(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Hernid Co. All Rights Reserved.) F HITE gripped his friend's arm. "You say you saw them together-you saw that whelp with her? Quick!"

"Hold on now, Tom," said Ashton soothingly. "Don't you go for to get excited. He sure was with her, and I'll tell you about it if you'll keep cool."

The younger man released his hold and walked away a few steps, struggling to control himself. "Go on, Tom. I'm all right. Where were they?"

"Why, I was coming along by the Moore plantation slong about nine o'clock, I reckon. That was while you was away in Louisville. I jess looked up to the house, casual like, and there was a blot of white against the bushes over under the sycamores. Squinting close, I saw a dark figure alongside it. Now, I thought it was kinder strange, 'cause that was where you used to set and spark Diana, on the bench there, and I didn't see what right any one at all had to be on that bench when you was away.

"Maybe you wouldn't have done it if you was in my place, Tom, but I wanted to make sure. Here was you, Tom White, miles away. And here was some one, maybe not Diana Moore, but some one, setting with a man. So I elimbed over the fence and come up close."

"Well?" Interrupted White Impatiently, as the other paused.

"Well," resumed the other simply, "it was Diana, and the man with her was Barton Johnson." "After what he's done, after what she knows of

him! What were they saying, Steve? What else? Did they seem to be friendly?" asked White breathlessly.

"Yes," said Ashion judiciously, "I should say they was friendly. That's the trouble, Tom-they was altogether too friendly. I didn't hear much they said, but it was enough. And he was setting as close as he could get, with her head on his shoulder, and there you have lt."

Ashton had disliked his task from the first, had gone through with it, driven by a sense of obligation, the outgrowth of an almost paternal fondness for White. He had feared an explosion, but none came. White's earlier excitement had passed. A sudden and strange composure possessed him. He sought a chair quietly and faced his old friend. Ashton, rendered quite as uneasy by this foreign reserve as he would have been by the frenzy he had feared, did not break the silence for some minutes. Then he sought clumsfly to lend his ald.

"She's not worth Ir. Tom, and that's the truth. 1 never could see where Diana Moore held a hand to "ARE YOU READY?" HE ASKED, FINALLY.

tests and standards. But so it was, he reflected, do not care to listen to you." He caught her and shemuranized a few words and White bowed. They

"The lefter says that your wife is in a certain asylom in Illinois and gives full particulars." "I haven't a doubt of it." said Johnson, still laugh-

ing, "He must have gone to see her. It is a fast that she is Mrs. Johnson, Moore, but we were di-vorced three years ago. One of the poor creatures troubles was that she never could remember the di-troubles was that she never could remember the di-vorce and that she still believed herself my wife. I have all the papers with me to prove it. Moore, and you need never lot me step into your house again if I fall to convince you." "All right," said Moore, "I'm giad you can clear

It up."

## LINCOLN'S ONLY DUEL.

N Abraham Lincoln's one nuceting on the field of honor no shot was fired, no one was hurt, and but a single blow was struck. That blow was almed by the future President at a twig, which suffered actarate decunitation.

The affair is commonly referred to as "the famous Lincoln-Shields duel," a widely misleading phrase The fact remains, however, that the great trumanitarian was once drawn under the operations of the col-and that he sallied forth with a deadly weapon ready to his hand, apparently with deadly intent. His oppo-nent was to have been James Shields, then Stats Auditor of Hilnols and later major general.

Shields was a peppery, swaggering little man what sinches with a provide seriousness, and was con-stantly the object of jokes, personal and political Lincoln was then a member of the Legislature. He wrote a letter to a Springfield paper dated from "Last Townships" and signed "Aunt Rebecca," in which he attacked a certain taxation provision. Incidentally he

took a quiet rap at Shields. Lincoln's broken engagement with Mary Todd was then in process of repair, and the young woman was mightly amused by the young legislator's contribu-rion. She wielded a sharpiy satirical pen herself and is suspected of having had a hand in the original letter. Whatever her share fu the first, she is commonly credited with the authorship of the second is which "Annt Rebecca" proposed to the Auditor, one of whose weaknesses was a pride in his gallantry, A few days later she also produced some dogger verse celebrating the supposed marriage of "Aust Rebecca" and Shleids.

