

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

He was born in a one-room cabin in the backwoods of Kentucky, and died in a tiny bedroom in a boarding house at the nation's capital, while President of the United States.

He never had all told, more than a year's schooling in the most elementary subjects, yet lived to write impeccable English, and to be judged by learned professors a master of purest literary style.

He grew up far removed from cultural influences and the niceties of polite society, yet wooed and won in marriage a Kentucky aristocrat society belle, and an accomplished linguist, Miss Mary Todd.

He was indisposed to kill any living thing, looked with disfavor on fire-arms, but became by virtue of his high office, the commander-in-chief of the Union forces in a war which resulted in half a million slain.

He was smooth shaven for 51 of his 56 years, and grew a beard the winter before his inauguration, in good-natured compliance with the suggestion of a little girl who thought the change might improve his looks.

He was an abstemious eater, not caring what he ate or how it was cooked; he did not use tobacco in any form, nor liquors of any kind.

He was a voracious reader as a boy and young man, borrowing many a treasured volume, but never owned a library of as many as a hundred volumes, excluding his law books.

He did not unite with a church, though he was a frequent attender and supporter; he was unusually familiar with the Bible, and during his Presidency, on his own confession, was a praying man.

He was often of a melancholy mood, subject to seasons of gloom and grief, yet was as often buoyant, laughed heartily over a good joke, and told droll stories inimitably.

He loved greatly all children and was most indulgent with his own, permitting "Tad" and Willie to make a playroom of his office in the White House.

He wrote a neat hand, devised clear and uninvolved sentences, avoided big words, never padded his speeches, was frequently laconic and pointedly brief.

He was fond of poetry, wrote verses of a homely sort, and liked best poems of a somber or pathetic appeal, as for example, "The Last Leaf" and "O Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud?"

He observed the faults and foibles of his friends and associates but seldom commented upon their shortcomings and never rebuked them either in public or private.

He numbered among his friends an unusually large company of ministers of the Gospel, yet when he ran for President, only three of the twenty-odd ministers in Springfield voted for him.

He loved to sit with the "boys" about the stove in the village store on winter evenings.

He was indifferent as to his personal attire, yet was distinctive in his choice of a high-topped hat, long-tailed coat, and a black bow tie, worn around a low turned-down collar.

He was in life mercilessly criticized, treacherously misrepresented, cruelly maligned, basely slandered, and in death all but deified.

He was scrupulously honest, long-suffering, and patient beyond most mortals, magnanimous and just, forgiving, and a stranger to hate.

He was not a demigod, but very human; he made mistakes and profited by them; he was a lover of his kind and made generous allowance for the imperfections of humanity, and because of these all-too-rare virtues "he belongs to the ages."

—The Christian Evangelist.

## It Certainly Pays!

by Rev. J. A. Owens

"Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is yet to come." (I Tim. 4:8).

I would like to think, with you, a little farther on our text.

YES! Godliness certainly pays, it pays now.

Yet men spurn the Gospel as though it were wiser and preferable, to be, and live, and die under the thralldom of sin.

But it is not so, for I hear Paul's wail of despair change to a shout of joy in prospect of deliverance from sin, "Who will deliver me from the body of this death? God will. Christ will. How? Through Jesus Christ my Lord." (Rom. 7:24).

Paul knew that not only could Christ save him from his sins, but Christ was able "to deliver the Godly out of temptations" (II Pet. 2:9).

It was profitable then; it still is.

PHYSICALLY: GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE HERE AND NOW.

When I look at older men whose hair has grown grey in the service of the Devil, I know that they did not become drunkards overnight.

I was calling recently, and the burden of the mother, in her prayer, was that her daughter would get free from the cigarette habit and be able to put her hard earned money to a better use.

The devil holds the whip of confirmed habit over men's backs, and drives them on to utter frustration. Tell me not that that life is better than the life of Godliness. Forever running the gamut of the devils claptrap! Isn't Godliness better in the life that now is? I tell you, Yea! Verily! I have seen men seriously hurt, but they healed quickly, because they had lived clean and Godly lives. I have seen the opposite, because men had lived lives destitute of virtue.

The story of Bud Robinson's hospital experience reveals that years of virtuous living paid off in handsome returns. The doctors said he could not live, but he did, through his faith in Christ, and good clean living, his body mended, and he told this story again and again, to the praise of God. Yes Godliness is profitable physically.

MORALLY: GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE IN THIS LIFE.

And man knows it. And when he achieves morality he prides himself in it, and makes his boast of it, and even thinks that God ought to admit him to heaven just because of it.

But while morality of itself cannot save any one, Godliness inspires to and is the cause of the grandest morality possible.

PROFITABLE? ABSOLUTELY. The true oak is not the scrub, dwarfed, gnarled with twisted grain and frayed boughs. The true oak is the strong, beautiful pasture oak, erect and comely, its timber much sought after.

THE TRUE APPLE is not the sour, puckery little crab, it is the beautiful, juicy, tasteful, Winesap, Mac-Intosh, or Grimes Golden.

AND THE TRUE MAN IS NOT THE DEFILED, passion colored, iniquity warped, man of the world, but is the upright pure souled man of God.

His physical being is under the control of his pure mind; and his mind and heart is pure because it is the beneficiary of those holy influences which flow from the Holy Spirit, Who pervades and saturates his own spirit, maintaining healthful contact with God the Father, and God the Son.

AH! GODLINESS IS INDEED PROFITABLE.

The King's Highway