

LINCOLN ABRAHAM

LINCOLN
LETTERS

Abraham Lincoln Lincoln Letters

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NOTE

The letters herein by Lincoln are so thoroughly characteristic of the man, and are in themselves so completely self-explanatory, that it requires no comment to enable the reader fully to understand and appreciate them. It will be observed that the philosophical admonitions in the letter to his brother, Johnston, were written on the same sheet with the letter to his father.

The promptness and decision with which Lincoln despatched the multitudinous affairs of his office during the most turbulent scenes of the Civil War are exemplified in his unequivocal order to the Attorney-General, indorsed on the back of the letter of Hon. Austin A. King, requesting a pardon for John B. Corner. The indorsement bears even date with the letter itself, and Corner was pardoned on the following day.

THE ORIGINALS FROM WHICH THE
WITHIN FACSIMILES WERE MADE
ARE IN THE COLLECTION OF MR.
WILLIAM K. BIXBY, AND THROUGH HIS
COURTESY THEY ARE REPRODUCED FOR
MEMBERS OF THE BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY

Washington Dec 31st 1848.

My dear father

Your letter of the 7th was recd. in night
before last. I very cheerfully send you the twenty
dollars, which, as you say is necessary to save your
land from sale. It is singular that you should have
forgoten a judgment against you, and it is more singular
that the plaintiff should have let you forget it so long,
particularly as, I suppose you have always had property
enough to satisfy a judgment of that amount. Before you
forget it will be well to be sure you have not paid
it or at least that you can not prove you have paid
it. Give my love to Mother, and all the children.

Affectionately your son

Arthur

Dear Johnston

Your request for eighty dollars, I do not think
at least to copy, will now. At the various times when I
have helped you a little, you have said to me, "I can get
it myself."

I doubt whether since I saw you, you have done a good
whole days work in any one day. - You do not very much
dislike to work, and still you do not work much, merely
because it does not seem to you that you could get much
for it. - This habit of uselessly wasting time, is the whole
difficulty, and it is vastly important to you, and still
more so to your ^{children}, that you should break the habit. - It
is more important to them, because they have longer to live, and
can keep out of an idle habit before they are in it, easier
than they can get out after they are in.

You are now in need of some ready money, and what I
propose is that you shall go to work, both and rails for
somebody who will give you money for it. - Get further, and
your boys be charge of things at home - prepare for a crop,
and make the crop, and you go to work for the best money
wage, or a discharge of any debt you are, that you can get.
And to secure you a fair reward for your labor, I now promise
that for every dollar you will, between this and the first
of next May, get for you our labor, either in money, or in your
own satisfaction, I will then give you one other dollar.
By this, if you hire yourself at ten dollars a month, you will
you will get ten more, making twenty dollars a month for
you worked for this, it do not mean you shall go off to
St. Louis, or the lead mines, or the gold mines, or lead mines,
but I mean for you to go out to it for the best wages you

can get close to home - No load, come. Now if you
will do this, you will soon be out of debt and what
is better you will have a habit that will keep you from
getting a debt again - But if I should not clear you
out, next year you will be just as deep as ever - You
say you would almost give your place in Kansas for \$7000 & 50.
How you value your place in Kansas very cheap for I can
with the offer I make you
have you can get the thirty or eighty dollars for your five
months work - You say if I furnish you the money you will
cede me the land, if you don't pay the money back
you will deliver possession to me! If you can not
live with the land, then will you then live without it?
You have always been a man to do as I do, we are meant
to be partners to you - On the contrary if you will not follow
my advice you will find it worth more than eight times
eighty dollars to you -

Effectually,

Your brother
H. S. Smith

Washington, Dec. 24th, 1848

My dear father: —

Your letter of the 7th was received night before last. I very cheerfully send you the twenty dollars, which sum you say is necessary to save your land from sale. It is singular that you should have forgotten a judgment against you; and it is more singular that the plaintiff should have let you forget it so long, particularly as I suppose you have always had property enough to satisfy a judgment of that amount. Before you pay it, it would be well to be sure you have not paid it; or, at least, that you can not prove you have paid it. Give my love to Mother, and all the connections.

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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