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J. B. Merwin

+

Abraham Lincoln

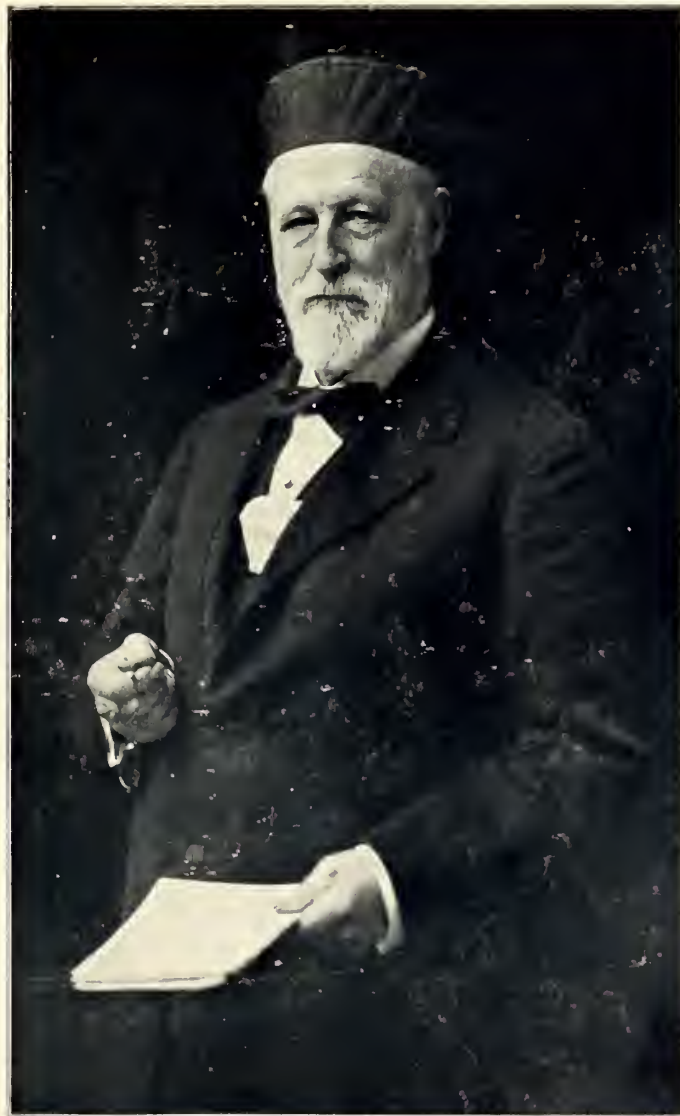
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F. D. Lakeslee

2702 S. Hobart Blvd

Los Angeles

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J. B. MERWIN, ST. LOUIS, MO.



Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott, U.S.A.,

after hearing several addresses made by Mr. Merwin from President Lincoln's Carriage, to the regiments gathering in Washington, said, to the President, (quietly): "A man of such force and moral power to inspire courage, patriotism, faith and obedience among the troops *is worth to the army more than a half-dozen regiments*, of raw recruits." "The American Soldier in a volunteer war like this, could not be treated like the Soldier of European Armies."

[See fac-simile of Gen. Scott's further strong Endorsement on next page.]

I esteem the Mission
of Mr. Merwin to the
Army, a happy cir-
cumstance, & request
all Commanders to
give him free access
to all of our Camps
& posts & also to mul-
tiply occasions to
enable him, to ad-
dress our Officers &
men.

Winfield Scott.

July 24, 1861.

A BIT OF HISTORY

From the New York "Evening Post"

"The Strength of the Army"

"Temperance and Discipline in the Ranks—Affairs in Congress"

[From the Regular Correspondent of the New York Evening Post]

X Washington, May 21, 1862.

"The news made public today of the sharp fight at McDowell, Virginia, and the advance of the rebels up the valley towards Winchester, shows plainly why General Banks moved back thirty miles upon Strasburg. There is some dissatisfaction, I hear, in official quarters at the apparent lack of effective troops when such an enormous army is on the pay-rolls. Six hundred thousand men are paid every month, and if less by one hundred thousand can be found it follows that somebody pockets the money."

* * * * *

TEMPERANCE IN THE ARMY

"Some facts published by the House from the Military Committee show that many of our highest officers are very favorable to temperance in the army. Mr. J. B. Merwin was called by President Lincoln into the army, to address the soldiers. General Scott gave him the following written introduction and endorsement "I esteem the mission of Mr. Merwin to the army a happy circumstance, and re-

"The fac-similies reproduced herewith are exact reproductions from the original manuscript still in Mr. Merwin's possession. President Lincoln sought to, and did commission him as major, but red tape constantly interfered with his work.

