

LINCOLN A "PSYCHIC:" FORESAW HIS TRAGIC END.

TO account for the extraordinary attainments of a notable figure in history there are always large numbers of people willing to lend ready credence to stories which endow such personage with supernatural gifts or with the possession of familiar spirits who guide him along the path of destiny.

Socrates and his Daemon, Napoleon and his book of dreams, are familiar examples, and it has also been asserted—somewhat covertly, it is true, but none the less emphatically—that Abraham Lincoln was a seer of visions; or, in the jargon of these latter days, a "psychic" of the most advanced type.

It is said that the frequent fits of melancholy and moody depression in which he indulged after his accession to the Presidency were due to the foreknowledge granted to him concerning his own tragic end, and it is also said that by way of confirming these impressions he often consulted spiritualistic mediums, the holding of séances at the White House being by no means a rare occurrence during his first administration.

These matters were hinted at at the time and were afterward distinctly set forth in a little book, now out of print, entitled, "Was Lincoln a Spiritualist?" written by a woman medium who claimed that she had frequently officiated for Mr. Lincoln as the link between the unseen and the material world.

Gazed at the "Crystal."

Further assurance has been given to such statements by the well known fact that Mrs. Lincoln was an avowed spiritualist, having associated herself with that faith after the death of her son Willie. It is a well authenticated piece of Washington gossip that she received many communications through the fraud medium Colchester, and that after his exposure that clever charlatan attempted to create through this fact an official scandal.

The most persistent of the tales concerning Lincoln's supernatural powers which have crept down through the years is the one ascribing ability to him as a "crystal gazer," and it is asserted that on more than

one occasion he obtained in this way an exact vision of the circumstances of his own death.

Noah Brooks, in his personal reminiscences of Lincoln, relates one such circumstance which he says was told to him by the martyred President himself.

It was in 1860, on the day of his first election to the Presidency. Worn out by the long strain of the campaign and by the congratulations showered upon him, Lincoln retired to his home to rest. He threw himself down on a lounge and was just falling asleep, when he suddenly opened his eyes and beheld a reflection of himself in a mirror across the room.

Saw Himself in Death.

Strange to say, though, the mirror presented two reflections of his recumbent figure—one bearing the familiar guise in which he knew himself; the other also himself, but as though he had grown older, the face set, the eyes closed, the complexion the cold, pallid hue of death.

Startled by the apparition, Mr. Lincoln sprang to his feet, and at once the vision vanished. When he lay down again, however, it instantly reappeared. This occurring three or four times, he called Mrs. Lincoln, and she, too, was able to see the puzzling phenomenon, until at length it finally disappeared.

Mrs. Lincoln, Mr. Brooks says, was greatly perturbed at the incident and interpreted it as meaning that her husband would be twice elected to the Presidency, but would meet his death during the second term—truly a remarkable conclusion, in view of the subsequent facts.

After the President's assassination Mr. Brooks mentioned one day to Mrs. Lincoln this story of the President's, and she was greatly surprised to learn that he had ever disclosed it, as she said he intensely disliked to discuss it, and had endeavored in every way possible to convince himself that the mystifying reflection was due to some curious trick of light refraction.

An even more sensational story is current among Spiritualists, although it must be confessed without as strong corroboration, that

shortly after his second election Lincoln beheld in the same way in a mirror a complete portrayal of the events of his assassination, and believed so thoroughly in the warning that although he concealed it from his friends, he was himself firmly convinced that he was a doomed man.

In an endeavor to verify these reports, Dr. Martin L. Holbrook, of the Society for Psychological Research, recently communicated with Robert T. Lincoln asking if he knew of any such incidents in his father's life; but the son replied in the negative, asserting that he had never heard of them, and that he scarcely believed such would be the case, had they been of actual occurrence.

How He Met Lincoln.

Henry T. Thompson, son of the late Richard Thompson, of Illinois, who was one of Mr. Lincoln's most intimate friends, says it was a matter of common report that Lincoln had portents and saw visions, but he never heard his father mention the subject in speaking of him.

