

# LINCOLN'S VOW FREED THE SLAVES

**A**BRAM LINCOLN called his cabinet together on September 22, 1862, to read to them his first proclamation of emancipation. In the diaries of two of the members of that council are given vivid running accounts of that meeting, telling of Lincoln's solemn vow and its consummation. This is the story of that day as told by Salmon P. Chase, secretary of the treasury:

To department about nine. State department messenger came with notice to heads of departments to meet at twelve. Received sundry callers. Went to the White House. All the members of the cabinet were in attendance. There was some general talk, and the president mentioned that Artemus Ward had sent him his book. Proposed to read a chapter which he thought very funny. Read it, and seemed to enjoy it very much; the heads also (except Stanton), of course. The chapter was "High-handed Outrage at Utica." The president then took a graver tone, and said:

"Gentlemen: I have, as you are aware, thought a great deal about the relation of this war to slavery; and you all remember that, several weeks ago, I read to you an order that I prepared on this subject, which, on account of objections made by some of you, was not issued. Ever



THE STATUE OF LINCOLN ERECTED BY THE FREED SLAVES



READING PROCLAMATION TO THE CABINET

since then my mind has been much occupied with this subject, and I have thought, all along, that the time for acting on it might probably come. I think the time has come now. I wish it was a better time. I wish that we were in a better condition. The action of the army against the rebels has not been quite what I should have best liked.

"When the rebel army was at Frederick, I determined, as soon as it should be driven out of Maryland, to issue a proclamation of emancipation, such as I thought most likely to be useful. I said nothing to any one, but I made the promise to myself and (hesitating a little) to my Maker. The rebel army is now driven out, and I am going to fulfill that promise.

"I have got you together to hear what I have written down. I do not wish your advice about the main matter, for that I have determined for myself. This I say without intending anything but respect for any one of you. But I already know the views of each on this question. They have been heretofore expressed, and I have considered them as thoroughly and carefully as I can. What I have written is that which my reflections have determined me to say. If there is anything in the expressions I use, or in any minor matter, which any one of you thinks had best be changed, I shall be glad to receive the suggestions.

"One other observation I will make. I know very well that many others might, in this matter as in others, do better than I can; and if I was satisfied that the public confidence was more fully possessed by any one of them than by me, and knew of any constitutional way in which he could be put in my place, he should have it. I would gladly yield it to him. But, though I believe that I have not so much the confidence of the people as I had some time since, I do not know that, all things considered, any other person has more; and, however this may be, there is no way in which I can have any other man put where I am. I am here; I must do the best I can, and bear the responsibility of taking the course which I feel I ought to take."

The president then proceeded to read his Emancipation Proclamation, making remarks on the several parts as he went on, and showing that he had fully considered the whole subject, in all the lights under which it had been presented to him. After he had closed, Governor Seward said:

"The general question having been decided, nothing can be said farther about that. Would it not, however, make the proclamation more clear and decided to leave out all reference to the act being sustained during the incumbency of the present president; and not merely say that the government 'recognizes' but that it will maintain, the freedom it proclaims?"

I followed, saying:

"What you have said, Mr. President, fully

satisfies me that you have given to every proposition which has been made a kind and candid consideration. And you have now expressed the conclusion to which you have arrived clearly and distinctly. This it was your right, and, under your oath of office, your duty to do. The proclamation does not, indeed, mark out exactly the course I would myself prefer. But I am ready to take it just as it is written, and to stand by it with all my heart. I think, however, the suggestions of Governor Seward very judicious, and shall be glad to have them adopted."

The president then asked us severally our opinions as to the modification proposed, saying that he did not care much about the phrases he had used. Every one favored the modification, and it was adopted. Governor Seward then proposed that, in the passage relating to colonization, some language should be introduced to show that the colonization proposed was to be only with the consent of the colonists and the consent of the states in which colonies might be attempted. This, too, was agreed to, and no other modification was proposed.

