The Manliness of Lincoln:

What kind of a youth was he? That is the first question to ask when you are looking for clues to a man's character. The answer is not difficult when it is Abraham Lincoln's manliness you are trying to appraise.

There are two episodes in his youth as a Jack-of-all-trades, trying to get started in the world which point straight to the kind of man he was to be. The first is a fight. It often happens that the first real measure we get of a boy is in a fisticuff or wrestling bout. It is there that boys, left to themselves, almost invariably take the measure of one another. Given one fair fight to the finish and they know what they may expect of a newcomer in all their relations - his courage - staying power - their control of temper and wits - boastfullness or modesty - malice or good nature.

Here is the story of the fight that first revealed Abraham Lincoln to a community of onlookers - made him, too, the hero of the town. He was a newcomer in a little Illinois settlement - had a job as a clerk in a general store. His employer proud of the boy's Strength boasted that he could throw any man in the countryside. This was a boast that the neighborhood gang, who had a favorite champion one Jack Armstrong could not afford to pass by. Lincoln was big and husky. Could he fight? They proposed to find out. But Lincoln did not like, what he called "wool pulling", and told them so. That to them was a sign of cowardice and they

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forced him to the battle to the confusion of their champion who finding that he could not throw Lincoln tried a foul. Infuriated, Lincoln seized him by the throat and, so goes the record, held him at arm's length, shook him as he would a rat and threw him heavily to the ground. The amazed gang, angry at the overthrow of their champion, closed in on him, but he stood them off so successfully that Jack Armstrong himself springing to his feet interfered, declaring that Lincoln was "the best man that had ever broken into camp." For his part he wanted to be friends—and the two were friends to the very end.

Is it fair to say that this established the manliness of Lincoln for the people of New Salem Sangamon County, Illinois and the more they knew of him the more they were convinced that the qualities that he had shown that day they could count on in all their relations with him.

Two years later they had a chance to see how he conducted himself in a very different field of action. This was when Lincoln first asked for votes. He was only twenty-three years old at the time and still a Jack-of-all-trades. However, he knew he was about the most popular young man around. He was also, though perhaps his admiring Illinois friends did not realize it yet, about the most ambitious young man around. He wanted to do something important in the world and he wanted to do it in public life. On the face of it such an ambition looked rather hopeless, even a little absurd. For what he was really going on had better

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was the fact that he knew that people liked him and trusted him. He made up his mind to see how much there was inthis popularity. Anybody at that time had a right to offer himself as a candidate for office, the convention system not having been as yet introduced. Lincoln took advantage of this practice. Did these friends of his believe enough in him to let him represent them in the legislature? He proposed to find out. And so he sent out his first political address, asking their suffrage. The kind of man he was in political comes out as clearly in this address as the kind of man he was came out in that first fight, which introduced him to Sangamon County. The beauty of it is that frankness, good sense and modesty stood out in every line. He does not attempt to overestimate himself, that is, the presumptuousness that you feel in a young man in his position offering himself as a candidate for office was more than overbalanced by the way in which he worked out what he feels to be his handicaps. He tells him that he is poor, that he was born in the most humble ranks of life, that he hasn't wealthy or popular relations or friends to back him. -nothing to go on but himself. He set his views down clearly and having explained them, "Upon this subject which I treated I have spoken as I have thought," but adds, lest they think him too "as soon as I discover my opinions to be erroneous I shall be ready to renounce them." Thirty years later he was to tell the people of the United States the same thing in regard to his position on slavery,

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~~He set down his position very clearly, just as in this first political address and he then added, "I shall try to correct the errors when shown to be errors and I shall~~ adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views." Here was a case certainly where the boy was the father of the man.

But Lincoln's frank and sensible address did not win him the election. He was defeated. He had shown how he took a victory in his first introduction to his community - the fight of which I have spoken. It was without boasting. His attitude toward defeat was what you would expect from a man who took a victory in the way that he had done. He did not swagger then, he does not whimper now. And he makes ready for the next campaign, that is, he proved to his friends at once that he was not a quitter. There is manliness for you.