Mr. Thompson's story of his own introduction to the great man is strikingly similar to one of the most admired passages of "The Crisis," and is distinctly characteristic of Lincoln.

He chanced to be going up to Springfield on the very day that the committee from the Republican Convention was to arrive to formally announce Lincoln's first nomination to the Presidency. Being young and enthusiastic, he was desirous of meeting the man who was then the idol of all Illinois, and inquired of his father how he should set about it.

"Just go up and announce yourself and walk in," responded his father. "You'll find there will be no fol-de-rol."

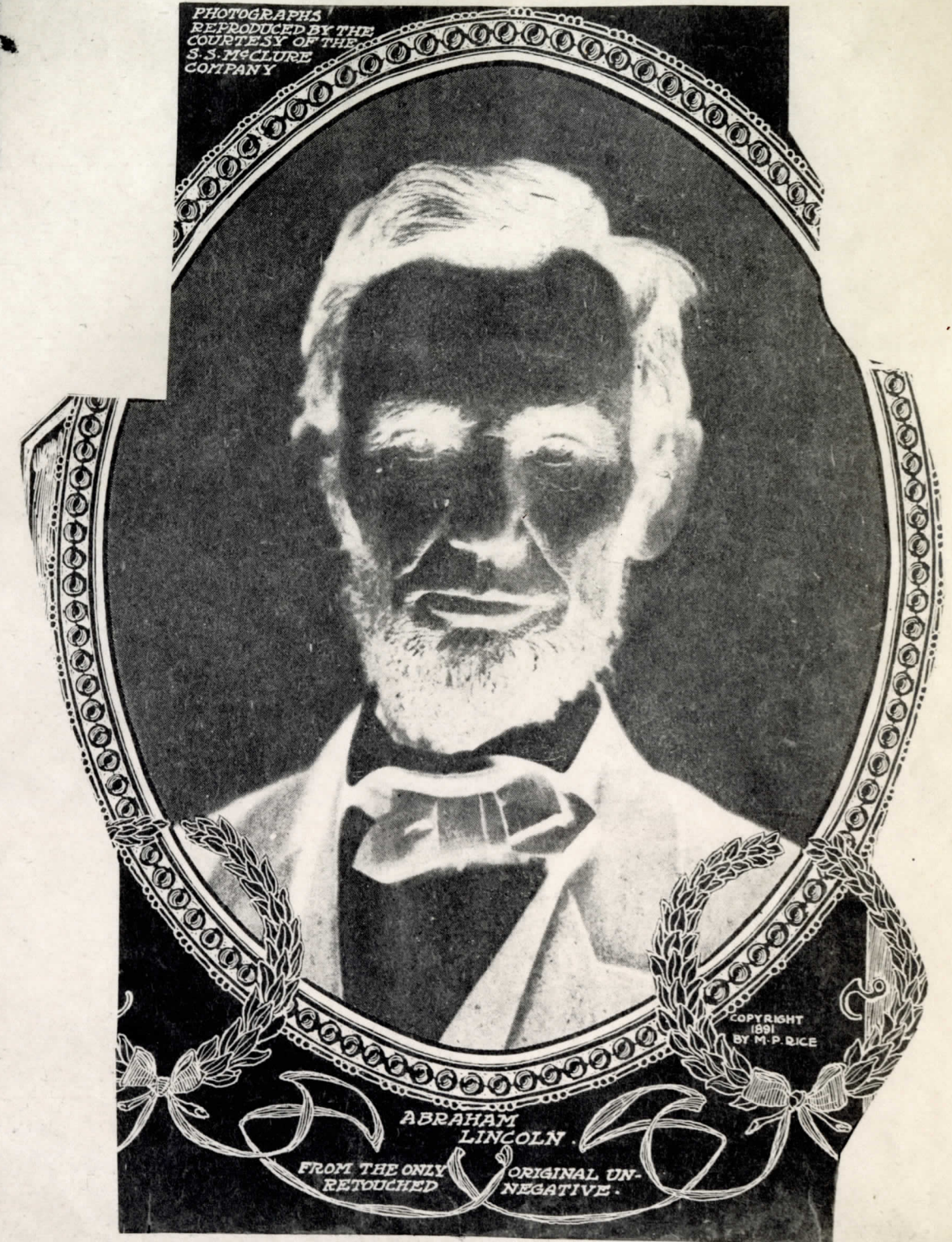
When the boy, with quaking heart, was admitted to the house he found the date entertaining his distinguished visitors, but Lincoln coolly turned away from the statesmen and politicians, and placed the embarrassed young fellow instantly at his ease with a warm grasp of the hand and a flow of interested inquiries about his old friend "Dick" Thompson.

