before his inauguration, seven States in the extreme South, as we have already seen, seceded and formed a new government, called the "Confederate States of America." Later, four more States seceded and joined this Confederacy.

Eleven States, therefore, all located in the South, all being slave States, had undertaken to withdraw from the Union and set up a government of their own. The capture of Fort Sumter, a national fort, by South Carolina troops, was the act which began the war and occasioned the forming of two great armies—the army of the Republic, to maintain the unity of the nation, to preserve the Union; and the army of the Confederacy, to uphold the new government in the South.

Then four years of war, embracing great military movements, added many names to the world's list of distinguished soldiers. As the war progressed, one man after another came to the front, until before the close of the contest the Union Army had developed such men as Gen. U. S. Grant, who finally