





[No. 99





Note.--In this poem of Longfellow, the Constitution and Laws are here personified and addressed as "The Ship of State."

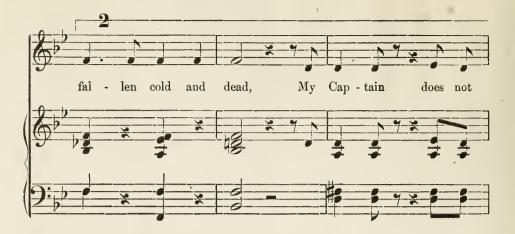


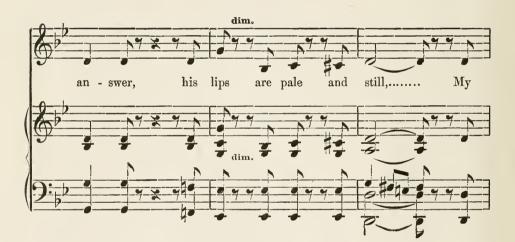


O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

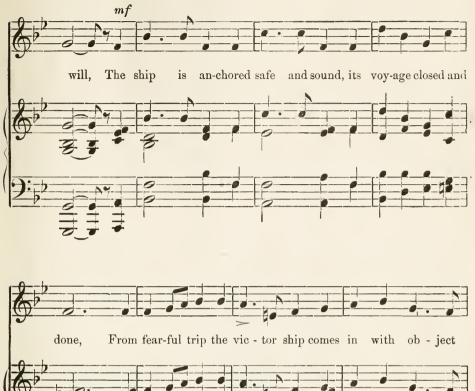














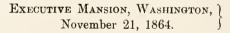












## To Mrs. Bixby, Boston, Mass.:

DEAR MADAM—I have been shown, in the files of the War Department, a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I can not refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

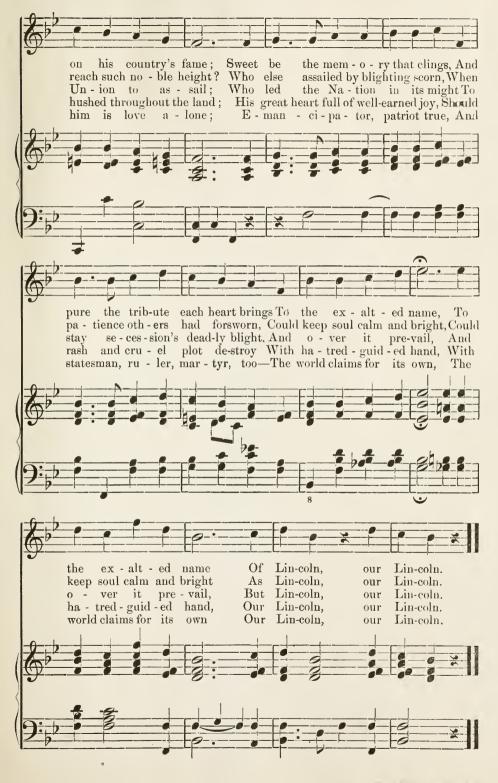
Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

## OUR LINCOLN.



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## THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.

The short speech known as the "Gettysburg Address" is the noblest of Lincoln's public utterances. It was delivered November 19, 1863, while the Civil War was yet in progress. Yet it is utterly free from any spirit of animosity to foes; it breathes only the devotion of a nation to those who had died in its behalf. There is in this brief speech a beauty and pathos which cause it to rival any of the more ornate orations delivered on similar occasions:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little know, nor long remember, what we say here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

## EXCERPTS FROM LINCOLN'S SPEECHES.

"THE mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every loving heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

"AND having thus chosen our course, without guile and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God, and go forward without fear and with manly hearts."

"IT is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels he is worthy of himself, and claims kindred to the great God who made him."

"I AM not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have."

"I must stand with anybody that stands right; stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

"WITH malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."—From Second Inaugural Address.