

BRAHAM LINCOLN'S ← ARMS →

By STANLEY WATERLOO

A Mitherto Unpublished Incident in the Life of the Marty? President,

T was one of the most wonderful of days in the wonderful life of that splendid thing among man's creations, the White City of 1893. The lake, almost waveless, lay extended like a vast expanse of blue satin till it blended with the eastern sky, the green of trees and grass was vivid, the air was perfect and the mov-ing thousands and tens of thousands visiting the great world's fair stepped lightly as they walked, and were full of life and langliter. Among all the myriad groups there was none in greater spirits than one made up of haif a dozen people, led by a middle-aged man and woman, who were evidently the host and hostess of the occa-e to preference, that of the man intellect and Stat strength of character. That the two, husband and wife, had not tired on each other throughout the years, that the were in perfect accord and lovers still, and manifested by the many signs recogniable to those who have the eyes There was understanding, deference and thoughtfulness in clance and word in any suggestion regarding the movements Ferris wheel. Certainly to be congratulated upon their partnership in life were Mr. and Mrs. Gentil.

The proposal to rate in the Perris wheel had not come from either M., or Mrs. Gen til, but from one of the young ladies of the group, though readily acquiesced in. None had yet made the aerial journey in the steel monster and, as they strolled along, mucl euriosity was expressed as to what the sen-sation would be when lifted so far aloft Mr. Gentil alone did not express himself His wife was observing him narrowly and there grew a look of concern upon her face, already apparent upon his. He was

The wheel was reached, the tickets seeured and laughingly distributed by Mr. Gen'il and then, as if something forgotten had just occurred to him, he explained hur-

"I can't go up with you, after all. I must return to the main grounds for a short



"I WAS AFRAID," SAID MR. GENTIL.

time. It doesn't matter. I will meet you at the entrance to the Transportation build-

There were regrets, and the man hurried away, though his wife for a moment rested a lightly detaining hand upon his arm. Half an hour later the party had rejoined him, and at luncheon and through-out the afternoon he was its life and spirit, for he had wit and taet and good-heartedness and the many qualities which make a gentleman.

Six weeks later Mr. and Mrs. Gentil were visitors at one of the lake shore towns of Michigan, enjoying to the full the drives, the fishing and the society of others upon their outing. South of this town for miles, close to the lake, rises a long plateau, extending back into the country for nearly a mile, when it alopes downward gradually

into the farming lands. For thousands of years the lake has cast up its sand on its eastern shore, the winds have carried the great drifts inland and so has been built gradually this singular plateau. Centuries ago, vegetation found a place in the huge uplifted sand dunes and held them together until now there extends a mighty forest where was once only a bare and dead ex-



HE SHOT BACKWARD.

panse. Singularly enough, this soil thus brought from the lake's bottom proved the one thing for the nourishment of the beech, and the beech woods there are made up of nonster trees not exceeded in size by those growing elsewhere upon the continent. They tower aloft like oaks and crowd out other growths. Standing splendidly upon the lone highlands, they tempt visitors to exploration of their dusky corridors and to the coolness of their depths. Upon the lake side have been built summer cottages and resorts of more pretension. One of these, visited by the Gentils, had a broad flat roof, from the water side of which as a sheer fall of a hundred feet. From this roof was afforded a wonderful view of sunsets on Lake Michigan and here the visitors thronged each evening. It chanced that Mrs. Gentil wished to enjoy the view with others, and her husband accompanied her up the long, tortuous stairway. He reached the roof, gave one quick garage about, turned pale and stumbled back to the stairway, his wife assisting him. She said nothing, save to ask him if he were ill, and he but replied that he would be better in a few moments. She returned to the roof

Perfect as had been the life of the Gentils, there had existed one little mar. Very proud of her husband was Mrs. Gentil, as she had a right to be. He was, and is, a man among men. His record was not of the present alone, but extended back almost to boyhood. He was young when he led his company gallantly in some of the fiercest pattles of the civil war. He never flinched. The war over, coming back as did so many thousands of good men to a future prospect without much definition, he showed the same unflinchingness. He completed a college course under exceptional difficulties, helping others in the meantime. He took ap a professional career and fought it out as bravely as he had fought out anything before. When he fell in love he was not to be denied, and the woman he sought, the one with him now, found herself his wife almost before she had become accustomed to the breath of his swift wooing. He had won fortune and some fame.

