

# LINCOLN



# OBSERVER

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## History of the Lincoln School.

This elegant and most substantial building occupies the school lot, one hundred and seventy-five feet square, on the east side of Fifth, adjoining Market street. It was commenced in August, 1864, and completed in August, 1865. It is built of brick, in the most substantial manner, with a basement, two stories, and an attic, terminating with a mansard roof, surmounted by a cupola.

The building is divided into twenty class-rooms. Originally there were only eighteen, one wing on the assembly hall having since been divided into two class-rooms, to make room for the increased application for seats. A hat-room adjoins each room. The play-ground is divided into two yards, which are planked with cedar. In front of the building is a very tastefully laid out garden. The means of egress and ingress are very ample and safe, consisting of eight large doorways—four in front and four in the rear—and all of them opening outwards.

ARCHITECT, COST, FURNITURE, ORNAMENTS, GAS, WATER, ETC.

The architect of this noble building was Mr. Wm. Crane, of this city. It is an honor to his genius, and to him belongs the credit of having planned and superintended the erection of the finest building of the kind, not only on this coast, but in the United States.

The cost of this temple of knowledge was one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), including the furniture, which cost the city only sixteen cents on every hundred dollars of the assessment roll.

In the ante-room adjoining each room is placed a wash-stand, with silver-plated faucets. In the yards also are placed faucets, with cups attached for the use of the students.

The class-rooms are very well furnished, each student being provided with a very comfortable desk.

The walls of many of the rooms are adorned with paintings, engravings, etc., and by the specimens of drawing by the students. In front of the building is a very large plaster Paris statue of Abraham Lincoln, which was presented to the school by the executor, Mr. P. Mezzara, of this city, which presents a very fine appearance; the more so from the fact of its being the statue of one whom the school was named after—Abraham Lincoln.

The rooms are very cheerful and well lighted, each having from four to six large windows, the lights of which are ground, thus avoiding the necessity of having blinds. The ventilation is

perfect throughout the building. The school is supplied with gas and water.

## TEACHERS, ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

And now we have come to the most important part of the machinery that works this noble institution: its teachers. In the first place, there is Prof. Marks, the great head-centre of the institution, assisted by the following corps of talent: Messrs. J. Phelps, D.D., W. A. Robertson, L. W. Reed, Mrs. M. J. Lankey, Miss L. B. Jewett, Mrs. L. C. James, Mrs. B. F. Moore, Mrs. E. F. Pearson, Mrs. M. W. Kincaid, Miss M. T. Kimball, Miss C. L. Smith, Miss L. F. Swain, Miss S. A. Field, Miss Grace Chalmers, Miss M. E. Harrington, Miss M. A. Salisbury, Mrs. E. G. Hunt, Miss J. A. Forbes, Miss M. M. Guinness, Miss M. J. Pascoe.

The school at present accommodates about eleven hundred students, although it is by no means full.

## LIBRARY, MEDAL FUND, HEATING APPARATUS.

Attached to the school is a library, consisting of an excellent selection of histories, biographies, travels, works of fiction, and various kinds of reference books—in all, about nine hundred—to which every scholar who obtains a certain per cent. in lessons and deportment during the month has access.

Belonging to the school is a medal fund (the proceeds of an exhibition given by the school some two years since), which is in the charge of a board of trustees, who appropriate the yearly interest to the purchase of medals for the scholars entitled to them.

The process of warming this building is by means of two large furnaces, situated in a fire-room on the basement floor, by which the heat is carried to the different rooms by large pipes. In this manner the rooms can be heated in a very short time. This method has great advantages over the plan usually used—that of having stoves—being less expensive, less trouble, and it can be varied, or shut entirely off, if the heat becomes oppressive.

## The Five Senses.

In full possession of all the senses, it is difficult to decide which of the five we could most readily spare. When I have before me a bowl of strawberries, covered with sugar and cream, I think I prefer taste; but when I listen to the sweet voice of Parepa Rosa, it seems to me that hearing is the most delightful of all sensations. If a beautiful bouquet of heliotrope and roses salutes me with its elegant fragrance, I fancy that life would be a poor thing without the power of

enjoying its loveliness. When a fair young girl lay her delicate hand upon my forehead, I (and no blame to me, you will say), most naturally choose touch. But if a dear friend visits me whom I have not seen for a long time, I exclaim, take from me the senses of touch, of taste, of smell, of hearing, but deprive me not of vision! It is all very well to crack up blindness by talking of the educated Homer, and the glorious fame of sightless Milton; or even of the scholastic renown of our historian, Prescott. I would rather have my two healthy eyes than to have my name resounding through the ages while my short life was spent in utter darkness.