Gideon Welles, secretary of the navy, also recorded in his diary the events of that day. He, too, alluded to the solemn covenant Lincoln had made, to free the slaves in the event of a victory. The victory had come, and Lincoln had made up his mind. This is Welles' narrative, written under date of September 22:

A special cabinet meeting. The subject was the proclamation for emancipating the slaves after a certain date, in states that shall then be in rebellion. For several weeks the subject has been suspended, but the president says never lost sight of. When it was submitted, and now, in taking up the proclamation, the president stated that the question was finally decided, the act and the consequences were his, but that he felt it due to us to make us acquainted with the fact and to invite criticism on the paper which he had prepared. There were, he had found, not unexpectedly, some differences in the cabinet, but he had, after ascertaining in his own way the views of each and all, individually and collectively, formed his own conclusions and made his own decisions.

In the course of the discussion on this paper, which was long, earnest, and, on the general principle involved, harmonious, he remarked that he had made a vow, a covenant, that if God gave us the victory in the approaching battle, he would consider it an indication of Divine Will, and that it was his duty to move forward in the cause of emancipation. It might be thought strange, he said, that he had in this way submitted the disposal of matters when the way was not clear to his mind what he should do. God had decided this question in favor of the slaves.

He was satisfied it was right, was confirmed and strengthened in his action by the vow and the results. His mind was fixed, his decision

made, but he wished his paper announcing his course as correct in terms as it could be made without any change in the determination. He read the document. One or two unimportant amendments suggested by Seward were approved. It was then handed to the secretary of state to publish tomorrow.

After this, Blair remarked that he considered it proper to say he did not concur in the expediency of the measure at this time, though he approved of the principle, and should, therefore, wish to file his objections. He stated at some length his views, which were substantially that he ought not to put in greater jeopardy the patriotic element in the border states, that the results of this proclamation would be to carry over those states en masse to the secessionists as soon as it was read, and that there was also a class of partisans in the free states endeavoring to revive old parties, who would have a club put into their hands of which they would avail themselves to beat the administration.

The president said he had considered the danger to be apprehended from the first objection, and was not at all deterred by it. The policy was, in his view, not to act; as regarded the act, it had not much weight with him.

The question of power, authority, in the government to set free the slaves was not much discussed at this meeting, but had been canvassed by the president in private conversation with the members individually. Some thought legislation advisable before the step was taken, but congress was clothed with no authority on this subject, nor is the executive, except under the war-power—military necessity, martial law, when there can be no legislation. This was the view which I took when the president first presented the subject to Seward and myself last summer, as we were returning from the funeral of Stanton's child—a ride of two or three miles from beyond Georgetown. Seward was at that time not at all communicative, and, I think, not willing to advise, though he did not dissent from the movement.

It is momentous, both in its immediate and remote results, and an exercise of extraordinary power, which cannot be justified on mere humanitarian principles, and would never have been attempted but to preserve the national existence. The slaves must be with us or against us in the war. Let us have them. These were my convictions, and this the drift of the discussion.

The effect which the proclamation will have on the public mind is a matter of some uncertainty. In some respects it would, I think, have been better to have issued it when formerly first considered.

There is an impression that Seward has opposed, and is opposed to, the measure. I have not been without that impression myself, chiefly from his hesitation to commit himself, and perhaps because action was suspended on his suggestion. But in the final discussion he has cordially supported the measure as Chase.

For myself the subject has, from its magnitude and its consequences, oppressed me, aside from the ethical features of the question. It is a step in the progress of this war which will extend into the distant future. A favorable termination of this terrible conflict seems more remote with every movement, and unless the rebels hasten to avail themselves of the alternative presented, of which I see little probability, the war can scarcely be other than one of emancipation to the slave, or subjugation, or submission to their rebel owners.

There is in the free states a very general impression that this measure will insure a speedy peace. I cannot say that I so view it. No one in those states dare advocate peace as a means of prolonging slavery, even if it is his honest opinion, and the pecuniary, industrial, and social sacrifice impending will intensify the struggle before us. While, however, these dark clouds are above and around us, I cannot see how the subject can be avoided. Perhaps it is not desirable it should be. It is, however, an arbitrary and despotic measure in the cause of freedom.

## TO PROTECT INSECT EATERS

Measure Reasonably Sure of Passage by Congress for Preservation of Little Birds.

