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1809—1865

Concert Exercise for Lincoln Sunday

February 14th, 1915



American Missionary Association

287 Fourth Avenue, New York City

Eastern District
615 Congregational House
Boston, Mass.

Western District
19 South La Salle Street
Chicago, Ill.

Pacific District
21 Brenham Place
San Francisco, Cal.

A Service for Sunday Schools in Observance of Lincoln Sunday

February 14, 1915

Hymn:—AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL - - (Tune) MATERNA

LEADER—O give thanks unto Jehovah for he is good.

SCHOOL—For his loving kindness endureth forever.

LEADER—Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion.

SCHOOL—For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee.

LEADER—He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat.

SCHOOL—He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel.

LEADER—He hath not dealt so with any nation . . . Praise ye the Lord.

SCHOOL—Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God.

LEADER—Behold, these shall come from far,

SCHOOL—And lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

LEADER—Fear not; for I am with thee; I will bring thy seed from the east and gather them in the west;

SCHOOL—I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back; bring my sons from far and my daughters from the ends of the earth.

LEADER—They helped every one his neighbor;

SCHOOL—And every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.

SUPERINTENDENT—*Psalm* 1 — 1, 2, 3, 6

PUPIL—Abraham Lincoln, whose Birthday we remember today, holds quite the first place among the many great men whom the United States loves to honor. Born 105 years ago in the humblest kind of a cabin home in the mountains of Kentucky he grew up, a little lonely, barefoot mountain boy; but undaunted by poverty, hardship, or ignorance, with boundless courage and by persistent hard work he overcame all obstacles and made of himself the foremost man of his century. The first years of his life were spent in the barest of mountain cabins, with few play mates. In his deer skin breeches and moccasins he played among the shavings in his father's shed and wandered in the great forest where he learned lessons of charity, sympathy and helpfulness. Here on the frontier were many opportunities to "Love one's neighbor as one's self", and this lesson learned so early in life, stayed by him all through his career.

When asked what he knew about the war of 1812 he replied "Only this: I had been fishing one day and had caught a little fish, which I was taking home, I met a soldier in the road, and having always been told at home that we must be good to soldiers, I gave him my fish." Even at three years old, generous and patriotic.

SCHOOL—Lincoln wrote in a letter at one time, "Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say for one, that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem." How well he accomplished his ambition is proved by our service here today.

PUPIL—He grew up among people who were all in the same condition of life, no rich to envy, nor poor to look down on, and so to him always all "men were born free and equal." Although his school days were very few, every opportunity for reading and study was taken advantage of until finally he prepared himself for the bar and entered politics, to climb slowly and not without many disappointments to the highest honor America can give. His life is an inspiration and challenge to the poorest boy or man in America. He was a devoted son; his great strength and loyal help were given in unstinting measure to his father and mother until at the age of twenty-two he left home with nothing but his axe in his hand to seek his fortune in the wide world.

SUPERINTENDENT—What saying of Lincoln's embodied his lifelong principles?

SCHOOL—"Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it".

PUPIL—Once a negro boy who had been born free in Illinois, journeyed to Louisiana where he was held by the authorities as a slave. An appeal was made to Lincoln to obtain his release. Mr. Lincoln approached the Governor of Illinois to whom he said, "Governor, I'll make the ground of this country too hot for the foot of a slave, whether you have the legal power to secure the release of this boy or not." Because he did his duty as he understood it, later he gave freedom to nine millions of negro people in the United States.

SCHOOL—He said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

SUPERINTENDENT—Believing that our country cannot permanently endure with many millions of its citizens bound by ignorance and superstition the American Missionary Association for more than sixty years has been establishing schools and churches among the neglected people.

PUPIL—In our 52 schools and seven colleges for Negro boys and girls in the Southland the Association is continuing Lincoln's work by giving to thousands of students who can have no other opportunity, the education which shall fit them to be leaders among their own race, and by training heart, head and hand helps them to grow into intelligent Christian citizens.

SCHOOL—Lincoln said, "I want every man to have a chance to better his condition."

PUPIL—In our American Highlands, are other mountain boys and girls who, like little "Abe Lincoln," are willing to walk many miles over

mountain roads every day, and work hard early and late to gain the education they can only receive in one of our A. M. A. schools. Here in addition to their regular school work they are taught to make the best of themselves and their surroundings, and many of our graduates are proving what a good investment these schools are by the lives they are living to-day and the work they are doing as Christian men and women in the world.

SUPERINTENDENT—In Mr. Lincoln's administration the Indians first began to receive Christian treatment. Does the A. M. A. have any work among these people?

PUPIL—We have mission schools with industrial training on different Reservations. Santee Normal Training School is one of the largest Indian schools in the country, over a hundred Indian boys and girls are learning here to be Christian men and women. Industrial training and farming are included in the course of study and a brass band composed of students adds stirring music on festive occasions. The girls are taught housework and cooking, even the little girls in the "Birds' Nest Home" taking a share in the housework. At Cape Prince of Wales in Alaska, the largest Eskimo village in the world, we have a medical missionary and his wife, who teach the Eskimos to care for body as well as soul. Our new church, Thornton Memorial Chapel, is filled at every service, and Cape Prince of Wales which a few years ago was a dangerous place to live in has become one of the safest villages in all Alaska.

SUPERINTENDENT—Does the A. M. A. carry its message of brotherhood to any other race in our country?

SCHOOL—On the Pacific coast there are many Orientals from over the sea who are learning Christianity as well as English in day and night schools. These students carry back to their own countries the spirit of Christian Brotherhood they have learned from our A. M. A. workers.

SUPERINTENDENT—The flag Abraham Lincoln died to defend now flies over islands in the Pacific as well as over Porto Rico in the Atlantic Ocean. Does the A. M. A. help our citizens in these islands too?

PUPIL—In Porto Rico our missionaries work among the very poor natives who welcome the message gladly. A medical missionary is teaching these poor people how to care for their neglected bodies. Land has been secured for a hospital and now the Association needs money to put up the building. Blanche Kellogg Institute at Santurce is our only school in Porto Rico.

Our leper church at Moloki in Hawaii was started before Father Damien began his well known work, and many poor lepers find comfort in the ministry of our pastor there. Schools and churches among natives and Orientals in the islands are teaching these people the best kind of Christian citizenship.

SCHOOL—And so "with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right," we will carry on the life work of Abraham Lincoln through our great American Missionary Association. We will give generously of prayers and money to support its schools, colleges and missionaries and so by prayer and endeavor we shall do all which may achieve a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

Offering—

Hymn:—MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY