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two days for him, and this the future president did.

There are many, many other things in this room and that behind it, and the three others still behind, that will interest you more or less. "They relate to the home and political life of Mr. Lincoln. I can take space to mention only a few. The third room is that in which the President died. If you have ever seen pictures of him on his deathbed, you may remember that behind the bed you always saw a strikingly prominent wall-paper. You will see that striped and flowered paper on the wall of this room, and here are gathered many things that were used at the time when it was carried here and after he had died.

In the small room behind this, which the custodian of the collection has lined with book-cases and filled with books relating to Lincoln, are what to my mind are two of the most interesting pieces in the whole collection. They are the little hom-made desk that Abraham Lincoln used in his office from the time he became a lawyer until he became president of the United States, and the plain wooden chair that accompanied the desk. Just look at this crude desk, and imagine what sort of an inaugural address you would feel inspired to write upon that narrow surface. Yet this is in all probability the very desk upon which this great man's was penned.

When I asked Mr. Oldroyd, the owner

and custodian of the Museum, whether I might photograph these two pieces, he said,

"Why, yes, but nobody ever cares much for those, and no one before has photographed them." So I was more than ever interested, and hastened to set up my camera before them.

In the large room at the back of the house, which the United States Government added to the building as the collec-

tion increased, are a number of articles from Lincoln's home in Springfield, Ill. This was the home he left to come to the White House at Washington.

There is the weather-stained old settle that stood upon his porch, and on which he sat on fine evenings and chatted with his neighbors as they passed.

Two large haircloth sofas of the uncomfortable prickly sort came from the parlor, as did the armchair of the same

material, which doubtless was the seat of the head of the house. One knows that the fanciful work not made from a walnut basketed held the collection of parlor ornaments, and one wonders whether Mr. Lincoln made it. The dining-room chairs from the Springfield home are the pretty, wide-backed, cane-bottomed, blue-painted, flower-decorated kind that still have a cheerily hospitable look wherever you see them. But it almost makes you cry when you look down on the empty walnut cradle, so artistically fashioned, that rocked the Lincoln babies to sleep.

It seems strange, too, to see in a museum the kitchen stove from a presidential home. You know, perhaps, that President Lincoln, when worn and weary with the cares of office, would not eat and could not sleep. When the steward at the White House would send him dainty dishes in his office to try to tempt his appetite, he often left them untouched because he was too busy, too troubled, or too tired to eat them. I believe that often when those skillfully concocted delicacies were set before him, he wished for the ease of his old Springfield home again; for the plain haircloth furniture; for the crude little desk and hard wooden office chair; for the homely stove, with his wife preparing his favorite dish of fricasseed chicken, served with cream gravy poured over hot biscuit; for his old appetite and his old freedom from care to enjoy them all.

Long Green, Md.



Lincoln's desk and office chair. Photographed for the first time for this article.

How Lincoln Conquered Men.

Ruling Himself First.—The Winning of Seward.—Rising above Chase's Hostility.—Stanton's Contempt and How It Was Reversed.

By Rev. John T. Faris.



BECAUSE Abraham Lincoln knew how to rule himself he was able to rule others. By his self-restraint he turned into ardent supporters and even sympathizers. Friends, men who had been not only uncompromising opponents, but also, some of them, detractors who did not hesitate to use contemptuous language in talking of him. Many men in his place would have stood on their dignity, and by clamoring for their rights would perhaps have lost them. On the contrary, while never sacrificing true dignity, was willing to let the mere form of rights go, while by tact and courtesy he secured so, himself the greatest consideration and devotion.

It should always be remembered to Lincoln's honor that he deliberately invited to places of influence near him men who he foresaw knew were opposed to him. He foresaw the conflicts that came. A weaker man would have trembled at the prospect, and would have chosen other helpers. But because Lincoln felt that the best interests of the country demanded the presence at Washington of these men above all others he sought all thought of self, and concentrated about himself a labyrinth of difficulty.

One of the grandest conquests of his life was the turning of William Henry Seward from a bitter rival to an admiring friend. For a long time nothing seemed more unlikely than this transformation. In 1850 Seward looked upon himself as the leader of the Republican party, and felt sure of the nomination for the presidency. He felt that the nomination of Lincoln was unjust to himself.

Lincoln's ability to put himself in the place of the defeated man enabled him to appreciate Seward's feelings. To a friend he insisted that Seward was a better man than he was for the place. So much did he think of Seward's qualities that he proposed to ask him to become his Secretary of State. The lie was given to whisperers that the proffer was merely a formal compliment by this sentence in Lincoln's letter: "I now offer you the place in the hope that you will accept it."

