

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN'S MANUAL FOR STUDENTS

Abraham Lincoln states in an autobiographical sketch he prepared that he was "never in a college or academy as a student, and never inside of a college or academy building" until he started to practice law. His oldest son, however, attended Phillips Academy at Exeter, New Hampshire, and later graduated from Harvard.

Some very interesting aphorisms selected from Lincoln's writings and speeches will reveal how clearly he appreciated the value of an education and the attitude of mind necessary if one is to achieve.

Truth is your truest friend.

Towering genius disdains a beaten path.

Free labor insists on universal education.

If you are doing well, you better stick to it.

All creation is a mine and every man a miner.

We are in, but stick or go through must be the word.

If I fail it will be for lack of ability, and not of purpose.

I think the necessity of being ready increases—look to it.

The little he has done comes to nothing for want of finishing.

I bring a heart sincerely devoted to the work you desire I should do.

When a man does what he thinks is right, he does the best he can.

I have great respect for the semicolon; it is a mighty handy little fellow.

I do not think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.

He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas of any man I ever met.

I shall, when the time comes, try to do right, in view of all the lights then before me.

Advancement—improvement in condition—is the order of things in a society of equals.

Like wood for ox-bows, they are merely being soaked in it preparatory to the bending.

I must gain my confidence in my own ability to keep my resolves when they are made.

I do the very best I know how, the very best I can, and I mean to keep doing so until the end.

He has abundant talent—quite enough to occupy all his time without devoting any to temper.

We can succeed only by concert. It is not, "Can any of us imagine better?" but, "Can we all do better?"

I know nothing so pleasant to the mind as the discovery of anything that is at once new and valuable.

Every blade of grass is a study; and to produce two where there was but one is both a profit and a pleasure.

If you falter and give up, you will lose the power of keeping any resolution, and will regret it all your life.

I am here, I must do the best I can, and bear the responsibility of taking the course which I feel I ought to take.

Allow me to beg that for your sake, for my sake, and for the country's sake, you give your whole attention to the better work.

We proposed to give all a chance, and we expected the weak to grow stronger, the ignorant wiser, and all better and happier together.

The victor will soon be vanquished if he relax in his exertion; and the vanquished this year may be the victor next year in spite of all competition.

Education—cultivated thought—can best be combined with agricultural labor, or any labor, on the principle of thorough work—careless, half-performed, slovenly work makes no place for such combination.

By a course of reasoning Euclid proves that all the angles of a triangle are equal to two right angles; and now, if you want to disprove that proposition, would you prove it false by calling Euclid a liar?

I most cheerfully and truly declare that the failure of the undertaking has not lowered you a particle, while the qualities which you developed in the effort have greatly heightened you in my estimation.

As the Author of man makes every individual with one head and one pair of hands, it is probably intended that heads and hands should cooperate as friends, and that that particular head should direct and control that pair of hands.

There are two ways of establishing a proposition. One is by trying to demonstrate it upon reason, and the other is to show that great men in former times have thought so and so, and thus to pass it by the weight of pure authority.

That every man may receive at least a moderate education, and thereby be enabled to read the histories of his own and other countries, by which he may duly appreciate the value of our free institutions, appears to be an object of vital importance.