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"Why did they fight? They all came for liberty"

talks much of Washington who it must be realized is the personage in the mind of youth at that time, an inspiring personage, going for all the youth of America, particularly pioneer America, what Lenin did for the communistic youth of Russia that is, this is the figure around which the notion of liberty and unionism grew. The little boy listening asks, "What is liberty?" and then there is a simple and heartfelt definition given him. And he goes to bed wondering if he understands.

II

Space
Young Lincoln meets George Washington.

One of the first books that influenced Lincoln according to his own statement was Weems' Life of Washington. This book he borrowed and read. A little scene of Washington and what he meant to youth ^{100 years ago} could be developed in a talk between the boy and teacher or preacher or neighbor. I think it would be historically sound and practical to use a neighbor of South Western Indiana - Josiah Crawford - with whom we know Lincoln often talked. This development of Washington as a pioneer ^{the} saw him and as the boy gets him - the word he gets out of ^{stood} this is that Washington ^{in the boy's mind} for union. This is important, to develop early for there is no question that this notion of unionism was one of the greatest conceptions in Lincoln's mind, and there is no doubt that he got this idea as a boy from the ^{late} soldier and got it from the ^{reading} ~~careful~~ study of ^{Weems} Washington's Life. Washington

Space
Lincoln discovers the Constitution.

He was probably not more than twelve when a book fell into his hands which contained the Constitution and the

III

When still a boy

Declaration of Independence. It was the first time that he had ever read these documents; they had been words to him largely before although he must have heard quotations from the Declaration. I should say that in the previous scenes sentences might be quoted by the old soldier and by Josiah Crawford, if it is decided to use these characters in the development of the scenes. Now he settled down in that determined effort to read these documents, ^{He gets something from them} to get something from him, and a large conception of what all this talk that he had heard about liberty, of what Washington meant, ~~and he goes through a hard struggle as a boy~~ to try to understand ^{these things} what it meant. And then he gets the idea of opportunity, ^{that the American scheme does not mean work} but not something handed him, it is something he must work for. If it is to be made true it is something to be worked for.

mean the opportunity to work - find work.

^{come stage}
-4. The hunt for the book.

The boy has come to understand that it is up to him to help; he has the idea to help develop Washington's grand scheme. ^{again I repeat - historical} I think that it is not unsound ^{the boys life} to try to make Washington a living character in his influence. There is no question of the hold he had on youthful imagination, particularly on Lincoln's imagination ^{as we have seen} for of course idealization came afterwards. ^{Lincoln always claimed} It was better to take him as an ideal figure than it was to try what we call to debunk him. ^{for we have seen in the way} The conception of a union which is to be developed through a Constitution - everybody have a chance - but that your ^{each as} individual responsibility is to do your part. Now how is he going to do his part? ^{must} He has gone to have books; he has got to learn; ^{to learn he must have books} Here we can have the book, or whatever we may call it - his hunt for knowledge - developed by conversation

(W.)

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active & intellectual work

back up the stage

with his mother, his stepmother really, who became his confident and backer in his ambitions against his father who naturally enough thought he should be out splitting rails. This wise, understanding woman talks with Lincoln as he lies in front of the fireplace scribbling on the back of the wooden shovel which he has scraped off in order to give him what corresponded to a slate. Very interesting to introduce him in this talk ~~some~~ ~~make~~ the difficulty in finding a scrap of paper, finding anything to write with. ^{on a} ~~Talk about berry ink~~ and of course much talk of the difficulty ^{getting} of books and how he ~~can get them~~ and a word or two of the school where there was only one book ^{from which} and the teacher ^{read} ~~had that~~ and the pupils repeated after him in concert. And then where Lincoln hoped to get books. And some account of his walking. He once said he had read all the books within fifty miles; ~~he had to walk many miles to get some of them.~~ And all of that can come in in this conversation with the mother. It must end of course with the boy's determination to know and understanding things. ~~He had that passion early, and particularly he wanted~~ to understand what this Constitution meant and what George Washington was working for. How were they going to get this liberty they fought for and what was to be his part in it?

5. ^{shade} What does the Bible mean?

The book that Lincoln heard most about and ~~about~~ the only book that was owned by his father, Thomas Lincoln, was the Bible. It was true he had difficulty in getting something out of it to lay his hands on, to lay his mind to. No doubt he knew the Bible ^{Text} - ^{have} we get all sorts of proofs of that and some of them should be brought out afterwards, the way he used it to

confuse his opponents - very cunningly and very wittily.

I have an idea that an understanding person could develop

what certainly went on in the boy's mind, that after all what

the Bible meant ^{was not} foot washing which ^{he knew} they practiced - ~~is any~~ ^{of} the hard and fast rules of conduct and ~~of the~~ ^{of} creed - that ^{it}

^{meant} you must love your fellow man. That is, he got the conception

early of the brotherhood of man and how that brotherhood of

man ^{meant} ~~made up~~ the unionism. That after all that was what it was

all about that you were trying to make a union of men so they

could live freely together as brothers. This is the conception

that animated him I am confident. It is one of the great

conceptions of the Democratic ideal, gives a fire, ^a the religious

feeling to it and it was strong in the pioneer. The two must

go together - democracy and brotherhood. The boy gets this.

It must be done very naturally and simply, can't be preaching;

it must be talk...

^{learned}
~~at~~ Lincoln ^{about} men.

That is, he learned about men in society and nobody

ever had a better chance to learn all about shiftlessness and

meanness and narrowness and cruelty of men ~~than~~ ^{he} did. He ~~must~~

meet the bully, the man who talks vulgarly. He ~~must~~ ^{he knew} know what

^{went down} ~~goes on~~ ^{on} the river and ~~segregate~~ all this. He was a boy of

immense curiosity; there was no man ~~whom~~ ^{that} he did not

talk to. Somehow show a boy making his way through the pioneer

society in which he lived in Southern Indiana. And perhaps

show what kind of a boy he was when he came out at twenty one

and the family moved on into Indiana.

I think this six might make up the boy Lincoln.
The next section would be called ~~It~~ Lincoln Starts Out for Himself.
That would be the idea.

It probably fits in better would cover this.