C. T. L.

## The Pacific Railroad.

Five years ago a daring project was schemed to bind together the Atlantic and Pacific with an iron band. What insuperable difficulties must be overcome, what days of toil and hardship must be endured to accomplish this hazardous enterprise. Men were laughed at when they mentioned such a thing as building this railroad; but in five years their laughter was turned to amazement.

For the first year not much was done, but the second, one could descry a gang of men working their way across a wide and barren plain, leaving an iron road behind them. At length the snow-crowned Sierras are reached; their lofty peaks look down in scorn upon the myriads of workmen, who, compared to them, seem like so many ants attempting to take away some mole hill. But, nevertheless, this army of men continues to work its way till the crest of the Sierras are in sight. A moment after the rocky caverns of the Sierras give back the echo of their tumultuous cheers, the working men thinking the hardest part is done. So through the soft snow they dig with redoubled energy and zeal. But ah! What is that which bars their way? A wall of solid granite; how is it to be passed? That mysterious agent, gunpowder is set at work. It lifts huge masses of stone from their path, and bursts them into a thousand fragments, till a broad, long tunnel is opened before them. At last they reach that point where man had never trod before. The snow-crested Sierras bow their head in submission. This army of men do not stop here but keep on till they have reached the plain. They continue laying that iron road over which thousands of people are to ride. After proceeding for some months they reach the forests. The large and massive trees are so thickly studded together that it seems impossible for them to be penetrated. But these

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huge and mighty kings of the forest even bow their heads as the woodman's ringing axe strikes deep into their hearts. These men still go on through forests, over rivers, across plains, till they have reached their goal, the iron horse following closely in their footsteps. All at once a shrill whistle announces that his mate has arrived from the Atlantic side.

This great work is finished by a tie made of the finest wood, a spike of the purest gold. America showed her joy at having this great work finished by a grand celebration through her United States.

We can now boast of the longest railroad in the world, and I hope there will be a time when all of you may feel the usefulness of this great structure.

#### Is the Assassination of Tyrants ever Justifiable?

Every one will concede that a nation has a right to rise up against a tyrannical power, especially when that power is vested in a single person, and to put down such a power and substitute what form of government they may please. It will not, however, be so freely conceded that any person or league of persons has a right to assault a person, either publicly or privately, while he is holding office, and murder him.

Several reasons may be deduced in support of this view, and I shall attempt to give a few of them.

In the first place, it is in opposition to the general rules of order and decency. However wicked a tyrant may be, or however much he may oppress the people over which he rules, there is no justification for one or two men to throw the whole country into anarchy and confusion by assassinating him. Such a course is the same as lynch law, which every one believes to be wrong. It encourages violence and disregard of human life, and greatly deteriorates the moral sentiment of the people.

Again, one man or one party may think that some ruler is a tyrant, while the great body of the people have very different ideas concerning him. If we concede the right to assassinate a tyrant, those who think this man a tyrant may assassinate him, and throw the whole country into confusion. If the majority of the people believe, with good reason, that they are oppressed, let them rise against the oppressor; but let them not resort to the assassin's dagger.

The meanness of the assassin must be conceded by every one. An instance cannot be found where an honest, upright man ever played the assassin's part, whether for the supposed good of his country or not. Assassination is a cowardly act which none but a coward will attempt.

The history of mankind has shown that the assassination of the ruler of a nation never does that nation any good. Indeed it has in many cases brought that nation to the very brink of ruin, and has sometimes ruined it. Was the cause of the sons of Senacrib aided by their base assassination of their father? Was Rome benefitted by the assassination of Cæsar? Or Greece by the assassination of Philip of Macedon? We are obliged to say no.

The Bible, in all its passages where these things are spoken of, inculcates respect and obedience to the ruling power, and in no place does it intimate that such a thing as assassinating a ruler is ever right.

Much might be said of the foolishness of

throwing the whole country into anarchy by slaying the ruler of the country, just for the sake of gratifying hatred or some like passion; of the terrible responsibility which all take who engage, either as principals or accessories, in such a thing; of the bribery which in nearly all cases must take place in order to find some man depraved enough to perform the act; of the demoralizing influence which such acts exert over all who engage in them, as well as over the country in which they are done; of the consequences of allowing every man to kill a ruler whenever he thinks he has become tyrannical; and of many other things which we have no room here to discuss. Suffice it to say that a cordial examination of the world's history and of many authorities on this subject will show that.

The assassination of a king or ruler by a conspiracy or by a single person, except by Divine command, has never done anything but harm, and from its very nature can do nothing else.

J. R.

EDITOR LINCOLN OBSERVER—SIR:—Please allow me a short space in your little paper, which will go to the hands of many of the friends of education, that I may show them the state of our medal fund.