He looked the man he was, too, this Leonard Gentil. Broad of forehead, keen of eye, stern of jaw, erect of figure and decided of movement, his wife admired him as she must, and yet she sometimes wondered and was troubled. She wanted him perfect, and he was not quite that. He ex-hibited, at times, what seemed a sort of cowardice. She could not understand it. Once they had made a trip to Switzerland band he had stayed in the chalet below while and he had stayed in the chalet below while even she, a woman, had done mountain-climbing with their friends. Time and again the chale had been no explanation. She knew her hashand's sensitiveness, but, to-day, some impulse led her to speak outright. It might be that she could aid him. She found him their room at the hotel, where he was

nard, why wouldn't you come upon the roof with me?"

The man flushed, laid down his box looked up at her silently for a m or two. Then he spoke slowly:

"I was afraid."

"Afraid of what?"
"That I would fall off the roof." "But there was no danger of that. It is a great, broad roof."

"That makes no difference. It seems to me I would have fallen off, somehow." "Was that the reason you would not climb the mountains in Switzerland? Was that why you were alarmed at the Ferris

"Yes." He hesitated, and then resumed "I'm glad you've spoken of it. We should have talked the matter over long ago. Where heights are concerned I am a coward, and I can't help it. I've tried and failed. I know others affected that way, but I thought I could show enough force of character to gradually overcome the weakness. I haven't done it. What are you going to do about it, my girl?" and he laughed

vexedly,
"Nothing," she answered, cheerfully.
"It's only a queer physical weakness. Maybe I can help you. Anyhow, we'll try to-gether. But how did it ever come upon

"I could not have answered you definitely until this very afternoon," was the reply. "I've been thinking backward since I came down the stairs and I realize, now, just when this trait in me began. I'll tell you all about it.

"When I was a small boy," he resumed, "I climbed trees as recklessly as did the other boys; I scampered along the beams in the barn, and heights did not affect me more than they did any other healthy youngster. My family, as you know, lived in Spring-field, Ill It was one day late in the '40s, when I was a boy of about ten, I believe, that I wandered into the old state house, now the courthouse, and upstairs into a big room where a group of attorneys and officials were gathered, talking polities and telling stories. A story was in progress as I sidled in, and it was being told most graphically by a gaunt young attorney, a man of extraordinary height, who was sit-ting in the open window. I had hung about to hear him tell stories before and knew his peculiarities. He had a way of working a story up to a climax, then, at its close, rising suddenly from his chair, uplifting his arms and bringing them down with a sweep as some droll point was made. Then he would drop lazily back into his chair. I stood listening this afternoon, open-mouth-ed and fascinated. The story-teller went on, reached his climax, rose, threw op his arms and sat back suddenly, not into his chair, as he imagined in his absorption and unconsciousness, but into the open win-dow! He shot backward and outward, but, at the same instant, two enormously long arms shot upward and the outstretched hands with the fingers barely ciutched the edge of the sash above! The man drew himself upward and inward with a grim smile upon his face, but the faces of the others in the room were white, and hearts stopped beating. Finally some one spoke: "'Abe, if your arms hadn't been five

inches too long, you'd be a dead man!" "Somehow, I've never recovered from the effect of that strange scene. I've been afraid of heights and death. Had that man fallen, one of the grandest figures in history would never have loomed to its splendid height. The history of the United States would have been changed. Mary, that man was Abraham Lincoln!"

Lincoln's Clemency

RITING on "Appeals to Lincoln's Clemency," Mr. Leslie J. Perry says, in a recent issue of the Century, that in all his many-sided aspects Abraham Lincoln is perhaps better understood and more thoroughly appreciated than any other great American, for his life was as open as the day. His heart went out spontaneously to the lowly, whose hopes and as-pirations he understood. He was very ap-proachable. With a cause to plead, the meanest as well as the greatest could reach Lincoln's ear at all times. Lincoln hated strife and bloodshed, yet his career culminated in the greatest war of modern times He was made miserable by the trials and misfortunes of his country; his honest heart was wrung by cases of cruelty and hardship incident to a state of war that were daily brought to his attention on appeal in some form. The tender-hearted president was the terror of military despots and brutal jailers everywhere. Through appeals to him



PRESIDENT SAVES A LIFE.

many criminals richly deserving punishment were allowed to go free.

