

Compiled by
Caroline Hauke Wilbur
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A FEW QUOTATIONS
FROM
A NEW "LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN"
BY BARTON

QUERY - IS THERE NO WAY TO PROTECT OUR BELOVED MARTYRED
PRESIDENT FROM SUCH INJUSTICE?

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Page 133

"It was unfortunate for Lincoln...that he did not fall under the influence of an educated minister who might have encouraged his love of learning and given it some measure of direction."

Page 156

"Abraham Lincoln was a piece of Driftwood"

Page 160

"When that piece of human driftwood that bore the name of Abraham Lincoln came floating down the Sangamon"

Page 228

"These unsettled conditions in Lincoln's love affairs affected his state of mind"

Page 428

"If printers invariably kept their promises, Abraham Lincoln would not have been president of the United States"

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Page 191

"The story was widely circulated.. That when the ambulance in which the president was riding with Gen. McClellan...reached the old stone bridge where the dead were piled highest, Mr. Lincoln

suddenly slapped Marshall Lamon on the knees and called on Lamon to sing a comic song.This story contained just enough of truth to make it difficult to deny."

Page 223

"As a literary production the Gettysburg address is not wholly beyond criticism...It seemed to be lacking in emotional appeal..The phrase 'dedicated to the proposition' has been very generally criticised...It shows some limitation in the use of adjectives - 'A great civil war', 'A great battle field of that war'. The word 'that' is used twelve times, six of them in the final sentence. That sentence is too long and too much involved. It is difficult to remember at the end, what was the subject with which it started; Lincoln himself apparently was not quite clear on this point..Spite of these trivial rhetorical infelicities..it is what it is."

Page 208

"Where did Lincoln get the expression 'government of the people, by the people, for the people'? ..The probable origin of the phrase as used by him was a sermon by Theodore Parker, 'the effect of slavery on the American people',... in Boston..."

Page 209

"Whatever the source from which Lincoln obtained the language, he had already made one important use of it...It has been conjectured that Lincoln inserted the words 'under God' at the suggestion of Seward..." etc.

Page 226-7

"Mary Owens had a habit..of meeting Lincoln by appointment...Lincoln began to feel somewhat surfeited..He began to consider that before many years she would be old and fat..Mrs. Green was carrying a baby as fat as its father.Lincoln..paid no attention to the heavy load his friend's wife was carrying and she did not fail to notice Lincoln's neglect... These unsettled conditions in Lincoln's love affairs affected his state of mind...His relations with Mary Owens still hung fire. At times he greatly desired her.But his almost fatal habit of indecision had now to meet her questioning...Whether Lincoln could make any woman happy...she was not yet ready to throw Lincoln over...Lincoln rode on ahead and let her come through as best she could..He merely laughed and said she was 'smart enough to get over alone'...Women do not enjoy this kind of love making... Lincoln said to Mrs. Able 'Tell your sister she was a great fool not to stay here and marry me.'".

Page 270

"Lincoln remarked... 'It is just as well that one murderer escaped being pardoned by Abraham Lincoln. Narrow escape too! The merest piece of luck in all the world'."

Page 410

"Lincoln and his wife quarrelled. They were foredoomed to quarrel.After their marriage they still quarrelled. He annoyed her often, infuriated her sometimes...He was thick skinned and oblivious of minor discomforts..It did Mary good

to scold and did not hurt him.. But there were times, and that is part of the story as yet untold when even his thick skin wore through. Once in a long while his sluggish but vehement temper got the better of him, and when it did he said and did things which afterwards caused him bitter self reproach...She nagged him unmercifully..That was well for him. He was a man too fond of ease to have been successful in political life if wedded to a woman who made an ideal home."

Page 429

"Lincoln was secretive..Yet he had a mighty temper..."

Page 436

"These Lincolns resembled Abraham Lincoln...They possessed the moods to which the president was all his life subject. They went from boisterous mirth to the depths of despair without any visible occasion. They had what they called 'The Lincoln horrors'. None of them ever went insane but all of them..were subject to violent transitions from one mood to another."

Page 442

"Lincoln had his full share of responsibility for plunging Illinois into that morass of speculation and wild financeering which wrought ruin for the state and for all who shared the unfounded hopes of that period...In those days Lincoln aspired to be 'the Dewitt Clinton of Illinois' considering himself to possess financial acumen which he did not possess then or afterwards."

Page 438

"The Hanks family were quite evidently adequately sexed. The Lincoln family appears to have been undersexed. There is a vague rumor to the effect that Lincoln was at one time in an insane asylum.... Twice however and perhaps oftener Lincoln exhibited unstable mental equilibrium.... He had periods of profound depression alternating with others of boisterous hilarity... He laughed uproariously at his own jokes..."

Page 446

"His periods of indecision were marked by what seemed an almost hopeless inability to meet the situation.. As manifested in his relations with Mary Owens and again with Mary Todd..."

"Lincoln combined a certain coarseness and obtuseness to some of the niceties of convention .. Alfred Tennyson had the same coarse streak in him, and so had Robert Browning... I find no occasion to tell any lies about it.. Lincoln was both coarse and delicate, sensitive and obtuse... Abraham Lincoln was not a consistent man."

"In some respects Lincoln showed good judgment of men; in others his judgment of character was almost culpably weak."