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est.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S GREAT STORY

The significant stories of a man's life hinge on his decisions. The story becomes momentous when the decision means long-continued sacrifices—when the end is doubtful, possibly tragic.

The greatest story of A. L.'s life is of such a deciding
(— space — 2 lines —)

He sat in his dingy Springfield office alone at night. Head dropped on arms folded along the back of the chair — long legs out — stretched. How can I do it — How can I do it — ^{was} he asking himself now & then.

He had been called — called — no matter about it — to lead a reviving ~~political~~ ^{movement} in the most fateful political struggle Illinois had ever faced. Should she consent that slavery the foundation the nation had fixed by law for centuries be again enlarged,

writing set aside to be free made ^{slav} ~~sel~~ ²
 And of question ^{repeatedly} ~~st~~ raised ² ~~with~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
 making of the Constitution, repeatedly
~~was~~ ^{not} ~~disputed~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{not} ~~undisputed~~

always cracked a compromise. But

this time I spent mysterious days

warned ~~total~~ him it must be settled for
good & all - the nation become all one
thing or all the other, all slave or all free.
~~no middle ground in slavery.~~

The first war ended by Illinois's

favorite - Serhaty - Geo. Neff president ~~man~~ 2nd
 (their "Little Giant" - Stephens
 Geo.

A. D. Douglass, Lincoln had challenged his
 arguments ^{with} a ^{very} ^{unanswerable} ^{logical} ^{and} ^{that} ^{the} ^{couple} ^{grand} ^{that}
 had formed a new party ^{to} ^{the} ^{the}
 Republicans further extension.

the Republican engaged to keep calling itself
Republican - engaged to oppose. De lais the
column demanded to take the field - now
and lead in chief - demanded in
run for re-election

Such a venture?
 "Here I am" he told himself "in middle
 life, ~~and my girl~~ - settled down with law
 partner just as he. practice ~~to get~~
 beginning to pay - should I go up my
 girl's real character - I with a family
 my education? ~~but it was much~~
~~to ask of me?~~" ~~but it was much~~

a hell of me:
"That means politics - and even
politics. Now they'll ridicule me -
~~and now that they're not~~
~~to be talked about - they're ridiculing~~
~~me - say I want a razor mug:~~
say I'm trying to heal up the Union
one day at a time. ~~before I leave~~

A "And I can't with (D.) is no other story - all I can do is try to make men proper see what this means ^{that it} means an American all class - all good men - that - the men who started this war never meant that - ~~they tried to do it~~ 20

20 if ~~the~~⁴ slavery must die a natural death.

And if ^{Mr. Upshur} refuse to give freedom to
slaves - what then? The South will
hate the Union - a try to ~~will leave~~
~~fight~~ - that means war - war.

the formulated man spring from the
chain - the full meaning of the war be

Butting for to face what stand for
parting the spread of human body
of 2 men, ~~up~~ ^{placed} a horse ~~up~~ ^{placed}

A Lord in Assyria, ~~and a Lord in Egypt~~
fell in the old Hebrew Bible, he always
kept at hand, in his office table. ~~He~~

intimidated - up & joined with Matthew's
story of the child in the garden of
Bethsemane - his deep sympathy while
he wrestled with his coming down.

~~Lincoln drops dropped in the house & in the dim light of the~~

There was the answer to the riddle
and the clapping in the trees rustled by

Time we would be here

~~and read alone~~

read L. aloud

"and feel in her face" I prayed
saying "Oh my father if it is possible
let this cup pass from me - nevertheless"

not as I will but as thou wilt"

Our A.

(A. L.) prayed - prayed long and
until his torment was still.

~~He~~ minutes later when they were ^{hurrying} living
laurel of ambition at this time the noble
in a memory of this night - "God knows how
sincerely I prayed from the first that this
pity of ambition might not be opened"

~~He~~ ~~He~~ decision was made - He would
make the part ~~and~~ ~~the~~ use from his knee
a new work of calm as with feet out the
door left & went down the narrow stairs
to the ~~at~~ time to go home. As he stepped
into the street an old friend from a near
by corner passed - stopped & called him
said something of "An L. or in the morning"

in a city man" - They didn't believe
could guess the 'ignat' - He
~~thought~~^{thought} in slumber & looking
in mind full in the eye, said -

& Or die a-hungry - Good night
 And down the street - he went
 stumpy ^{swifly} ~~stumpily~~ - head up.

Simply ~~nothing~~ - near up.
 Betty Burn now kept the dog
 and wolf 2 and the chronic galled
 right to talk on things, & away she is,
 not putting up the blinds at the window
 - closing up. Her eye fell in Mr L's
 surprised - studying of ^{and} she stopped ^{short}
~~amazement~~ "how wide come on me?" he
 asked himself. "In the 2 hours ago
 the picture of despair, wouldn't talk -
 went off without a word - Bay said
 "No bad her yet the blue again"
 "Look at Ann now - Haven't seen her

Walk like that - for weeks. Something
happened to him & wonder what it
is.

Something had happened (A. L.)
had. ~~Wrote~~ that night. The
greatest story of his life & he had
made his greatest decision.

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