From the day of Seward's acceptance of the cabinet portfolio it was evident that no injustice had been done the secretary in forecasting his attitude to the President. He seemed to feel that it was his mission to save the country from the mistakes of a weakling. No one understood this better than Lincoln, but for the sake of the country he patiently bore all the slights put on him. He knew the thought of Seward, as expressed to his wife, "I will try to save freedom and my country." And because he knew how much good there was in the man he was ready to hide his time.

When Lincoln submitted to Seward the draft of his inaugural address, Seward suggested many changes, at the same time insisting that he knew better how to deal with the problems then confronting the country than his chief-to-be. With admirable deference Lincoln accepted many of the suggestions.

Soon the public, taking Seward at his own estimate, began to look upon him as a sort of prime minister, even going so far as to call him by that name. Lincoln overlooked many bits of interference, not defending himself to his friends, though he did say to Mrs. Lincoln, apropos of the report that Seward was in reality greater than the President: "I may not rule myself, but certainly I rule my conscience—following God in it, and these men will have to learn that yet."

Seward misunderstood the President's deference. Within a few weeks of the inauguration he prepared a surprising paper, which he called "Some Thoughts for the President's Consideration," which showed a lack of confidence in his chief that would have made any man in Lincoln's place feel justified in looking for his resignation. But Lincoln did nothing of the sort. He refused to be insulted, but spoke so firmly that Seward gave up, but spoke in his failure to tell any one of the remarkable suggestions. "Mr. Lincoln put the 'Thoughts' away among his personal papers, where they remained till his private secretaries, years after both statesmen had passed from the scene, published them

to an astonished world," says Alanzo Rothschild in his book, "Lincoln. Master of Men." Seward realized how cunningly Lincoln disclaimed to take advantage of a weapon which in the grasp of most politicians would, under the circumstances, have been used to destroy the market. Now to his wife Seward wrote: "Executive skill and vigor are rare qualities. The President has the best of us."

That was the beginning of Lincoln's great triumph over the man that had looked upon himself as the superior. That the triumph became more complete as the years passed was seen from Seward's comment on Lincoln's election for a second term.

"The election has placed our President beyond the pale of human envy or human harm, as it is above the pale of human ambition. Henceforth all men will come to see him as we have seen him—a true, loyal, patient, patriotic, and benevolent man. Having no longer any motive to malign or injure him, detraction will cease, and Lincoln will take his place with Washington and Franklin and Jefferson and Adams and Jackson—among the benefactors of the country and of the human race."

The cause of the hostility of Salmon P. Chase, another member of the cabinet, was not merely that he had been defeated by Lincoln, but that he hoped to defeat the President in 1864. He used his official position to belittle the President and to advance his own interests. Unwise friends followed the same policy by sending through the mails letters to leaders declaring that the interests of the nation demanded a change in his chief magistrate. When Chase wrote to Lincoln disclaiming his hands on Stanton's shoulders, and with knowledge of the circulars, and expressing his willingness to withdraw from the cabinet if this was thought wise, Lincoln responded, with the same admirable self-poise that enabled him to separate thought of self from thoughts of his country.

"Whether you remain at the head of the Treasury Department is a question which I will not allow myself to consider from any standpoint other than that of my judgment of the public service, and in that view I do not perceive any occasion

for a change."

Lincoln's opinion of the ambitious Secretary of the Treasury was not so kind. He said, "Of all the great men I have ever known, Chase is equal to about one and a half of the best of them." Reminded that the man of whom he thought so highly was seeking to undermine him, he said: "I have determined to shut my eyes, as far as possible, to everything of the sort. Mr. Chase makes a good secretary, and I shall keep him where he is. If he becomes president, all right. I hope we may never have such a man." And then a few months later Lincoln proved his words and showed his magnanimity by nominating Salmon P. Chase for chief justice.

The conquest of Secretary of War Stanton was complete. At first he did not hesitate to speak of "the inability of this administration." Poor says that he called the President a "low, cunning clown." McClellan said he called him "the original gorilla." His contempt for the President was unlimited.

That is, until Lincoln conquered him. For always he did, history tells us. When Stanton and Lincoln again and again measured strength with one another, "Tactically Lincoln dealt with his opponent, conceding points to him times without number, yet insisting on the course laid out when he felt that this was vital. Demanding that he be asked to resign, Lincoln, according to Carpenter, said, "Go home, my friend, and read attentively the tenth verse of the thirtieth chapter of Proverbs." When Stanton, near the close of the war, offered his resignation, Lincoln (Stanton himself is authority) put his hands on Stanton's shoulders, and with tears in his eyes said: "Stanton, you cannot go. . . . It is my wish and the country's that you remain." Not long after the Secretary of War stood over the silent form of the man he had derided, and said with a broken feeling:

"There lies the most perfect ruler of men the world has ever seen."

And that was not simply the verdict of Philadelphia. It is the verdict of history.