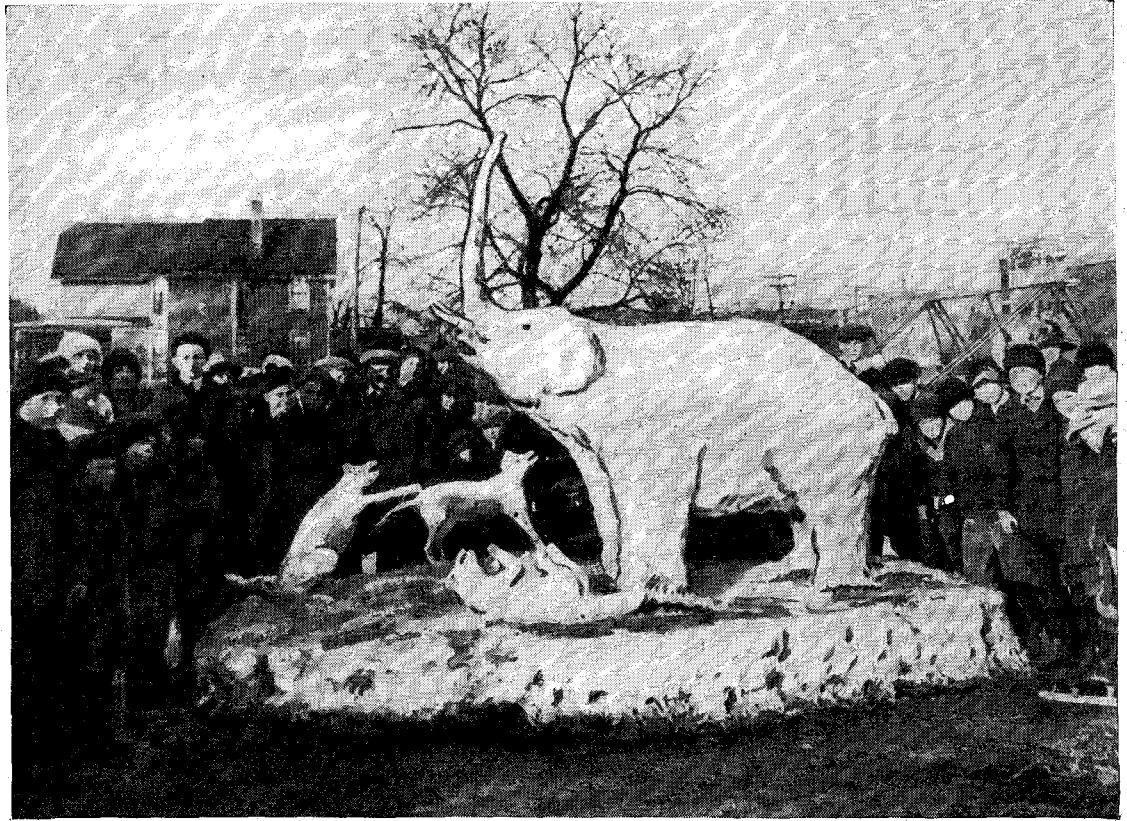


Would that most park statuary were of the same stuff!

Chicago Children Stage a Snow-Modeling Contest

This is the prize-winning design, "Elephant Attacked by Wolves," the award being made by Lorado Taft, the well-known sculptor



P. & A. Photos



P. & A. Photos

The Father of His Country Realistically Rendered in Snow

These Chicago children have been more daring in their realism than most artists, for they show even the ravages of the smallpox which left its effects on Washington's face after his attack by that disease in 1751

The Book Table

Lincoln—the Man.

