

## If the South had won the war, we'd all be slaves

I came across this speech of Abraham Lincoln's in 1978 while I was researching the various economic battles taking place in America prior to and just after the American Civil War. The manuscript of the speech was thinly bound and covered with about 20 years of dust at the University of Pennsylvania, which has the country's largest open-stack library. The inscription inside the cover described the speech as Lincoln's favorite stump speech. I have yet to see this speech reprinted in any other of Lincoln's collected works heretofore published.

Despite the popularity of the "country-western" song "If the South Had Won the War, We'd Have It Made," nothing could be further from the truth: In fact, we'd all be slaves. As Lincoln and others well knew, the American Civil War was fomented over years by the British oligarchy and their obedient servants in both the North and the South. These would-be aristocrats were from the same families who were Tories in the Revolutionary War against the British Crown.

Their intention was to set up in America a collection of feuding entities that could be continually manipulated into warring with each other, and thus, end forever the American Republic which had become the hope of the world.

In Lincoln's speech printed here, he clearly enunciates his view of mankind as distinct from that of the feudalist. For Lincoln, as it was for those who fought the Revolution, man was more than a beast or a chattel slave; man had a divine spark which separated him from the beasts of this Earth, and it was the duty of civilization to continually accentuate and celebrate this difference—although I know some in the animal rights movement will violently disagree with this view.

For Lincoln, man is the only being who constantly

improves the conditions of his life. "This he does through science and discoveries," he states in this speech. Lincoln goes on to use the Bible to show how man continues to improve his livelihood and his society by the use of discoveries and inventions. In this, Lincoln is clearly following the command of Genesis, which beseeches us to go forth and "have dominion" over nature, to "be fruitful, and multiply."

The would-be feudalists who fomented the Civil War conceived of man as no better than a beast. Both medieval and latter-day feudalists see themselves, not as seeking dominion over nature, but as "stewards" who, by virtue of power and some mythical birthright, would assign the rest of civilization to stations in life while they lord over us.

This oligarchical concept of "stewardship" has even been inserted in the new editions of the Bible replacing the command of Genesis to "have dominion" over nature. This concept of stewardship has been uttered by President Bush and his environmentalist friends as they seek to wipe out whatever commitment to scientific and technological progress that is left in America. This view of mankind was thoroughly endorsed by the Confederacy—President Jefferson Davis and his British sponsors. Indeed, many who fought for the Republic along with Lincoln blamed the spread of feudal ideologies on Sir Walter Scott, whose novels extolling the virtues of aristocratic pastoral life were popular in the South and among would-be aristocrats generally. This is not to denigrate those thousands of men who died, flying the Confederate flag. Indeed, even today there are those "good old boys" who fly the rebel flag, as if to protest the injustices done to the South after the war. But I can assure them that if that flag were flying over our country instead of the Stars and Stripes, they would not have it made—they'd be slaves.

There is no better time than now to reprint this speech by President Lincoln, not just because April 14 is the 125th anniversary of his assassination, but so it will remind all of us of those principles upon which the nation was founded so we will be better able to fight those who are seeking to destroy those principles now.

—Allen Salisbury

us, might not occur very readily. I think the back of the camel would never have suggested it. It was, however, a matter of vast importance. The earliest instance of it mentioned, is when "Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass" (Genesis xxii: 3), preparatory to sacrificing Isaac as a burnt-offering; but the allusion to the *saddle* indicates that riding had been in use some time; for it is quite probable they rode bare-backed awhile, at least, before they invented saddles.

The *idea*, being once conceived, of riding *one* species of animals, would soon be extended to others. Accordingly we find that when the servant of Abraham went in search of a wife for Isaac, he took ten *camels* with him; and, on his return trip, "Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man" (Genesis xxiv: 61).

The *horse*, too, as a riding animal, is mentioned early. The Red Sea being safely passed, Moses and the children of