While they stood talking a new arrival at

the house was announced as Dr. Small. He was of enormous girth and stature, and the misfit in the name was so obvious that Lincoln's funmaking proclivities took immediate advantage of it.

Turning to young Thompson, with twinkling eyes, he muttered, sotto voce:—"Dr. Small indeed! Well, it's not strange. The fellow I ever knew was named Short; and the best man Long; and"—this was of course soon enough after the John Brown episode for Governor Wise, of Virginia, still to be universally execrated throughout the North—"There's a man down in Virginia they call Wise." The inference was too obvious to be misunderstood.

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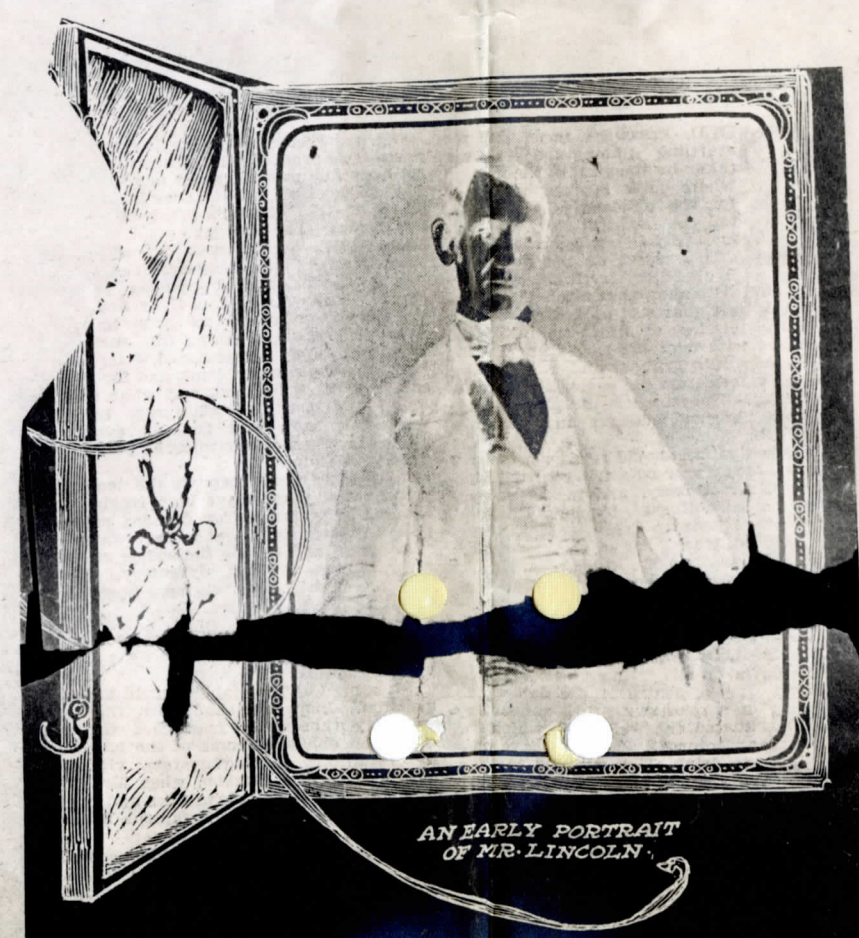
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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MR. LINCOLN AND HIS SON "TAD"



AN EARLY PORTRAIT OF MR. LINCOLN