There was haughter in Springfield, but Shields was There was integriter in Springheid, but Shede was furloas. He inquired at the office of the newspaper and Lincoln took the responsibility for the whole "Aunt Rebecca" series upon himself. Soon afterward Lincoln left Springfield and went to Tremont. While he was there two friends, E. H. Merryman and Wil-iam Butler, drove into town and warned him that the heather was close belied, breathing venerative. (9) Auditor was close behind, breathing vengeance. arriving Shields sent a demand for retraction of al "offensive allusions." Lincoln took the stand that the Auditor should have first asked him formally whether And/for should have his asked him formally whence he was the nuthor of the articles, would not answer, and declared that a withdrawal of the demand or a challenge was the only possible course for Shields. Seconds were accordingly named, Merryman for Lin-coln and General Whitesides for the Auditor. Lin-

conditions were "First .- Weapons-Cavalry broadswords of the targest size, precisely equal in all respects, and such as are now used by the envalry company at Jacksonville "Second -Poslilon-A plank ten feet long and from nine to twelve inches broad, to be firmly fixed on edge on the ground as the line between us, which neither is to pass his foot over on forfeit of his life Next a line drawn on the ground on either side of said plank and parallel with it, each at the distance of the whole length of the plank and three fast addi-tional from the plank, and the passing of his own such line by either party during the fight shall by deemed a surrender of the contest. He also named time and place, and on September 22, 1842, Lincoln and Merryman drove into the town of Alton, on the Mississippi, with broadswords ugh to equip a regiment rattling in the bottom of the buggy. The suggestion that Shields, who "could walk under Lincoln's arm," should fight his lanky, long adversary with a sword as tall as himself was sub-liciently judicrons. But the preparations went for-ward with all due ceremony. The one touch of humor ward with all due ceremony. The one touch of must which "Old Abe" added to the situation at this poin was the repark that the pince selected was storetarin appropriate, since it was within easy distance of the Shields and Whitesides arrived, and all embarked on the little horse ferry, each see ing a selection of the huge dragoon sabres under his

call you with. I remember her when she was a little thing, pert and sassy, tossing her pigtalls and a mighty sharp answer when she was crossed. Nothing was hands at parting, "I hope you think I have done right ever good enough for her more'n a minute. She'd smash a doll or a friendship when it pleased her. As for meddling I did it. I couldn't stand by and let any hard and bright and shifty as a new steel spring- one play it low down on you, you that there's nothing

White seemed not to have heard the words.

"Have I-ever done anything but what's right by her, Steve?" he asked suddenly, and from the lone the elder man know that, happily or not, wisely or unwisely, Thomas White had given his love past the power of friends to reclaim.

## The Two Friends.

"No, Tom, no," he said sadiy. "You can't reproach yourself in no way, whatever comes. You've always been fair and square, that I'll stand by." White went on, his eyes fixed vacantly at the empty fireplace, as if seeking the warm glow that once had filled it.

"I wonder if you understand what she meant to me. Steve? You remember how it was when I came here. I had no kin, no friend but yourself, and in splite of the way you stood by me it was a hard roadhard. Then I met her, and that gave me what my ambition had lacked-a definite object. When I came self." back with my medical degree you welcomed me. That was good, and it was good, too, to feel that I had made myself of some consequence in the towar that first saw me as a barefoot vagabond.

"But the one thing I thought of was her welcome, the only thing I had thought of for years. And it was all I could have asked. You remember, Steve, within a month we were engaged. That was a year with me? And for how long?" ago, and I have worked, haven't I, Steve?" The clder man nodded.

"I had almost enough for a home. We planned it together. Then I began to notice Johnson, not much at first but after a time I spoke to her about him. She resented it. I told her, just as I would have in his or any one's presence, that he was utterly discredited, notoriously unworthy-a man who ruined his family and whose father died of shame for blm. He had some hold over Moore in gaining entrance to the house, I don't know what.

"It was no quarrel, Steve. After a little she yielded. She gave me her promise, without reservation, that she would never see him again. Then I was called away on an important case. I have been successful, Steve, and I came back to claim her. And now 1 learn-what you have told me."

"What you going to do, Tom?" asked Ashton un-+hall5.

"Pit do what must be done, Sieve: As I see it, all my life-all any man's life-is a series of tests, tests of fitness, of courage, of intelligence, of worthiness. A simple simile, perhaps, but so it scenas to me. As we pass, as we grade, as we measure up to the standand, so we fix our value absolutely."

Ashton wondered at him. White since boyhood had been of a high strung, restless, rather flery temperament. He could scarce recognize the ordent youth he had known in this grave, pale man who had come into being within haif an hour and taiked gloomily of

when a woman interfered.

"Whatever you mean, Tom," said the elder, shaking to tell you. I'm an old meddler, maybe, but 'twasn't 100 good for."