Just now there is considerable talk about the medals among the boys of our school. I have heard the opinion of various pupils who think the medals should be given for good deportment and studies, and that boys who stand high in studies and deportment, and who have by some accident been tardy, or have had to remain at home, should be allowed to have medals.

The law is, that a boy who has not been absent more than three days, on account of sickness, and brings a note from his family physician stating that he was sick, may obtain a medal, but in no other case shall he have one.

Now, this seems to me to be an outrageous swindle; for if a scholar is sick enough to have a physician it is not *very* likely that he will get well again in three days. Moreover, how many a poor mother's heart would be gladdened to have her boy bring home a silver or even a bronze medal, but she has been obliged to keep him at home some day to gather wood to keep the poor fatherless ones from freezing, so, although he stands high in studies and conduct he loses the medal.

I was informed a few days ago by the Clerk of the Board of Education that there is about \$1,600 in the Lincoln Medal Fund. Still, these boys who have been absent one day or so, and have been at the point of death—so far gone that they had to have a physician—*cannot* have a medal. I call the attention of every friend of education to this subject. If medals *are* to be awarded for attendance, give attendance medals; and give the boys who have labored all the year in their studies separate medals. While there is a medal fund let the boys have the benefit of it.

Sixteen hundred dollars, with the interest, will furnish a great many more medals than are made, every year. If the fund gives out raise another in the way the original one was raised. Who would buy a library for a school and then lock it up and let no one use the books?

The same with our medal fund. The boys gave an exhibition to raise the money, and now let them have the benefit of it, and not keep it locked up in a bank, laying idle. Yours,

FAIR PLAY.

#### Nubbs' Letter.

[Special Correspondent of the LINCOLN OBSERVER.]

SAN FRANCISCO, June 8, 1869.

MR. EDITOR: I suppose your readers have heard of the world-renowned George Francis Train (the blower), who is now sojourning in our midst, blowing like a harpooned whale all the time, with this difference—a whale spouts water while, Train spouts *gas*. Train, in my estimation, is a keen old codger, from the way which he expounds his love for Ireland. He knows how to coin money for himself. Not a few people think that George is not quite sound in his upper story, but do n't you believe it! He is all right in that direction; but, however, he has got one boil on his cranium which seems to trouble him a great deal. His election by his Fenian friends to the next Presidency, and again our specie system seem to boil him a little. I am afraid, Georgie, your ma has spoiled you! This Fenian agitation handles pretty roughly the San Francisco press (although he has no ill-will against the LINCOLN OBSERVER, I believe, as yet). He claims that he is doing no more than is right, as they cuffed him without gloves.

#### HIS IDEAS ABOUT RELIGION.

It is all very fine to hear him blaspheme everything that he happens to think of, but there is such a thing as running it into the ground, as when he attempted to cast a slur upon the Scriptures, in his lecture the other night, whereupon he received a goodly number of merited hisses, for it was really disgusting to hear him talk so. He who *expects* to be the next President of the United States, had better first learn how to respect the laws of the Almighty, the omnipotent ruler of the world, before he aspires to head the government of a God-fearing people.

I altogether endorse the views expressed in a daily paper a few days since, stating that Train had mistaken his abilities when he took to political stumping, instead of being an artist of the burnt cork line, when he could really do justice to his abilities; and, as it is never too late to mend, I would advise him, when he has made himself and the S. F. Gas Co. bankrupt (which won't take him long at the rate he is going now), to apply to the Murphy & Mack Minstrel troupe, where I think his services would be appreciated and well paid for. I have heard that this nonsensical, bombastical and incoherent stumper is filling the pocket of the well-nigh busted lessee of the Metropolitan Theater, Mr. Chas. Poole: lucky individual! Now wouldn't Barnum make his eternal fortune if he could but put on his show-bills—"Train, the great incoherent speech-ifycator, nightly swallows Websters Lexicon backwards, which, from the effects of a Fenian emetic, he belches forth, in scholastic language, his immortal speech—"Freedom for Ireland, and the Presidency of the United States for *me*?" I guess not! Oh, no!

The only sensible thing I ever heard Train uphold was the question relating to "Chinese immigration." On that subject he brought forth some very sensible arguments; but he could n't for the life of him talk about the poor Chinaman without couplihg his name in connection with greenbacks and England.

Well, good-bye, friend; my doom is sealed! so come and get a lock of my hair, for as soon as the above gets in type, I am going to throw up the "sponge" and start for Salt Lake, there to meet my doom, in the merciless clutches of Brigham Young, so Good-B-y-e!

Nubbs (not the poet).

**NOTICE.—Everything needful for the Use of Scholars**