One of the three bills pending in congress for the protection of birds is reasonably sure of passage, because public sentiment, in the first place, is against the destruction of birds, and, secondly, because there is an important economic reason for the enactment of strong laws in this direction. Officials of the biological survey of the department of agriculture estimate that 20 per cent. of the average annual crops of the country is destroyed by insects. Away back as far as 1904 it was found that the damage done through the ravages of insects amounted to \$420,000,000. This is a direct loss to the nation, and one which must have a very appreciable effect in determining the price of products. The farmer must depend on the birds more than any other agency to eliminate this loss, yet the bird slaughter continues. The destruction of in-



Meadow Lark.

sectivorous birds is of special concern to many sections of the country, because of extensive fruit growing. As the destroyers of insects, birds have come to be recognized as agents for conserving national wealth. The killing of a bird indirectly is a contribution to the strength of the insect horde which infest the vegetable products.

## DEHORNING IS NOT PAINFUL

Operation Is Not Difficult When Clipper Is Used, Taking Horn Off Without Crushing.

(By C. E. BRASHEAR, Missouri College of Agriculture.)

Dehorning is not the painful operation it used to be. The clipper is taking the place of the dehorning saw. Its advantages are that it is more quickly operated and it gives the animal less pain.

It has the further advantage that the close confinement of the animal necessary for the operation of the saw is not needed in the use of the clipper. It is used successfully without a dehorning chute.

The animal is tied to a tree with a rope, passed around the neck. A ring with a rope attached is placed in the nose and pulled in the direction opposite the tree. This throws the head in position for dehorning.

The horn is more often cut too high than too close. In fact, it is hard to cut the horn too close, and the horns cut easier low. The wound also heals quicker and the head is given a nicer shape. A ring of skin should be taken off with the horn.

It is a good plan to grease the clippers with grease that is mixed with some disinfectant, such as creoline.

The best clipper on the market has V-shaped notches in the blades. It clips the horn off easily, without crushing. The knife with straight edges tends to crush the horn and is harder to operate.

## FOWLS NEED SOME EXERCISE

When Confined Too Closely Birds Are Constantly Trying to Secure Liberty, Making Poor Returns.

If fowls are too closely confined, they will constantly be striving to get at liberty they will try to fly over the highest fences, and in every way show how well they love the range of field and pasture. Such uneasiness and anxiety to get out militate against their good health, and a hen that is not in good health will not lay eggs, says the New York Farmer. They should, therefore, have all the space that may be allowed them, and this may not be furnished at all, then how much more important it is that one does not keep too many fowls confined within the limit of the poultry house exclusively.

However well the poultryman may feed and tend them, when thus restricted, if there be an excess of numbers crowded together, the hens will cease to lay, they will get ill, they will lose their flesh, become miserable in a short time, and in no case can they be made to give good returns when thus restricted in their quarters. If you had no room for the hens to exercise in, you would better get rid of them.

## Kerosene Emulsion.

Kerosene emulsion, one of the best mixtures to use in combatting mites in the poultry house, is made by mixing two gallons of kerosene oil, 1/2 pound of whale oil soap, one quart of home-made soft soap, and one gallon of water. Dissolve the soap by boiling in water, then remove from the fire and add the kerosene at once. Churn this mixture rapidly and violently until it is as smooth as beaten cream. One part of emulsion to several parts of water is used to dilute the mixture for application to buildings, roosting boards or nest boxes. Add one or two ounces of carbolic acid to the emulsion just before applying.

## Health Essentials.

Pure air, pure water and pure food, as well as thorough cleanliness, are all essential to the chicken's health. The fowl's power to resist disease is due to these.

## CARING FOR FARM DRAFTERS

Farmers Should Keep Horses in Proper Condition in Winter by Keeping Them at Work.

(By WILLIAM A. FRETHEROFF.)

Most farmers do not get full use of their horses through failure to provide work for them during the winter months. There is generally not much doing on the farm then, except perhaps hauling of a little produce to town, dragging in the logs for firewood and scattering manure on the snowy fields.

Altogether they are kept idle for so many days that the average number of hours worked per day for a year is even less than two, counting those days in summer when overtime is the rule for man and beast.

This condition is unprofitable from an economic point of view, and from the standpoint of the horse's health.

Heavy drafters in good flesh and fed liberally on oats and timothy will need exercise and plenty of it to keep in fair health during the winter. They will need warm stables properly ventilated; there must be no cement or other damp floors for them to lie on; there must be plenty of air and sunshine.

One winter we fed scarcely anything but straw and just a little grain and the horses came through in better shape than those of a neighbor who fed liberally, but who did not have any more work for his horses than we had. There was not so much rich stuff to poison the blood.

