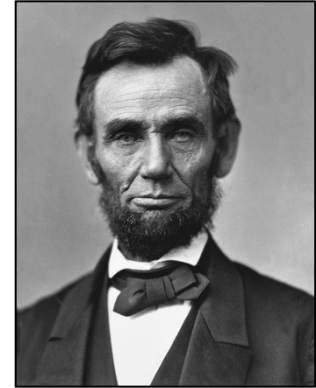


**National Patriotic Instruction
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

February 2025

Anecdotes of Abraham Lincoln

In recognition of the month of President Lincoln's birth, here are some lesser-known Lincoln stories, taken from *The Civil War in Song and Story* by Frank Moore, copyrighted in 1865:



A gentleman called on the President, and solicited a pass for Richmond. "Well," said the President, "I would be very happy to oblige you, if my passes were respected; but the fact is, sir, I have, within the last two years, given passes to two hundred and fifty thousand men to go to Richmond, and not one has got there yet." [p. 435]

The following transpired at the Executive Mansion in Washington. Its moral will be appreciated by all thoughtful men. Some gentlemen were present from the West, excited and troubled about the commissions or omissions of the Administration. The President heard them patiently, and then replied: "Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold, and you had put it in the hands of Blondin¹ to carry across the Niagara River on a rope; would you shake the cable, or keep shouting out to him — Blondin, stand up a little straighter — Blondin, stoop a little more — go a little faster — lean a little more to the north — lean a little more to the south? No, you would hold your breath as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he was safe over. The Government is carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can. Don't badger them. Keep silence, and we'll get you safe across." This simple illustration answered the complaints of half an hour, and not only silenced, but charmed the audience. [p. 453]

President Lincoln, having received an application to pardon a repentant slave-trader who had been sentenced to prison, answered the applicant: "My friend, if this man had been guilty of the worst murder that can be conceived of, I might, perhaps, have pardoned him. You know the weakness of my nature - always open to the appeals of repentance or of grief; and with such a touching letter and such recommendations, I could not resist. But any man who would go to Africa and snatch from a mother her children, to sell them into interminable bondage, merely for the sake of pecuniary gain, shall never receive pardon from me." [p. 410]

**Many thousands gave all to preserve the Union and end slavery.
Abraham Lincoln was among them.
*Lest we forget.***

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
National Patriotic Instructor

¹ Charles Blondin (1824-1897) was a French tightrope walker who first crossed the Niagara Gorge in 1859.