Twenty-two years were to pass before anybody outside of Illinois was to ask himself about the quality of Abraham Lincoln's manliness. Through these twenty-two years he had remained a local character, trusted by his friends, trusted for the same kind of qualities that had made him a hero ~~of Sangamon County~~ in New Salem in the earlier days. They knew that he was a man who was not afraid - that he spoke his mind - kept his promises - ~~fights~~ worked persistently - never boasted - he never was downed by a defeat. But all of that would never have been any importance to you or me if it had not been for something that happened in the United States in 1854, when Lincoln was forty-five years old - out of politics and on the road to becoming a prosperous and honored lawyer.

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It was something which he regarded as a challenge to his manhood, ~~to his views~~ not to accept this challenge would have been to show himself something less than the man he had always tried to be. It would cost him heavily in his professional life and possibly among his friends to take up the challenge, but as a man he must do it. And he went into the fight in the same way that he had tackled the champion of the New Salem gang twenty-four years before. But while he had thrown Jack Armstrong in ten minutes or thereabouts, it took him six years to throw the opponent who now faced him.

This opponent was Stephen A. Douglas, one of the most talented and successful politicians in the United States. He and Lincoln had started out together in public life. But while Lincoln had been side tracked some years before, permanently so it looked, Douglas had had everything he wanted from Illinois, having been one of the United States Senators for eleven years and now its candidate for the Presidency. Rather against his will and only because he felt it a political necessary, if he was even to become President of the United States, ~~as he hoped to be and as his friends expected him to be~~, Douglas in this year of 1854 proposed to Congress that certain parts of the country, which had been set aside ~~by Congress~~ as for ever free be opened to slavery. This proposition caused a terrible uproar in the north. It both alarmed and angered Lincoln. If this could be done, how long would it be before Illinois, New England even, would be opened to ~~turned for~~ slaves. The thing must be stopped there in

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Illinois by defeating Douglas's ambitions - Douglas, the author of this unholy proposition. And he must be one of those who helped in the defeat. And he threw himself into the fight.

Lincoln did not deceive himself about the undertaking. He knew that the odds were all against him. Douglas had always been, as he himself said, a "splendid success", while he had been what he called a "flat failure". He knew what the politicians felt of Douglas. "They see in his round, jolly face," he said, "post offices, land offices, cabinet positions, etc., etc. But in my poor, lean, lank face nobody has ever seen any prodigies sprouting." Nobody expected him to win.- he knew that, Nevertheless he told his friends that he meant to win or die trying.

If he was to accept Douglas's arguments he must do it solely on principle. His appeal must be to men's intelligence - their sense of justice. He could employ none of these speaking talents ~~as a demagogue~~ ~~is guaranteed always used to good effect.~~ He could not tell stories now - he could not ridicule - could not appeal to prejudice. ~~His part was to~~ He must convince Illinois. If they yielded to Douglas's plea and gave slavery an inch it would soon take an ell and then another ell, until the whole country were slaves - not free; to show them this and then to make them feel down to the bottom of their souls that they must not allow this because slavery was wrong.

He knew that ~~if he was going to do this he must~~ the creed must do this by develop an argument so strong that Douglas could not evade it, twist it or crack it and that was not going to be easy, because

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Douglas was a brilliant, magnetic speaker and he had learned how to make white look black - black white. No one knew better than Abraham Lincoln that his challenge of Douglas meant continuous and arduous work for weeks, months; as it turned out it meant such work for six years. Six long years in which he gave the bulk of his tine and strength to what seemed a hopeless fight, as far as any rewards to himself were concerned. Yet he never gave up. He had some terrific falls. He had to leave the political party he loved - the old Whigs and join a third party - one of those pompous groups that sober people jeer at - the Republicans they called themselves. In 1856, joining the Republicans was a good deal like becoming a Socialist today. But he did it.

