Lincoln Got Him the Furlough....

Col. Cunningham of Glens Falls, N. Y., in a Lincoln day talk before the high school of that place, related among other personal reminiscences of the war president the following incident: "In the spring of 1865 I was on duty at the Old Capital prison, Washington. One day a quite young soldier of the guard of New Jersey troops came to me with a telegram informing him of his father's fatal illness and urging him to hasten home. The young soldier was much distressed, and said he must have a furlough so he could leave for home that day. I said I would do what I could, but that at best it would take from two to four days for his application to go the rounds of the several headquarters, and that even then success was not certain.

"'I must see my father before he dies,' he said, and then, as if grasping at a straw of hope, he continued: 'I'll go to President Lincoln—that's what I'll do, if I can only see him I know I can get away today. Just give me a note saying as good things as you can of me—that you believe me honest and all right—something of that sort, and please hurry.'

"I did not discourage him by speaking of the difficulties I was sure he would encounter in trying to see the president, but gave him the note and wished him success. Arriving at the White house he was decidedly told that he could not see the president, but while he was earnestly pleading his urgency, Mr. Lincoln chanced to make his appearance, and, noticing the soldier, inquired what he wanted.

"'Oh, Mr. Lincoln,' said the boy, 'I was told I couldn't see you, but I do see you. I want a furlough. My father is dying, Mr. Lincoln, I want just a few days—only a few days—so I may see him once more. Please read these,' handing the president the telegram and note.

"The president read them, and kindly placing his hand on the boy's shoulder, said: 'Of course you want a furlough. I am going to the war department, so come with me and I will arrange it.'

"On the way the president asked his age, about his father, mother, family and other kindly questions. Mr. Lincoln procured at once a war department furlough for ten days, delivered it to the young man in person, and with a warm goodby handshake, said: 'My boy, I hope you will find your father better, and that he may live to see you safely home again, after the war is over.'

"The New Jersey soldier boy was back from the White house in less than two hours, and with tears of gratitude told me the simple story of his interview with his great hearted commander-in-chief."—New York Tribune.

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