

When he first wrote these out he did not tell what became of Jesse, and he says that he had more than 50 letters - one of them from Russia - asking what became of the horse. This confirms my first instinct that the best tale in the lot would be the horse story, but the use that has been made of it makes this questionable.

Under the title of "A Message of Lincoln" the Boys' Year Book for 1923-24 contains this story. That, I think, spoils my scheme.

After a half hour's talk with him I am convinced that something important might be done if I should work hard enough. I succeeded in getting two or three fresh items - at least I think they are fresh - from him. Show not only how close he was to Lincoln at that time but what a spirited figure he was. At City Point just before Lee's surrender he tells me how Lincoln meeting him - it must have been somewhere near the river bank - said, "Henry, come out in this boat. I want to talk with you." He explains this by the fact that there were many people around, that it was impossible not to be interrupted. A boat was tied to the shore. Lincoln pulled this up and sitting down on the bench, told the boy to sit in the stern and let the boat drift out as far as the rope would carry it. He describes how Lincoln on the low seat, sat with his knees up to his chin, his arms clasped around them, and talked about the soldiers, which seems to have been his favorite theme when talking with Wing.

He said, "Henry, this thing is going to end soon. Sherman has only a few days' march south. They are going to close in on Lee - crush him. Now, I don't want this. I want the Army of the Potomac to have the satisfaction of

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

*He must be
killed the way
single of Lee
Defeat - Sherman
who must win
they should
my*

capturing Lee. It is due them." I should get the exact words of this interview and give a little more of a picture of the river front, etc.

Wing says that when he found that Sheridan was to make a detour around Lee's army on its retreat he joined him. When they reached Appomatox or Appomatox Court House, infantry joined Sheridan. Gordon did not know this and attempted to attack. Wing describes the dash of the Confederate cavalry - down a slope, I take it, when they were unexpectedly confronted by infantry troops, which, as he says, they always hate to meet, and the company that faced Gordon in this last encounter was a company of colored troops, according to Wing. He says that as Gordon's dash was made, he turned and noted this fact which he says he has never seen noted in any history, but at that moment a white flag was shown. Lee had surrendered.

Grant

Wing dashed for the house in which Grant and Lee and their staffs were quartered. He seems to have been exceedingly keen on scoops, and had succeeded in persuading a member of Grant's staff to give him a sign if Lee surrendered. He dismounted and stood by his horse when this friend came to the door and taking off his hat, he wiped his forehead three times with a handkerchief. Lee had surrendered. And Wing dashed off to beat the N.Y. Herald reporter.

Wing dashed off to beat the N.Y.Herald reporter.

He came to Washington direct. The war was over. Gathered up his things and set off immediately for Litchfield, Conn., where his parents lived.

He made up his mind when the war was over to run a country newspaper, and he bought the Litchfield Inquirer. He evidently was perfectly happy with the idea. On the morning of April 15, it must have been, he sat down to his desk to

write the salutatory of his new paper. He tells me with a twinkle and a smile that he wanted to make it something that his mother would be proud of, and that would please his father.

"As I put my pen to paper," he said, "a telegram was handed me. It was the news of Lincoln's death." At this point we both broke down and cried.

"You will think me an old fool," he said. But if he was, I was one, too.

"I never wrote the salutatory. My first editorial was on Lincoln. I had no heart for the paper after that. I sold it and went to New York where I went on the Globe."

In here he tells me why he left the newspaper world, which may or may not be a useful story. When he was four or five months old, he says, he was near to death, and his mother, a devout woman, promised if she saved him, to give him to the Lord. He got well and when he was ten years old she first told him.

old she first told him.

"It made me bad," he said. "I hated it."

He married but he seems always to have had a struggle with himself, which he probably poured out on his wife. At all events, the point came when he must have been 26 or 27, when he had a chance to make considerable money in a newspaper connection with a good opportunity of advance. Much excited he went home and told his wife, and then went up stairs to his study to develop the plan. She called to him and said, "If you accept this, Henry"- it was a contract for five years and he was then thirty - "remember, you will be too old when you get out to ever go into the ministry. Now, if you decide to carry out this contract, don't ever talk to me again of your struggles, I can't stand it."

as will be seen by this heading, a change has
taken place in the management of this paper.
Under new auspices we hope it may not
fulfill the prophetic words of 40 yrs. it has
enjoyed in this country.

allow to the bearer John H. Bostwick to be
taken to his home & enter the Army for
furnish a substitute on deris which he
is pardoned for ^{any} ~~any~~ supposed desertion
A. Lincoln

Feb. 13, 1864

Delivered West Side

The upshot of it was that he decided for the ministry.

His MS is now with the Christian Advocate. He is to get it and send it to me. I am to look it over and go back first available time.