

"Lincoln"
Memories — By Mrs. Henry S. Lane.

The Swiss Government in passing resolutions of condolence on the death of Lincoln said- "he was the man with the brow of iron and the heart of gold".

These were words fitly spoken and all who ever came in contact with him recognized the divine charity which forgives all sin and pities all suffering.

If he ever erred it was on the side of mercy in pardoning rebels whom others had convicted and thought guilty of severe punishment. Many women came to him during that awful War of Rebellion asking him to commute the sentence passed upon a beloved husband or son. Always their requests were granted.

After the battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862, the report came to Washington that Lew Wallace was killed in that terrible slaughter. Mr. Lane hearing it went up to inquire of Sen. Stanton it was true- he found President Lincoln there at the War office on the same errand. Later they learned it was Wallace from Illinois who had been killed. Mr. Lane said he was thankful it was not our Wallace. But, replied Mr. Lincoln, "it was somebody's Wallace!" He sympathized with all who mourned the death of this true patriot in that fearful battle. As you have heard many times, his distinguishing characteristics were gentleness and humility.

Many unjust criticisms have been cast upon Mrs. Lincoln while in the White House. She made a great mistake soon after going there when the newspapers reported she was to give a large ball in the East room-but Secretary Seward and other judicious advisors persuaded her to omit the dancing and have only the ordinary reception. This was early in the War and the public conscience was shocked with this appearance of levity and indifference to the weeping and wailing all around us.

Mrs. Lincoln was born in Ky. and had sesession relatives there but she was true to her husband and loyal to the country- but ubhappily could not attach women to her, was cold and unre- sponsive in temperament.

Mr. Lane was elected Governor of Indiana in the fall of 1860. He was inaugurated in January, 1861, but served only a few days, being elected United States Senator and resigning to take that high office. He was the first Republican Governor of the state and the first Republican United States Senator from Indiana. Within a few ~~xx~~ weeks after Mr. Lane had been elected Senator we went to Washington to await the fourth of March when he should be sworn into his new office.

We stayed at the National Hotel in Washington. Mr. Lincoln had not then come to Washington. He came on just a few days before he was to take his seat as President. I remember just as well as though it were yesterday how Mr. Colfax, of Indiana, came rushing to us one morning at the hotel and told us that Mr. Lincoln had come to Washington in disguise. Everybody was disappointed in him because it ~~was~~ was thought the assuming of a disguise showed that Lincoln was a coward. Everybody talked about it. History proved that Mr. Lincoln was not a coward and that there was real danger, as there were southern sympathizers every where.

Governor Curtin, war time Governor of Pennsylvania, ~~friend~~ friend of Lincoln as well as of Mr. Lane, told of Lincoln's trip to Washington in disguise. Lincoln had gone as far as Harrisburg, Pa., on his journey to Washington when it was decided that the dangers of the journey demanded great precautions. A reception was given to Lincoln in Harrisburg. "After the reception" said Governor Curtin, a private conference was held in the parlor of the hotel at which the presidential party was stopping. There were present besides the President, N. B. Judd, Ward H. Lamon, Judge Edward Davis, Col. E. V. Sumner and one or two more of those who were travelling with the President. N. B. Judd told us that from two different sources—Allen G. Pinkerton in the first and a party of new York detectives in the second i

second instance- information had been received of a plot to assassinate the President during his passage through Baltimore, and to guard against danger it had been arranged that the President should return on a special train to Philadelphia that evening, and take the night express on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore R. R., thus throwing the conspirators, who expected him to go to Washington over the Northern Central R.R., off the scent.

"Encouraged by the President's cool and collected bearing I at first discouraged the idea of a secret journey, advising the President elect to travel by day light, volunteering to go with him in person. But when full and convincing proof of the plot was laid before us by Mr. Judd, knowing that the assassination of the head of the Government would bring national ruin, I instantly changed my mind and joined in devising means to secure his safety. In the evening a public dinner was given the President, and at its close I invited him to go and spend the night at my house.

"He accepted the invitation, and, to allay suspicions, all members of the party but Col. Laymon were left behind at the hotel. We were at once driven in a closed carriage to the outskirts of the city, where a special train, consisting of an engine, tender and passenger car, was standing. I stood on the street crossing until I saw them enter the car, and then went home. The wires between Harrisburg and Washington, and between the former city and Philadelphia had already been cut to prevent any news of his movements getting abroad, and with Col. Laymon as his only companion he started to his journey to Washington. Early the next morning we received word that the trip had been made in safety, and that President Lincoln was in Washington". You will see from the foregoing interview, which I have given you,

that there was real danger about Lincoln and that people were not justified in their criticizing him for making his trip to Washington as he did.

Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln stayed at the Willard Hotel, after going to Washington, till they moved into the White House. They received people informally at the hotel. Mr. Lincoln was so tall and ungainly, so awkward apparently, and so homely in his ways, that the people in Washington felt ashamed of him. Those who had worked for him and voted for him felt mortified to think that such an uncouth man had been placed in a station so high. Time, however, mended all that and people came to love ~~him~~ him as the great man he was.

It was my pleasure to see both inaugurations.

Mr. Lincoln's boys were the pride of his heart. Tad Lincoln, who was a great favorite with his father, died in the White House. I intended to go to the funeral but was detained.

I remember the ~~man~~ man as being very ungainly. He had a dreamy expression in his face. Not many dinners were given at the White House in those days. The social affairs were mostly receptions. I attended one or two of these dinners. Lincoln was always present at the White House dinners. He was grave and silent on such occasions and in the presence of ladies. Whenever he was pressed too closely or whenever he wanted to dodge questions he found refuge in stories. He was good a repartee. At one of the White House dinners I sat next to Senator Charles Sumner who was a fine and interesting talker. This

was in the red dining room. Mr. Sumner was a tall, dignified and fine appearing man. On this occasion he explained to me, in full ~~for~~ detail, the history of the center piece that was on the table.

One day I attended a reception with an Indiana delegation. When it came our turn to speak to the President, he turned to me and said, "Mrs. Lane, I believe. Am I right?" My reply to him was, "Mr. Lincoln, you are always right". The answer seemed to please him very much.

The President made few speeches in Washington. The cares of his great position weighed on him too heavily for him to give much attention to any-thing else. People criticized him, too, because they thought he did not manage the war in the right way. They said freely that he was too easy with McClellan. The cry was "On to Richmond" but the army did not move. McClellan was even accused of sympathy with the South. The hills around Washington, in the fall of '62, were black with men, inactive and impatient. It was a magnificent army that was forced to inactivity because McClellan was slack, slow and cautious.

I did not see the Grand Review but I did see Burnside's army, 75,000 men, pass through Washington, going South. It was a great army. We saw much of the War in Washington. The hospitals were everywhere. I ~~xxxx~~ visited the hospitals and often wrote letters home for the Indiana boys. We lived in the National Hotel and the officers of the armies came there often.

It was my privilege to attend the Republican convention of ~~18~~ '56 as well as that of '60. The latter was a time of great excitement. Seward apparently was the strongest candidate for the Nomination at the time Lincoln was nominated. Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Lane insisted that Seward's nomination would be fatal to Republican chances. Seward was too strongly free-soil-----Lincoln was not so strong anti-slavery. He more nearly represented the average ~~northern~~ ythought on the slavery question, at that time. He was not too radical, although he was against slavery. The convention was held in hot weather. I was present and saw almost all the proceedings. I became warm and tired and stepped outside of the convention hall to rest for a while. I was talking to Col. DeFrees, of Indiana. There was a great uproar in the convention. The last ballot was being taken. Col. DeFrees was sure that the noise meant that Seward was nominated. He expressed his regret. "I know that's Seward", he said. I thought they would tear the house down. There was the greatest rejoicing. Presently men appeared, carrying ~~rails~~ fence rails, marching and shouting, and all happy over the nomination of "The Rail Splitter from Illinois".

Mr. Lincoln's kind-heartedness was shown in the story of the ~~hit~~ man by the name of Lockett, Henry M. Lockett, an aged Methodist minister who had held churches in Illinois and other states. Misfortune overtook him about the opening of the war. He drifted south and finally, through the misrepresentations of certain unscrupulous men, he was led into the furnishing of quinine and ammunition to the Confederates. He was caught and condemned by a military court. The man's friends resolved to try to interest Mr. Lincoln in his behalf. Mr. Lane and Thos. A. Hendricks, being the senators from Indiana, were interviewed by Mr. Voorhees who was then in the House and who tried to do something for the condemned man. I remember the story as well as though it were yesterday, but I will give you the rest of the story as Mr. Voorhees told it.

We were not in Washington when Lincoln was assassinated. We were at home. There was the greatest excitement and the greatest grief. Mr. Lane joined the funeral party at Indianapolis and proceeded with it to Springfield. Mr. Lincoln was a good man. We shall not see ~~hit~~ his like again.