

The Only Descendants of Lincoln.

THE only living child of Abraham Lincoln lives in Chicago, at No. 60 Lake Shore Drive, in a home which is quite as much of a mansion as was the White House in the days that Abraham Lincoln was president. He is Robert T. Lincoln, and when he dies there will come an end to the name—for he leaves no male children to hand it down to posterity.

The Lincoln of to-day and the Lincoln of history—the son and the father—are widely different men. History is full of happy anecdotes that centre around Abraham Lincoln's accessibility and affability. His son is one of the ten hardest men to see in Chicago.

Once, a good many years ago, he was asked on the eve of one of his father's birthday celebrations for a sentiment.

"Young man," he replied, "don't you know that I never talk about my father?"

And for more than forty years that has been his attitude. He not only refuses to speak of Abraham Lincoln, but he refuses to write about him. He declines invitations to Lincoln Day banquets and celebrations. He never has taken part in memorial exercises for his father.

Mr. Lincoln has his own reasons for his position. He never discusses those reasons though.

Robert T. Lincoln is the antithesis of his father in many ways. Stocky, full-faced and bearded, with nothing of his father's angularity of figure nor leanness of countenance, the Lincoln of to-day never would be picked out of even a dozen people as the son of the great emancipator. Neither has he the distaste of luxury that was one of Abraham Lincoln's predominant characteristics, nor the love of simplicity, nor the homely manners of his great father.

Robert T. Lincoln is a type of the big successful corporation head of to-day, with little in common with his father except the same profession. Like his father, Robert T. Lincoln is a

lawyer, but not a practising lawyer.

By a strange caprice of fate this son of the freer of slaves is, among other things, head of the Pullman Palace Car Company, which employs more negroes than white men, probably. Besides this office, Mr. Lincoln holds half a dozen or more directorships in cor-

porations and other business institutions.

He was born in Springfield August 1, 1843, and spent his boyhood there. He got his preparatory education at the Phillip Exeter Academy and his classical education at Harvard, graduating with the degree B. A. in 1864.

After his graduation he entered the law school at Harvard, but left shortly afterward to enter the army. He was recommended by General Grant for a captain's commission, and, as captain, was attached to General Grant's staff, and soon became Grant's Assistant Adjutant-General.

When the war ended he left the army and came to Chicago to live and resumed his study of law with J. Young Scammon, and was admitted to the bar February 25, 1871. He immediately went to Europe.

After a period there he returned and became associated in business with Edward S. Isham in 1872, and later William G. Beale was admitted to partnership in the firm. The firm became Isham, Lincoln & Beale, and as a member of the firm Mr. Lincoln became general counsel for the Pullman Palace Car Company.

When George W. Pullman died Mr. Lincoln was elected to the presidency, and has held that office ever since.

Like his father, Mr. Lincoln has dabbled in politics—but only dabbled. He was elected supervisor of the town of South Chicago in 1876 and served one term. During that term, however, he was active, and a gang of corrupt politicians that had held sway for years was broken up and its members were ousted.

As a member of the Cook County delegation to the Republican State Convention in 1880 Mr. Lincoln was chosen as an elector, and the next year he became Secretary of War under President Garfield's administration.

Later, when President Harrison was elected, Mr. Lincoln was made Minister to England. This was in 1889, and he remained there until 1893, when he returned to America.

In 1884 there was some talk of him as a Presidential possibility against President Arthur, but Mr. Lincoln declined to permit his name to be placed before the convention, and that settled the matter.

Mr. Lincoln married young. His wife was Mary Harlan, daughter of the United States Sen-

ator from Iowa, and three children have been born to the couple. Of these three, two are alive—the only son, Abraham, who was born in 1873, having died in London in 1890, during his father's term as Minister to England.

The young man, never strong, died suddenly, despite the care that was lavished upon him. He was the last male descendant of Abraham Lincoln. With his death went the hope of perpetuating the name, for he was the only son, and no male children have been born since.

The other two children, Mary Lincoln, now Mrs. Mary Isham, of New York, born in 1869, and Jessie, now Mrs. Jessie Beckwith, born in 1875, are both alive.

Mr. Lincoln is not a well-known man. Comparatively speaking, there are few people in Chicago who know that among them dwells the only son of Abraham Lincoln.

And Mr. Lincoln is glad to have it so. He has educated the authorities of the schools and the ministers who would be glad to have him with them on Lincoln Day celebrations and they do not invite him to break his rule of life. The same is true at the clubs to which he belongs. While not an active clubman Mr. Lincoln retains memberships in the Union, Harvard, Chicago Golf, University, Chicago and Chicago Athletic clubs.

Mr. Lincoln is kept pretty busy, for in addition to his duties as president of the Pullman Palace Car Company, he has the duties that devolve upon him from these positions—vice-president of the Commonwealth Edison Company, trustee of the American Surety Company, director of the Chicago Telephone Company, of the Commercial National Bank and of the Pullman Loan & Savings Bank.

Socially Mr. Lincoln is a pleasant man and his wife is a charming woman. They move in a select circle that does not include and is not included in the inner circle of Chicago's society. They are not "society people." They live quietly, entertain quietly and travel extensively, but their names seldom are in the list of guests at the big functions of the city.

Among his friends Mr. Lincoln is known as a quiet man, but a "good fellow," reserved, dignified, pleasant, even genial to some, and loyal in his friendship when he gives it.

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