In 1858 he ran against Douglas who was seeking re-election to the United States Senate - and was defeated. His friends mourned, "Cheer up," Lincoln told them, "it is a durable struggle that we are in - there is only one battle in it. I do not pretend that I would not have liked to go to the United States Senate, but compared with the mighty question at issue it is of very little matter whether I go or not, whether I am ever heard of again, indeed the struggle will go on. Who'll even remember of me?

He was right it did go on, but he had to go on with it. For the quality of manliness that he had shown in the four years that he had been challenging Douglas's position, forcing

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Douglas to battle had made the country feel that they wanted to know more about him. That perhaps here was a man who could be trusted with larger things. And in 1860 he was so trusted, when running for the Presidency against Douglas he was elected.

His manliness had done it. What good does manliness stand the strain of the Presidency? He was going into a ring where he would be under the gaze, not only of a nation, but of the whole world. For four years he was to be buffeted, pounded by enemies and friends, suffered defeat after defeat himself, knocked down. How would he conduct himself under these repeated defeats, which were to be his? Well, he was the same man in the face of defeat that he had been all his life so far. The enemies who watched him and jeered at him, seeking to confuse and turn him from his purpose were never able to disturb his poise. He held on all through the time unwaveringly to the single purpose which he had started out in Presidency and that was that his business was to save the Union. In the matter of defeat however he suffered under it, he always got up and went at it again. And that is what you would expect of Abraham Lincoln from what he had done in his youth and in his long fight against Douglas. But there was another sort of test that he now had to stand, for which he was certainly unprepared. It came from a source where he had a right to expect support, encouragement - not further trials of his patience, his courage, his life and liberty, even of his self-respect. The severest of

these unexpected tests came from members of his immediate official family, men whom he had called to aid him in his task of saving the Union. Almost without exception these men came to their positions with a feeling of superiority to Lincoln, sometimes they even had more or less contempt. He was not educated, they had not been to college, and they had. He had little or no experience in political life - they had had much. His clothes hung on him, their did not fitted. He told funny stories and they were so self-consciously proper that they did not recognize the wisdom in these funny stories. Lincoln was sensitive to men's opinions of him, sensed them without being told but almost invariably he rarely gave a sign, but he knew that he was being looked down upon. He always had the courage to ignore superciliousness. Why should he have done so? Why, because he knew that he needed these men to carry out his big purpose. No matter what they thought of him or how they treated him, if they would do the work he gave them to do, he would ignore their lack of respect, their purely concealed contempt lack of sense of full co-operation. William H Seward, Lincoln's Secretary of State, honored, he believed, that Mr. Lincoln was not fit to run the Government. Mr. Seward felt entirely able to run the Government — and the world for that matter. So from the start he gave people in and out of Washington to understand that it was he who was to decide things. They could come to him and he would tell them what was going to happen. He was so sure of himself that a

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few weeks after the Administration was formed he offered in writing to Mr. Lincoln to run things. Lincoln slipped the paper in which the Secretary of State had so given himself away into the drawer, told nobody about it, but wrote to the Secretary that he, Mr. Lincoln, had been elected President ~~and would look after things.~~ Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasurer, had the same feeling of superiority that Mr. Seward did, but he concealed it less well. He was bitterly jealous of Lincoln, intrigued against him in and out of Washington. Lincoln knew all this and let it ~~go on.~~ pass. These men were both valuable assets to the Administration. If they would do the work of their ~~competent~~ Cabinet positions properly that was all he asked of them. ~~He would risk all assumption of superiority, their intrigues and their ambitions.~~

It seems incredible today, that this sense of superiority should occassionally in men of great importance ~~to the saving of the Union~~ taken the ugly form of insolence. If it were not written down in our records beyond the possibility of doubt one could hardly believe that a West Point man, the General that Lincoln had placed at the head of the Army of the Potomac would keep the President of the United States waiting without an explanation for half an hour when he had called to consult him. But George McClellan did that. And when Lincoln's friends at the White House, outraged by the insult as they felt it to be, protested to the President he made his historic reply.

