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AN UNEXPECTED RIDE

It was a lovely sparkly Saturday and the twins had spent most of it riding down a big hill on the new sleigh they had got for Christmas. There were no hills on their own farm and they had to go down the road nearly to the school to find a steep enough place to have a good ride. There were some more of the school children at the slide and they had a jolly afternoon all together, but the others had to go home quite early to help with the chores and presently Jeannie and Jock found themselves alone.

"Just one more ride," they kept saying, "and then we will hurry home and feed the chickens."

And they kept on having one more ride until the sun suddenly popped down behind the big bush and they realized that it was nearly teatime.

As they hurried along the road toward home a team and sleigh overtook them.

"Give us a ride?" they called, but the driver didn't even answer them. He knew they were those youngsters from the city and that they were only about a hundred yards from their uncle's gate. Besides he was cold and hungry and in a hurry to get home and he didn't like children much anyway.

"Isn't he cross?" whispered Jeannie "lets hook on behind."

So they slipped the rope of their sleigh through an iron rod on the back of the bob-sleigh and were soon riding in fine style.

"Here's our gate, Jock," said Jeannie, "let go the rope."

Jock let go but they didn't stop. He looked round at Jeannie in horror.

"It's stuck," he whispered, "what will we do?"

"Don't let's call to the man," said Jeannie, "he looked so cross at us. Kick the rope as hard as you can."

Jock kicked the rope in vain. A knot in the rope had become tightly wedged in the iron bar and he couldn't get it loose. As they looked back along the road they could see Uncle John's barn disappear behind the hill.

The sleigh was going fast now and the snow seemed to slide past the children at an alarming rate.

"Let's roll off and walk home," said Jock.

"And let that mean old man have our lovely new sleigh?" said Jeannie. We'll just have to keep going until he stops."

As the horses went faster they had to hold on tightly and rounding one corner they very nearly went off in a drift. They were, oh, so cold and wishing in vain they had left the hill when the other children did.

But the horses were going faster because they were nearing home and presently they turned into a barnyard and came to a stop.

The twins crawled off the sleigh, cold and stiff, and were trying to unfasten the rope with their numb fingers when the man came around to the back of the sleigh to lift off a bag.

"What are you doing here?" he said so gruffly that Jeannie began to cry.

"We fastened on behind your sleigh and couldn't get off and we're so c-c-cold," she sobbed.

"Well, if you aren't the city kids from McFarlane's," he said in surprise, "why you're just about five miles from home. Guess you better come in and telephone to your uncle to come and get you."

He called to his wife and she met them at the door, such a nice, fat comfortable looking old lady that they forgot to be frightened.

"Your Auntie has been phoning all over the countryside about you," she said as soon as she had them settled beside the stove with their half-frozen hands in a basin of cold water. "I'll just call up and let her know you are found."

After they had had a nice warm meal they stopped shivering and began to enjoy themselves. Even their cross driver became quite friendly as soon as he was thawed out and fed.

Then Uncle John came for them and wrapped them warmly in blankets for their drive home. And the sleigh which had caused all the trou-

TWO GREAT MEN

One can hardly pick up an American paper or magazine this month without reading an article about either Lincoln or Washington who both happened to be born in February. It seems a pity for the sake of the journalists that both these famous men chose the same month for their birthdays as it overcrowds their magazines to say all there is to be said about both of them.

The only thing that some people remember about the life of George Washington is the cherry tree incident and his inability to tell a lie, some say facetiously that he was noted for being the only American who never told a lie. He is called "The Father of His Country" and although loyal British subjects think he was wrong in his policy of breaking away from England he was doing what seemed right to him. A certain English encyclopedia says about Washington that "throughout his life he was always true, just and brave," and surely no man could have greater praise than this. Then we must remember that had there been no War of Independence our ancestors who came over to Canada as United Empire Loyalists would never have come to this wonderful country of ours.

Their other February hero—Abraham Lincoln—was a man who has become almost a world hero. When H. G. Wells compiled a list of the ten greatest men who had ever lived, Lincoln's name was included. Born in a log cabin amid the humblest surroundings, brought up in a most frugal way, with no advantages in the way of education except one year's schooling and what he could learn from borrowed books, he became one of the greatest figures in history. His wonderful act in freeing all the slaves in the United States although it did cause four years of warfare between the North and the South, was one of the greatest steps in progress that the world has ever known. Before emancipation thousands of negroes had been in slavery, men and women, bought and sold at auction just like animals. This great-hearted man knew that no nation could grow to success under these conditions and he stuck to it in the face of all opposition.

During the war his military tactics were not very good. But his one motto was "just keep pegging away" and anyone who does that is bound to win in the end.

Lincoln's career shows us what a tremendous influence a good mother may have on a man's life. When he and his sister were small and they lived far from any school his mother taught them all she knew. Although his slate was a slab of smoke blackened wood with the letters and figures marked in clay his mother inspired him with such ambition that at an age when most boys are trying to get away from school he was walking many miles to borrow legal books from the nearest lawyer. One of this famous man's sayings which we mothers will do well to remember was "All I am or ever hope to be I owe to my Mother."

So when we look at American magazines this month and see so many stories about these two men we may shrug our patriotic shoulders and say "There's the eagle screaming again." But let us think of these two good men out of their national setting—the one who was "always true, just and brave," and the one who just "kept pegging away," and we must acknowledge that this time the eagle has something worth screaming about.

ble went bobbing gaily along behind the cutter.

"Didn't we have a nice time," murmured Jeannie sleepily from the robes. "Even the cross old man was nice to us. I guess everybody is nice when you really know them."

Household Hints

Freshly rendered chicken fat may be used for all kinds of cooking in place of the best quality butter.

Sweeping linoleum wears it almost as much as walking on it. Instead of a broom use an oiled mop or use a broom bag on the broom. Keeping linoleum well waxed makes it wear much longer.

Starch made with soapy water prevents the iron from sticking and gives a better gloss to the linen.

Glassware will have an added lustre if a little vinegar is added to the water in which it is rinsed.

If clothes must be dried in the house in the winter use a ceiling clothes drier in the kitchen. This may be a wooden frame which draws up to the ceiling or simply a line with pulleys. The clothes will dry much more quickly, besides being out of the way.

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BEST LETTER
Joan Selkirk welcomes letters from the children, and each week a handsome Eversharp pencil will be given to the boy or girl writing the best letter, of 100 words or less on any subject. The winner for last week was Jean Middleton of Richmond Hill.

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