By DAVID E. LILIENTHAL

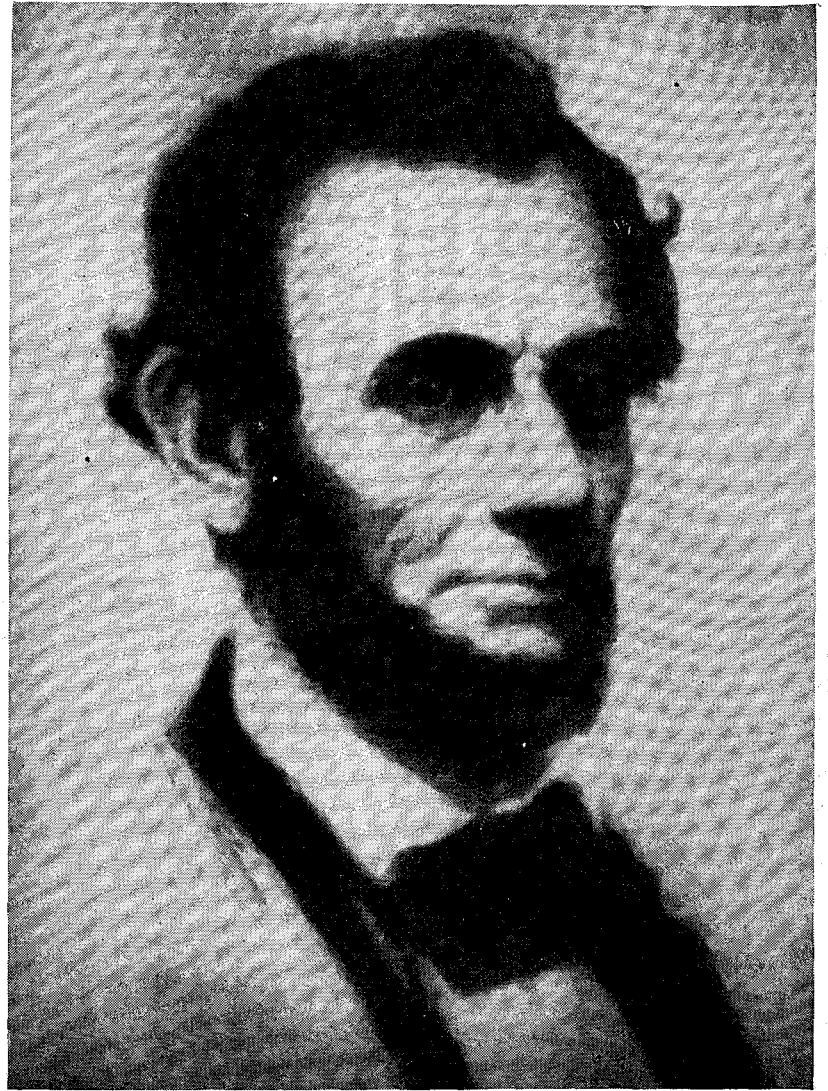
SINCE the tragedy in Ford's Theater hundreds of volumes about Abraham Lincoln have been written. Every phase of his activities—as lawyer, orator, politician, war chieftain, statesman—have been treated exhaustively by writers of varying abilities over a period of almost sixty years. Yet, strange to relate, in all this mass of writing there is almost no authentic account of Lincoln the *man*. It is particularly fortunate that at a time when the process of apotheosis has gone far, the first careful research into the facts of the human side of Lincoln should, after a stupid suppression, be republished¹ and that a further product of the same research, but in more modern form, should come from the press.²

For sixteen years, as friends and partners, Abraham Lincoln and William H. Herndon shared the same dingy law office in Springfield. At the time of Lincoln's assassination Herndon probably knew more about him than any other individual. But, fortunately for posterity, Herndon did not immediately sit down to write a biography based solely on the knowledge acquired through this long association, extensive though that knowledge was. With an ardor born of his great devotion to his senior partner, but with the discrimination and the accuracy of a scientist, he set out to unearth the facts about Lincoln's early life, which for the most part were buried in obscurity or were entirely unknown. The thoroughness of his search and the years which he spent in the painstaking details of his task are amazing.

Less than a month after Lincoln's death Herndon went to Kentucky, where he interviewed every person who might by any chance possess any facts about Lincoln's boyhood in that State. From that time forward he talked with hundreds who had known Lincoln or had known his parents or associates; he carried on an extensive correspondence with Lincoln's relatives, with men who had employed him, with men who had worked side by side with him, with girls whom he had courted—all with extraordinary results. The log-cabin home, the nights

¹The True Story of a Great Life. By William H. Herndon. Herndon's Lincoln Publishing Company, Springfield, Illinois. 3 vols. \$10.

²The Real Lincoln. By Jesse W. Weik. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$4.



(C) 1923, by Gertrude Käsebier. Reproduced from a contemporary photograph

Abraham Lincoln

spent over books before the fireplace, the shovel which served as a slate, the borrowed books, the fight with the bully, the tragic love affair with Anne Rutledge—these and the many other stories which are now so familiar would have been lost forever but for the foresight and the labors of William H. Herndon. It has been well said of him that “no other man lived who comprehended so thoroughly the great character [of Lincoln], who had dug so deeply and laid bare the springs of action, the motives that animated the clear head, brave heart, and strong right arm.” In the early eighties he secured the assistance of Jesse W. Weik, then a recent college graduate, burning with a desire to devote himself to a study of Lincoln. Weik went over

the ground covered by Herndon; he checked up on all his data and made important additions to the Herndon treasure of facts in a way that puts all Americans in his debt.

After more than twenty years of research and writing, Herndon's “The True Story of a Great Life” was finally published. Instead of receiving the universal approbation which its careful and thoroughgoing preparation amply warranted, the book was furiously attacked, and through the efforts of its critics soon forced from circulation. The reason for this hostile reception is not difficult to discover: Herndon, on the basis of well-authenticated evidence, had recorded the essential “humanness” of Lincoln the man, had pictured him joining in the