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"I will hold McClellan's horse if he will give us a victory." He apparently had sunk all sense of self in the great cause of saving the Union, had come to a point where he was willing to sacrifice pride, position, the natural resentment of a man unjustly and unfairly treated for the sake of his cause. Men do not often reach such a great level of spirit.

The patience, the humour, the silent endurance with which Lincoln passed over the contemptuous attitude of men who felt themselves superior to him, is good an evidence of his superiority in human relation as we could have. But it was no greater test of his manliness than the way from first to last he ignored the blackguardism with which the press of this country and of England abused him. It is incredible now, knowing the story, that we should have had great newspapers in the United States that took out their opposition to his political policies by calling him grotesque names, ridiculing his appearance. But the opposition papers of the United States never equaled the English in the coarseness and vindictiveness of their attacks on Lincoln. Lawrence Godkin, who through the War was here as a correspondent of the London Daily News, said that he believed that Lincoln was the first public man, native or foreign, with regard to whom the English papers had thrown aside certain restraints on which they had always prided themselves. As a matter of fact one was almost ashamed to record now the malignity and blackguardism, of these papers. And yet through it all Godkin who was on the [illegible]

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remarked that he never heard of his writing or saying one word to show that he was angry or had lost his restraint under attack. Here indeed was a public man who could go thru trials, not even a touch of intensity of those Lincoln was suffering, without an outward trace of resentiment or retaliation. It shows him to have been what one realizes he was the more he studies him a great gentleman as well as a great man.

But there were other and more futile attacks on his courage. He could measure his men that dispised him, whatever humiliation, disappointment, they put upon him, he accepted and carried without complaint. In the long run almost without exception, either the man or won him as he did Seward, was prone to say openly that the President is the best of us. But these other attacks were of a different quality, something that he could not measure, even see. They were connected with that sense of doom, which dogged his spirit from the time he was called to the Presidency.

In the beginning of his attack on the extension of slavery, back in 1854, Lincoln had been overwhelmed that moment by the conviction that in forcing the issue of right and wrong in this matter, he might be giving the country to War, and war for a man of his temperment of spirit was horrible, unthinkable.

After his election and up to his death his suffering over the war, itself, was always and all through this suffering a sense of possible doom for himself. Lincoln was

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superstitious. He has told it so himself. He believed, or at least considered dreams, signs, portents ~~or some of these things~~ mean his own death or ~~our~~ ~~associates against the danger of assassination. his courage shows itself in his refusal to allow these disturbing matters to weaken his spirit, change his daily life, hamper his mind.~~ ~~Indeed, knowing as we do, that he was followed by this sense of doom, he shows a rare type of spiritual manliness.~~ His attitude seems to have been, "Well, what if they do kill me, the Union is saved and slavery wiped out. Why should I fear death? I have secured the things for which I have lived and worked - nothing else matters." It was a nobler form of this same spirit in which he had taken his defeat in 1858, when he told his friends that he was satisfied to have had a chance to have done his part in the greatest of all human struggles, the one for justice and freedom. And having that chance it did not matter now what happened to him - the work would go on.

And how fine a man Lincoln was in his attitude towards the ~~defeat of~~ Confederacy. There were a host of lesser people about him, most of them thinking themselves greater than he, whose spirit against the south was poisonous - they demanded punishment, retaliation. Lincoln's whole idea was the very opposite. He would not hear of hanging leaders, of punishing ~~defeaters~~. "Send the soldiers back to their farms," he said, "give them their horses and guns, help the ~~seceded~~ States to set up new Governments in harmony with the old form, restore the Union where it was -

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His associates disturbed by these threats and fears they were continually concealing from the idea of possible assassination before his mind.