I know of a farmer who regularly hires a teamster to take his magnificent drafters out into the employ of the local ice company and so keeps them busy during the winter. Another engages his two teams in the cordwood business for the same purpose.

Neither of these men make very much money through the deal, but they force their horses to pay for their winter board and to come through in splendid shape for the summer's heavy grind.

## STAPLE FOOD FOR POULTRY

Grain Is Beneficial to All Farm Fowls, but Variety Is Necessary for Egg Production.

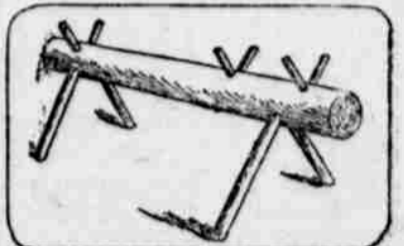
Grain is the staple food for poultry, and will be used for that purpose as long as fowls are kept on farms; but hens can not give good results on grain alone. It is beneficial to them and will be at all times relished, but the demands of the hens are such as to call for a variety. In the shells of eggs as well as in their composition are several forms of mineral matter and nitrogen, which can only be partially obtained from grain.

Even grains vary in composition, and when fowls are fed on grain for a long time, they will begin to refuse it, as they may be oversupplied with the elements of the food partaken and lack the elements that are best supplied from some other source. For this reason they will accept a change of food, which is of itself an evidence that the best results from hens can only be obtained by a variety of food. Corn and wheat may be used as food with advantage, but must be given as a portion of the ration and not made exclusive articles of diet.

## SAW HORSE FOR SMALL LOGS

Directions Given for Making Ordinary Buck for the Purpose of Cutting Up Timber.

For sawing up heavy timber where an ordinary saw horse would not be strong enough, take a log about 1 foot in diameter and 10 or 12 feet long. Bore four 2 or 3 inch holes in which to insert four strong, round



Saw Buck for Small Logs.

sticks for legs, and when the legs are in place bore six 2-inch holes along the upper side and insert foot long pegs, having two pairs quite close together for convenience in sawing short lengths.

## To Avoid the Runty Pig.

Runty pigs stand a poor show at the feeding trough with a bunch of their husky brothers and sisters. As they are crowded out of place naturally they do not get enough to eat to keep them growing, and they stay runty.

A trough arranged with V-shaped partitions set strongly in the trough would give the little fellows an equal show with the big ones, and the weaker ones could get their share of food. A handy man can make such a trough arrangement in an hour or so, and even the growth of his pigs would more than pay for his trouble.

## Soil for Grapes.

It is claimed that grapes grown in a clayey soil are darker and more glossy than when grown on gravelly land; but the sweetest and richest tasted grapes are grown on gravelly soil.

## Vegetables for Hens.

Vegetables are great for the hens, especially when they can't get green feed in the fields.

## MUST BE KEPT FROM HEAT

Something to Be Remembered by the Woman Fond of the Perfume of the Violet.

Appropos of violet perfume it may be well to whisper in the ear of every woman the secret which every perfumer so well knows, a very simple little secret, but very important to the preservation of perfume. It is that no bottle of violet should at any time be put near the heat, nor in the

strong light, either artificial or natural, for a decided chemical change takes place not only in the color of the perfume, but in the odor.

The wistaria blossoms have surrendered their color and strange sweetness to the skill of the Oriental, and may be had in sachet. There are also the bars of sandalwood which may be laid among one's frocks but many, comparatively speaking, do not care for its pungent quality compared to the blossomy outdoor fragrance of the real flower scents.

Ground sandalwood and orris may also be had for about one dollar for a quarter of a pound to make into individual sachets, but no sachet is lasting, and too much should not be expected of it in the way of durability.

Perfume burners have found their way into vogue. The correct way to use these artistic combinations of gun metal and brass, which look so like a tiny and much beautiful alcohol lamp, is to mix the perfume with water and let it boil. As it does so the freshness of the blossoms floats off

with the vapor and the room is lightly filled with fragrance.

All perfumes which are imported have risen in value. It is the higher duty which has brought this, not any scarcity of flowers, as the many manufacturers would have us believe.

## A Bride's Way.

Mrs. Eke—Is Mrs. Youngbride a good housekeeper?  
Mrs. Wye—Well, when I dropped in on her she was trying to make bread in a chafing dish.