After the dinner hour, at his usual time, White made his way to the Moore plantation. Word of his to Dr. White and was to be married to Barton John arrival must have preceded him, he thought, for she was standing at the verge of the steps. The soft light from the wide doorway made a kindly setting left a crop of ugly stories along his track. It was for her dainty figure clad in filmy stuff, erect and not merely that he had been reckless or dissipated, for her dainty figure, clad in filmy stuff, erect and well polsed. She welcomed him back with just the right degree of tenderness, hands outstretched. For legally cancelled, according to the rumors, by the a moment he forgot and drew her eagerly toward sacrifice of the patrimonial estate, were more serious hlm. Her face was upturned to his, an eager little matters. face, full of the fire of living, with lips and eyes kept fatherly watch upon him, could discern no out-that called. Note that called a set of stress or suffering. Only, the brilliant

Sharply he checked blmself, held her back. She looked at him in wonder. He led her without a word down the steps and to the beach under the sycamores; then, when they wore sented, spoke,

## Confidences.

"I wonder if you would have told me of this your-

The deep intensity of his voice rather than his words gave her the clew to his meaning, and her mouth hardened. He dwelt with bitterness in his thoughts upon the fact that she had been ready to meet him on the old footing, to accord him the privlieges that he had a right to, as if nothing had happened. "Did you think you could continue to play

She langhed, recovering perfect command and nimbly adjusting herself to the situation. "Whatever else

the last two weeks," she answered audactously, "Two weeks, and changed," he repeated slowly, "Yes, you are right. And what of yourself, Dinna?"

But she parried. He remembered now that it was "What is it, a game? I've never seen you this way, "What is it, a game? I've never seen you this way, Tom, and I don't think I quite like it." "It's no use, Diana. You know perfectly well what

icks sufficient interest to me at present and can have none at all for you. But I have some romnants of a claim upon you. Have you considered this well'r Are you going to be happy? Is he the man to best serve you and protect you?

His carmestness overbore and swept aside the stinghig response she had ready, forking her to the open, away from subterfuge and frivolity. "I shall have to be the judge as to what is best for

me, Dr. White," she said. "That would be true if you had fairly dismissed me

and had dealt fairly with me. But I find you covering this new affair under our engagement. You seek to continue our relations and to deceive me. What What can I think? Is the man honorable, sincere? I know that he is not. Then see how sinister you make n appear when for such a one you are willing to be mean and treacherons."

She rose quickly and started toward the steps. "That is quite chough, Dr. White," she gasped. "I

Ghe DAY of the DUEL THE FINAL TEST

(A TRUE STORY)

faced him definitly. "Listen." he said. "If you love the man it is all right. I have solding more to say. As for him, if he means well by you and acts as it now becomes necessary he should, that, also, will be none of my affair. But I shall watch." She broke from him with an exclamation and movement of repugnance and ran up the steps. He turned back toward his home.

A week later it was common report throughout the sunty that Diano Moore had broken her engagement Comment was not favorable. The young physician was known and respected as a man of ability and of greater promise. Johnson had led a life that

White went quietly about his duties. Ashton, who boy he had loved was gone, and in his stead was the represend, grave eyed man who had looked into the cold Breplace. He no longer had White's full conti-dence, and he never inquired into the meaning of sev-

eral long Journeys taken by the physician during the

next month. He grieved a little over this withdrawal,

but made no protest. "Will He Fight?"

The aged man sat over a pipe at his door one even-ing when he saw White walking rapidly toward him up the street. The physician had been absent for three days and evidently had just returned from a long and dusty journey. Ashton halled him cheerfully and pushed forward a chair, into which the other sam. Ashton noted that he looked futigued, with drawn, pale face and listless shoulders. Will he fight?" asked White suddenty

"Perhaps he will and perhaps he won't," said Ash-

ton "But who is he?"

Johnson. "Seem to have heard somewhere that he was protty

think, I should say you had changed wonderfully in he last two weeks," she answered audaciously. "Because I've found him out. He's married. I fol-"Two weeks, and changed." he repeated slowly. lowed his traff back into Illinois. Fve seen his wife. She's in on insame asylum, under her name. Her mind is not sectously affected. She showed me a picture of him and the woulding certificate. They were married in New York six years ago."

What's that got to do with fighting?" 'I must. It's just another test, Sieve, that's all, and I shall not talk about myself, for that part I've got to meet it. I can't go sneaking to her father ficient interest to me at present and can have or to her with the story, can 17 I can't strike him in all for you. But I have some ronnants of a the dark that way. No, I've got to do my best to rid her of him honorably, acting as her brother would if she hud one.

And what if he gets you?"

Then my obligation to keep his secret is cancelled. I'll take care to have the truth known. Meanwhile clean way and the straight way and the only way for me is to kill him.

All right, son," said Ashton. "I'm here."

It was not a difficult marter to bring to a head. White had been conscious of the bostile glances of Johnson when they passed in the street, aware that Diana must have repeated enough of his warning to awaken hatred in his successful rival. With Ashton at his elbow the physician waited for Johnson at the post office next morning. Few persons observed the little scene that followed. When Johnson entered the door White stepped up to him and, shouldering him

"I to one side, glanced at him significantly, Johnson

trated, saturting politely.