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His thought - all of his planning -

forget the War." That is, his whole idea was one of mercy and

looking back now who will deny that this was the most practical

as well as the most righteous policy. Abraham Lincoln's

manliness was never so fine, never so keen as at the end,

when he put his hand to the problem of reconstruction. He

had proven himself again and again from youth up to be unafraid

under attack - cool - patient - resourceful in struggle - not

to be separated from a purpose, forgetful of self when it was

a question of that purpose, able to take defeat and go at it again,

to triumph and not boast. But when he saw the war was coming

to an end, his two great purposes sure, and

to an alleviation of

mind controlling the ugly vindictiveness that was showing itself

particularly in Congress and to converting the people of the land Noble-

by acts as well as words to his noble preachment of malice

towards none - charity to all." - he put a splendid crown on

his manhood. manliness.

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THE MANLINESS OF LINCOLN

What kind of a youth was he? That is the first question to ask when you are looking for clues to a man's character. The answer is not difficult when it is Abraham Lincoln's manliness you are trying to appraise.

There are two episodes in his youth as a Jack-of-all-trades, trying to get started in the world which point straight to the kind of man he was to be. The first is a fight. It often happens that the first real measure we get of a boy is in a fisticuff or wrestling bout. It is there that boys, left to themselves, almost invariably take the measure of one another. Given one fair fight to the finish and they know what they may expect of a newcomer in all other relations - his courage - his control of temper and wits - staying power - boastfullness or modesty - malice or good nature.

Here is the story of the fight that first revealed Abraham Lincoln to a community of onlookers - made him, too, the hero of the town. He was a newcomer in a little Illinois settlement - had a job as a clerk in a general store. His employer proud of the boy's strength boasted that he could throw any man in the countryside. This was a boast that the neighborhood gang, who had a favorite champion, one Jack Armstrong, could not afford

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to pass by. Lincoln was big and husky. Could he fight? They proposed to find out. But Lincoln did not like, what he called "wooling and pulling," and told them so. That to them was a sign of cowardice and they forced him to battle - to the confusion of their champion who finding that he could not throw Lincoln tried a foul. Infuriated, Lincoln seized him by the throat and, so goes the record, held him at arm's length, shook him as he would a rat and threw him heavily to the ground. The amazed gang, angry at the overthrow of their champion, closed in on him, but he stood them off so successfully that Jack Armstrong, himself, springing to his feet interfered, declaring that Lincoln was "the best man that had ever broken into camp," for his part he wanted to be friends - and the two were friends to the very end.

This fight established the manliness of Lincoln for the people of New Salem, Illinois and the more they knew of him the more they were convinced that the qualities that he had shown that day they could count on in all their relations with him.

Two years later they had a chance to see how he conducted himself in a very different field of action. This was when Lincoln first asked for their votes. He was only twenty-three years old at the time and still a Jack-of-all-trades. However, he knew he was about the most popular young man around. He was also, though perhaps his admiring Illinois friends did not realize it yet, about the most ambitious young man around. He

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wanted to do something important in the world and he wanted to do it in public life. On the face of it such an ambition looked rather hopeless, even a little absurd, for he really had little to go on but the fact that people liked him and trusted him. He made up his mind to see how much there was in this popularity. Anybody at that time had a right to offer himself as a candidate for office, the convention system not having been as yet introduced. Lincoln took advantage of this practice. Did these friends of his believe enough in him to let him represent them in the legislature? He proposed to find out. And so he sent out his first political address, asking their suffrage. The kind of man he was to be in political life comes out clearly in this address. Frankness, good sense and modesty stood out in every line. He does not attempt to over-estimate himself, that is, the presumptuousness that you feel in a young man in his position offering himself as a candidate for office was more than over-balanced by the direct way in which he sets down what he feels to be his handicaps. He tells the voters that he is poor, that he was born in the most humble ranks of life, that he hasn't wealthy or popular relations or friends to back him - nothing to go on but himself. He set his views on the question of the day down clearly and having explained them says - "Upon the subject which I treated I have spoken as I have thought," but adds, lest they think him too opinionated for one so inexperienced, "as soon as I discover my opinions to be erroneous I shall be ready to

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renounce them." Thirty years later he was to tell the people of the United States the same thing in regard to his position on slavery, to say to them after stating painstakingly his views:- "I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views." Here was a case certainly where the boy was the father of the man.