It was almost impossible at first to se cure Lincoln's consent to the execution of a soldier for desertion, and intough imnunity for this crime the army just after Fredericksburg was actually threatened with dissolution. He could not withstand the agonized tears of fathers, mothers and friends of the condemned; scemingly would not understand why a man who had enlisted to be shot by the enemy, promps, should be shot in cold blood by his arm friends.

In some respects the foregoing would appear to characterize an executivity weak womanish nature; but Linean - far from being a weak man, though easily moved by had seen no explanation. She knew her inserty and suffering, and apparently totally free from every sort of prejudice. On occasion he could be as firm a a rock when he be that she could aid him. She found him in her room at the hotel, where he was sincing tranquilly and reading. She advanced to his side, patted his head and then put the question simply:

| Compared to the side of the struggling soldiers at the front were involved. In cases of the wanton murder of union soldiers it was seldem that an appeal for elemency was successful.

Willie Hard Is his father's joy. He's fourteen and
Is a smokeless boy.

-Chicago Tribune.

HOW DIFFERENT.



Mr. Stubb-Confound it! We are going through a tunnel! I hope it isn't

Mrs. Stubbs-Ah, John, I remember the time when you told me you wished the whole distance was through a cunnel.-Chicago Daily News.

Blessed Among Women, "She is happy in her home life?" "Presumably. She has had the same husband for ten years, and the same cook almost as long!"-Town

Power of Wealth, Freddie-What's a kleptomaniac,

Cobwigger - A person who has money enough to pay for what he steals .- Judge.



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requires physical and mental ability of a high degree to withstand its hard labors. The high tension to which the nervous system is constantly subjected, has a depressing cffect, and soon headache, backache, neuralgia, rheumatism, sciatica, etc., develop in severe form. Such was the case of Mail Carrier S. F. Sweinhart, of Huntsville, Ala., he says:

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Dr. Pain Pills and Nerve Plasters a trial. In three days I was again on my route and in two weeks I was free from pain and gaining in flesh and strength."

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The Editor's Little Joke Reporter-Here is the notice of tw hums marrying two sisters. Editor-Head it, "Putting Two and Pwo Together."-Brooklyn Eagle.

Two Views. "She is what I call a breezy girl."
"Yes. I notice she has a good many airs."-Tammany Times



In the Boarding House, 'Tis now the festive breakfast hash, That once was so intruding.

Is missed; but soon will reappear Disguised as new plum pudding:
-Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. Trustful in Some Things.

Brown-It's curious about people's beliefs. They will give entire credence to the most absurd things and put no faith whatever in the most obvious truths.

Black-Yes. I've noticed it. There's Greene, now. He hasn't the least confidence in hash; but he'll eat all the eroquettes and mince pie you can set before him.-Boston Transcript.

An Impression. "I am very much afraid," said Miss Cayenne, "that I am losing my reputation as a keen observer and a satir-

"What makes you think so?" "Several people yesterday said they were glad to see me as if they really meant it."-Washington Star.

His Instruction. The breakfast didn't suit him. "What a pity it is," he said, "that love's young dream never can live to grow up."

"Why can't it?" she asked.
"It's killed off by acute dyspepsia," he answered .- Chicago Post.

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Language. Language is the vehicle Of thought, and in the name Of all the gods, how few of us Know how to tool the same! -Town Topies.

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As Usual. Visitor-Who is that youngster?

Editor-That's our new office boy Visitor-Ol his face seemed fa-

Editor-Perhaps it is, but his man-ner is more so.-Philadelphia Press.

His Preference. Head of Foreign Missionary Bureau -Where would you prefer to locate

as a missionary? Young Missionary-Well, if possible, where the natives are vegetarians.-Brooklyn Eagle.

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