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Few men have been more at home in the Bible than Abraham Lincoln. He not only knew its contents intimately but he used them familiarly. Texts, characters, episodes served him for a variety of informal purposes in his daily contacts with men, particularly after he became president.

A copy of the Bible always lay on his desk in the White House. We know that he opened it often, seeking counsel and consolation in the hours of anguish and despair that were so frequent in his administration, but he also opened it often to silence grumblers, deflate the boastful, reveal his own mind.

What complete revelation both of his political sense and his political serenity than his Biblical comment made to the friends who came to him at the end of May 1865, to tell of their relief and satisfaction that the convention which had just nominated General Frémont as a candidate for the Presidency in opposition to him, had been both ridiculously inept and ridiculously small. An attendance of thousands had been prophesied so confidently for that convention by Frémont's supporters and Lincoln's enemies. It was to be a conclusive demonstration of the dissatisfaction with the president which they declared the country felt. Not a few of Lincoln's friends had been deeply disturbed by the agitation, as well as irritated by the calmness.

with which he listened to their forebodings. But now it was over - a thing to be laughed at. "Why, Mr. Lincoln," said one of them, "there were not more than 400 persons there at any time."

Lincoln reached for his Bible, and opened to the first book of Samuel. He fingered the pages a moment, found what he wanted and read:

"And everyone that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became captain over them; and there were with him about 400."