But Lincoln's frank and sensible address did not win him the election. He was defeated. He had shown how he took a victory in his first introduction to his community - the fight of which I have spoken. It was without boasting. His attitude toward defeat was what you would expect from a man who took a victory in the way that he had done. He did not swagger then, he does not whimper now. And he makes ready for the next campaign, that is, he proved to his friends at once that he was not a quitter. There is manliness for you.

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or me if it had not been for something that happened in the United States in 1854, when Lincoln was forty-five years old - out of politics and on the road to becoming a prosperous and honored lawyer.

It was something which he regarded as a challenge to his manhood. Not to accept this challenge would have been to show himself something less than the man he had always tried to be. It would cost him heavily in his professional life and possibly among his friends to take up the challenge, but as a man he must do it. And he went into the fight in the same way that he had tackled the champion of the New Salem gang twenty-four years before. But while he had thrown Jack Armstrong in ten minutes or thereabouts, it took him six years to throw the opponent who now faced him.

This opponent was Stephen A. Douglas, one of the most talented and successful politicians in the United States. He and Lincoln had started out together in public life. But while Lincoln had been side tracked some years before, permanently so it looked, Douglas had had everything he wanted from Illinois, having been one of its United States Senators for eleven years and now its favorite candidate for the Presidency. Rather against his will and only because he felt it a political necessity, if he was ever to become President of the United States, Douglas in this year of 1854 proposed to Congress that certain parts of the

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country, which had been set aside as for ever free be opened to slavery. This proposition caused a terrible uproar in the north. It both alarmed and angered Lincoln. If this could be done, how long would it be before Illinois, New England even, would be opened to slaves? The thing must be stopped there in Illinois by defeating Douglas's ambitions - Douglas, the author of this unholy proposition. And he must be one of those who helped in the defeat. And he threw himself into the fight.

Lincoln did not deceive himself about the undertaking. He knew that the odds were all against him. Douglas had always been, as Lincoln said, a "splendid success," while he had been what he called a "flat failure." He knew the politicians expected all sorts of favors from Douglas. "They see in his round, jolly, truthful face," Lincoln said, "post offices, land offices, cabinet positions, etc., etc. But in my poor, lean, lank face nobody has ever seen any cabbages sprouting."

Nobody expected him to win - he knew that. Nevertheless as he told his friends he meant to win or "die trying."

If he was to attack Douglas's arguments he must do it solely on principle. His appeal must be to men's intelligence - their sense of justice. He could employ none of his talents as a stump speaker. He could not tell stories now - he could not ridicule - could not appeal to prejudice. He must convince the people of Illinois that if they yielded to Douglas's plea and gave

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slavery an inch it would soon take an ell and then another ell, until the whole country was slave - not free; to show them this and then to make them feel down to the bottom of their souls that they must not allow this because slavery was wrong.

He knew that he could only do this by developing an argument so strong that Douglas could not evade it, twist it or crack it and that was not going to be easy, because Douglas was a brilliant, magnetic speaker who had learned how to make white look black - black white.

No one knew better than Abraham Lincoln that his challenge of Douglas meant continuous and arduous work for weeks, months; as it turned out it meant such work for six years. Six long years in which he gave the bulk of his time and strength to what seemed a hopeless fight, as far as any rewards to himself were concerned. Yet he never gave up. He had some terrific falls. He had to leave the political party he loved - the old Whigs and join a third party - one of those protest groups that sober people jeer at - the Republican it was called. In 1856, joining the Republicans was a good deal like becoming a Socialist today. But he did it.