Ashton pleaded to be named as second, but White would not permit, fearing that his aged friend might be involved in any unpleasant results. He chose another young physician-Greenway-and gave bini instructions as to the terms. Greenway met Johnson's second the same day and completed the arrangements. The men were to meet with do barrelled shotguns, loaded with ounce balls, at forty Upon receiving the wora, both were to advance, firing at will

White, accompanied only by Ashton and Greenway, drove from town early the next morning anobserved. The ground chosen for the meeting was about five miles distant, on the bank of a small creek. The party was closely followed along the road by another ve-hicle, in which were Johnson, his second and a third man. White was astonished to find, when the others drove up, that the third man was Ezra Moore, Diana's father. He seemed to be rather pleased than an noyed at the presence of this unexpected wirness.

Johnson, tail, handsome and perfectly at ease, exercised great care in inspecting the ground and in superintending the loading of the shotguns. His second won the toss for position and was about to choose one end of the field when Johnson checked him and indicated that he preferred the other. The second was a little surprised, but understood a moment later when Johnson quietly pointed out to him that the ground sloped a tride and that his end was now the

## Death at Once.

When White took his place he appeared as composed and confident as his opponent, and the watcher-could find nothing to choose between them. Neither betrayed the slightest nervousness and each hamiled heavy weapon after the manner of a crack shot. (iccenway stood betwen them, out of the line of fire, to give the word. He repeated the agreement, adding that dedging, retreating or moving from side to side would not be permitted.

"Are you ready?" he asked finally. "Ready!" the adversaries answered in the same

hrouth

"Fire?" should Greenway.

Both brought their shoigans to shoulder. They tood a moment, each waiting for the other to fire. Thoy Then White began to walk forward slowly, still keep-Johnson covered. When he had made five paces Johnson fired one barrel. White halted a moment while the smoke cleared, then renewed his advance. Suddenly he stopped short and pressed a trigger, Johnson second barrel spoke scarcely the fraction of r second later. With the last echo of the double oxplathe watchers saw White reel, drop his weapon and throw up his arms. He remained erect for an in-stant, then fell at full length.

Ashton rushed forward and gathered his friend in his atms. The physician was doud, shot through the body. Even in that (rugic moment the aged man reabored that he had a mission to perform, and he pulled a letter from his packer. "Moore," he called, "here's a note for you. He said

you were to have it if he died."

forward, surpched by this turn of the situation. He took the letter from Ashion and opened Ashton shot a look of hate at Johnson, who was walking slowly toward the group, while Moore read, "See here, Johnson," said Moore sharply when reached the signature, "what's this story? Whi he White wrote here that he found you had a wife living. Is that true?

Johnson stared, then laughed immoderately. that what made bim tight? I wondered what screwed bim up to if at this time. I suppose he found Sarah, then. Did he find her?" 2

Landing was effected on a low sandault on the Missouri side, where the two principals sat on oppo site logs while preliminaries were being arranged The residents of Alton were extremely curious to the the proceedings of Alion were carrying a linewed to cross on the forry, however, and the spectators were timina-to those who rowed across in skifts. A growd re-meined on the levee, watching as best they tought, It was remarked that Lincoln was solenn and we haved. He sat looking over the river, angarely oblivious of the preparations. Suddenly be readed over and picked up one of the sabres, drew it fras

its sembhard and feit its edge critically along the length. Then he arose slowly. The others watched him curtonsly, but his glance was turned upward. After a few seconds he found what he sought fixed his eye on a certain wig that thrust likely ambilitable

out from the folinge far over head and braced biased on his feet. The sword swung out and hack, then whistical up in a wide circle, and the twiz, many hopped, fell to the ground. After this little exhibition oln gravely resumed life seat.

The domon-tration of his opponent's terrific cears was probably cooling to the ardor of Shields, but unexpected intervention conoved the necessity of submitting binastf as a twig for prudug, other friends of Lincoln at Carrollion had been acting of the affair and arrived in time to reopen peacenble negotiations. Honor was finally declared satisfied on both sides and the whole party climbed into the ferrylant once more.

The growds on the Alton levce were in a great state of excitement as the heat drew near. A figure stained clothing was seen tying in the bow. Other were stooping above it and one of them was familia vigotously. Evidently there had been a sunguine end hig to the duel, and bors were hazarded as to wh had suffered. It was only when the best draw u the landing that the agitated speciators saw the vicins of the fray was a log carefully covered with red shirt. Lincoln and Shields stepped ashore to gother, conversing amicably.

Lincoln has been quaited as saying that he would only have fought in sufficience, and that then he would have "fought in sufficience, and that then he would have "releft Sihelds from the crown of his head to the end of his backbone." Another unvertined re-port more in keeping with his conduct throughout the inchient was that he played Shields a game of "eld sledge" to determine which shields a game of "eld "ledge" to determine which should pay the expenses