

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN AND SON "TAD"

At last we have a satisfactory informal picture of Abraham Lincoln and his youngest son Thomas, or "Tad," as he was more commonly called. For this unusual and appreciative oil painting we are under obligation to Mr. Frederic Mizen who was commissioned to do this study by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. The picture promises to be as well received as the study made for the Company by M. Leone Bracker presenting Nancy Hanks Lincoln and her son, Abraham.

It is hoped that the favorable reception of these historical canvasses of Abraham Lincoln in informal poses sponsored by the Company will encourage the production of a long series of creative works which will allow a keener appreciation of the noble qualities of "The Man for the Ages."

The appointment which Abraham Lincoln had with Matthew B. Brady, Washington photographer, on the afternoon of February 9, 1864, was a very important one because the series of sittings arranged on that occasion gave us the most famous picture of the President, a reproduction of which appears on the five-dollar bank note and on the three-cent postage stamp.

One other excellent print which resulted from the visit to Brady that afternoon in February, is the well-known photograph of Lincoln and his son, "Tad." The pose is very natural as the photographer caught the President in the process of showing his son some pictures in an album. It is the only portrait of Abraham Lincoln himself which portrays him wearing glasses.

Shortly after the father and son photograph was made, a lithographer secured the print and used it as the basis of a family picture by working a photograph of Mrs. Lincoln into the group. The following inscription was used beneath the picture:

"President Lincoln at Home

Reading the Scriptures to His Wife and Son"

The album in question belonged to Brady, and was

available to his patrons while they were waiting for appointments. It was a sort of "Who's Who" in pictures, and among the interesting portraits it contained were some of P. T. Barnum's celebrities who helped to make the early showman famous. Brady is known to have taken photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thumb; The Siamese Twins; The Irish, The Arabian, and The French Giants; The Fat Lady; The Human Skeleton, and many others.

Possibly when Mr. Mizen, the artist, was producing this new study of father and son, which we are here reproducing for the first time, he was visualizing how "Tad" must have reacted when he looked upon the portraits of any of the Barnum specimens mentioned above. We are quite

sure that whatever the cause for the merriment may have been, evident in the expression of both Mr. Lincoln and the boy, that the youngest son of Abraham Lincoln has been interpreted by Mr. Mizen as the jovial, fun-loving boy that he really was.

The atmosphere which the author has created about the characters contributes much to the picture. The immediate surroundings show the White House columns, while in the far distance is the capitol. The whole study is a pleasing presentation of the kindly man who has been called the most human of all our presidents.

With scarcely an exception the camera's record of how Mr. Lincoln looked pre-

sents the sad, melancholy expression of the man, without a glimpse of the features which were so often illuminated by some kindly act in which he had participated or some pleasant association which he had enjoyed.

The time came when all of his four boys except one had either passed on or were away from home. His affections were then lavished on the youngest son, Thomas, named for his own father, and whom he had called in infancy "a little tad."

Lincoln's kindness to children has become proverbial and during the long and terrible war small boys from both sides of the conflict who had run away to join the respective armies were recipients of the tender ministrations of this kindly soul.



LINCOLN AND SON "TAD"—By Frederick Mizen