In 1858 he ran against Douglas who was seeking re-election to the United States Senate - and was defeated. His friends morned, 'Cheer up,' Lincoln told them, 'it is a durable struggle that we are in. I do not pretend that I would not have liked to go to the United States Senate, but compared with the

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mighty question at issue it is of very little matter whether I go or not, whether I am ever heard of again, indeed. The struggle will go on whatever becomes of me.'

He was right it did go on, but he had to go on with it. The quality of manliness that he had shown in the four years that he had been challenging Douglas's position, forcing Douglas to battle, had made the country feel that it wanted to know more about him, that perhaps here was a man who could be trusted with larger things. And in 1860 he was so trusted, when running for the Presidency against Douglas - he was elected.

His manliness had done it. Would that manliness carry him through the Presidency? He was going into a ring where he would be under the gaze, not only of a nation, but of the whole world. For four years he was to be buffeted, pounded by enemies and friends, suffer defeat after defeat. How would he conduct himself under the knock-downs, which were to be his? Well, he was the same man in the face of defeat in the Presidency that he had been all his life so far. The enemies who watched him and jeered at him, seeking to confuse and turn him from his purpose were never able to disturb his poise. He held on whatever their attacks, his discourgements to the single purpose with which he had started out when disunion was "threatened" and that was that his business was to save the Union. Whatever the defeat he suffered, he always got up and went at it again . And that is

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what you would expect of Abraham Lincoln from what he had done in his youth and in his long fight against Douglas.

But there was another sort of test that he had to stand while President for which he was certainly unprepared. It came from a source where he had a right to expect support, encouragement - not further trials of his patience, his courage, his magnanimity, even of his self-respect. The severest of these unexpected tests came from members of his immediate official family. Men whom he had called to aid him in his task of saving the Union. Almost without exception these men came to their positions with a feeling of superiority to Lincoln, sometimes they even had more or less contempt. He was not educated, had not been to college - they had. He had little or no experience in political life - they had had much. His clothes hung on him - their's fitted. He told funny stories and they were so self-consciously proper that they did not recognize the wisdom in these funny stories. Lincoln was sensitive to men's opinions of him, sensed them without being told but he rarely gave a sign that he knew that he was being looked down upon. He always had the courage to ignore superciliousness. Why should he have done so? Why, because he knew that he needed these men to carry out his big purpose. No matter what they thought of him or how they treated him, if they would do the work he gave them to do, he would ignore their lack of respect, their pussly concealed contempt.

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William H. Seward, Lincoln's Secretary of State, honestly enough no doubt believed, that Mr. Lincoln was not fit to run the Government. Mr. Seward felt entirely able to run the Government - and the world for that matter. So from the start he gave people in and out of Washington to understand that it was he who was to decide things. They could come to him and he would tell them what was going to happen. He was so sure of himself that a fewweeks after the Administration was formed he offered in writing to Mr. Lincoln to run things. Lincoln slipped the paper in which the Secretary of State had so given himself away into the drawer, told nobody about it, but wrote to the Secretary that he, Mr. Lincoln, had been elected President.

Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasurer, had the same feeling of superiority that Mr. Seward did, but he concealed it less well. He was bitterly jealous of Lincoln, intrigued against him in and out of Washington. Lincoln knew all this and let it pass. These men were both valuable assets to the Administration. If they would do the work of their Cabinet positions properly that was all he asked of them.

It seems incredible today, that this sense of superiority should occassionally in men of great importance take the ugly form of insolence. If it were not written down in our records beyond the possibility of doubt one could hardly believe that a West Point man, the General that Lincoln had placed at the

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head of the Army of the Potomac would keep the President of the United States waiting without an explanation for half an hour when he had called to consult him. But George McClellan did that. And when Lincoln's friends at the White House, outraged by the insult as they felt it to be, protested to the President he made his historic reply.

"I will hold McClellan's horse if he will give us a victory."

He apparently had sunk all sense of self in the great cause of saving the Union, had come to a point where he was willing to sacrifice pride, position, the natural resentment of a man unfairly treated for the sake of his cause. Men do not often reach such greatness of spirit.

The patience, the humour, the silent endurance with which Lincoln passed over the contemptuous attitude of men who felt themselves superior to him, is good an evidence of the superiority of his manhood as we could have. But it was no greater proof of his manliness than the way from first to last he ignored the blackguardism with which the press of this country and of England abused him. It is incredible now, knowing the story, that we should have had great newspapers in the United States that took out their opposition to his political policies by calling him grotesque names, ridiculing his appearance. But the opposition papers of the United States never equaled the English in the

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coarseness and vindictiveness of their attacks. Lawrence Godkin, an Englishman who through the War was here as a correspondent of the London Daily News, said that he believed that Lincoln was the first public man, native or foreign, with regard to whom the English papers had thrown aside certain restraints on which they had always prided themselves. As a matter of fact one is almost ashamed to record now the malignity and blackguardism of these papers. And yet through it all Godkin says that he never heard of his writing or saying one word to show that he was angry or had lost his restraint under attack. Few indeed are the public men who suffer attacks far less than those Lincoln suffered without open resentiment or retaliation. It shows him to have been what one realizes he was the more he studies him- a great gentleman as well as a great man.

But there were other and more subtle attacks on his courage.. He could measure these men that dispised him. Whatever humiliation, extra burdens they put upon him, he accepted and carried them without complaining. In the long run he either unloaded the man when he had found some one better for his place or won him over as he did Seward who came to the point of saying, "the President is the best of us." But these other attacks were of a different nature, something that he could not measure, even see, and they dogged his spirit from the time he was called to the Presidency.

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In the beginning of his fight against the extension of slavery, back in 1854, Lincoln had been overwhelmed at times by the conviction that in forcing the issue of the right and wrong of slavery he might be helping to drive the country to war and war for a man of his temperment of spirit was horrible, unthinkable.

After his election and up to his death his suffering over the war, itself, was always keen and all through this suffering ran a sense of possible doom for himself. Lincoln was superstitious. He has told us so himself. He believed, or at least considered dreams, signs, portents. He saw in certain of those which came to him in the War possible warnings of death. His associates disturbed by the threats and plots they were continually unearthing kept the idea of possible assassination before his mind. But however startling the warnings he always refused to let them change his daily life, hamper his mind, weaken his spirit. His sttitude seems to have been, at the end "Well, what if they do kill me, the Union is saved and slavery wiped out. Why should I fear death? I have secured the things for which I have lived and worked - nothing else matters." It was a nobler form of the same spirit in which he had taken his defeat in 1858, when he told his friends that he was satisfied to have had a chance to have done his part in the greatest of all human struggles, the one for justice and freedom. And having that chance it did not matter now what happened to him - the work would go on. I don't

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know where you can find a higher type of spiritual manliness.

And how fine a man Lincoln was in his attitude towards the Confederacy when the War was won. There were a host of lesser people about him, most of them thinking themselves greater than he, whose spirit against the South was poisonous - they demanded punishment, retaliation. Lincoln's whole idea was the very opposite. He would not hear of hanging leaders, of punishing secederes. "Send the soldiers back to their farms," he said, "give them their horses and guns, help the Southern States to set up new Governments in harmony with our old form, restore the Union to what it was - forget the War." Looking back now who will deny that this would have been the most practical as well as the most righteous policy.

Abraham Lincoln's manliness was never so fine, never so high as at the end when he put his hand to the problem of reconstructing the broken Union. He had proven himself again and again from youth up to be unafraid under attack; cool - patient - resourceful in struggle; not to be separated from a purpose, forgetful of self when it was a question of that purpose, able to take defeat and go at it again, to triumph and not boast. But when he saw the War was coming to an end, his two great purposes sure, he set himself heart and mind to an attempt to control the ugly vindictiveness that was showing itself particularly in Congress and to convert the people of the North by acts as well as words to his noble preachment. "Malice towards none - charity to all" - he put a splendid crown on his manliness.

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