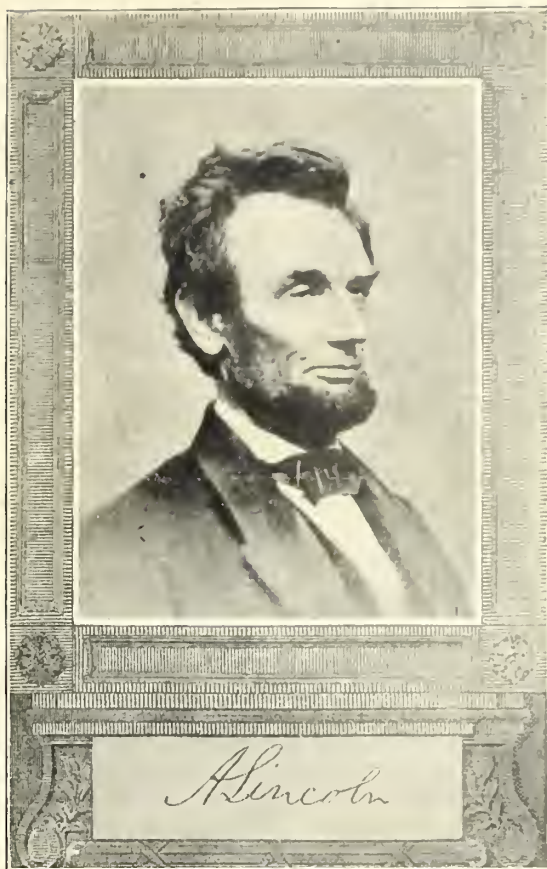
The testimonial to the warm appreciation to Mr. Merwin's usefulness in his great work is numerous signed by those who heard him. A few of the names it may be well to print here as follows:

quest all commanders to give him free access to all of our camps and posts, and also to multiply occasions to enable him to address our officers and men."

"This is important evidence, from the greatest soldier of the country, upon a mooted subject:—whether lectures, speeches or concerts have any proper place in the army. Nearly all the regular army officers contended last winter, when the Hutchinsons were here, that it was grossly improper for any lecturer or singer to have contact with the troops. The regular chaplain might preach and pray on Sunday, but even he should confine himself strictly to religious subjects. General Scott thought differently."

"He repeatedly said last summer and autumn that, 'The American soldier, in a volunteer war like this, could not be treated like the soldier of European armies, for he is an intelligent being.' General Butler said: 'The mission of Mr. Merwin will be of great benefit to the troops.' General Dix approved this, adding 'The use of intoxicating drinks as beverage is the curse of the service.'"

Hon. Charles Sumner, U. S. S.
Hon. W. A. Buckingham, U. S. S.
Hon. O. H. Browning, U. S. S.
Hon. Richard Yates, U. S. S.
Hon. James Harlan, U. S. S.
Hon. Henry Wilson, U. S. S.
Hon. Lyman Trumbull, U. S. S.
Hon. J. R. Doolittle, U. S. S.
Hon. James W. Grimes, U. S. S.
Hon. Timothy O. Howe, U. S. S.
Hon. David Wilmont, U. S. S.
Hon. Isaac N. Arnold, M. C.
Hon. John F. Potter, M. C.
Hon. Thomas Drummond, Judge, and over one hundred others comprising the name of nearly all the State governors, beside other U. S. Senators, members of Congress and prominent citizens."



President Lincoln's Military Order

EXECUTIVE MANSION,)
WASHINGTON)

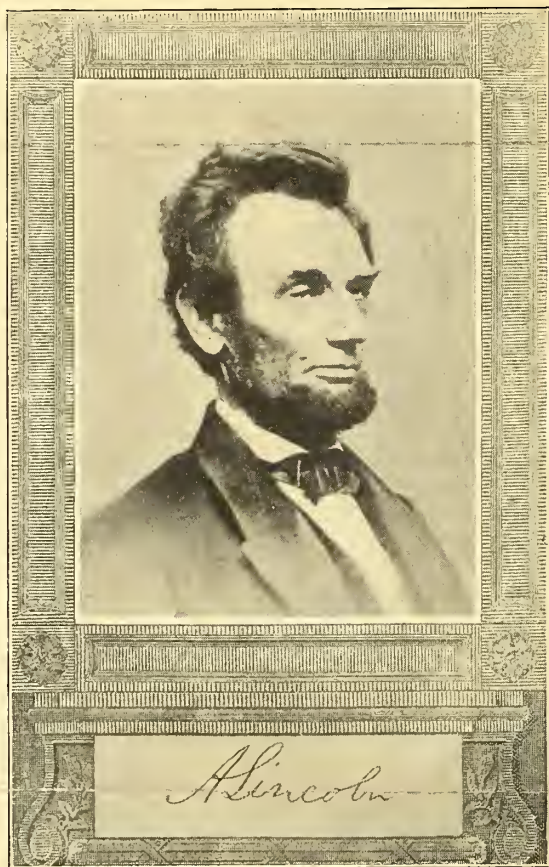
Surgeon General will
send Mr. Merwin where
ever he may think the
public service may
require -

A. Lincoln.

July 24, 1862.

The above is a fac-simile of a military order, issued by President Lincoln, to the Surgeon General of the United States army, after Lieut. Gen. Scott, had, at his own request been retired.

An Evening With Abraham Lincoln



A Lecture of Absorbing Interest

Abounding in reminiscences and anecdotes descriptive of his life and achievements, by one who knew him well, who, in his life was the friend and confidant of the martyred President.

Maj. J. B. Merwin, of St. Louis, Mo.

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Surgeon General will
send Mr. Mason when
we do not think the
public service may
require -
A. Lincoln
July 24, 1862.

Facsimile of Autograph Order of Abraham Lincoln

An Evening With Abraham Lincoln

AS long as time endures, or this nation exists the name of Abraham Lincoln will be a hallowed one to every liberty loving person on earth, no matter where he may be found, or what his nationality or creed. Washington, the father of his country, Lincoln, its savior, are names that will never die. What memories the name of Lincoln inspires—

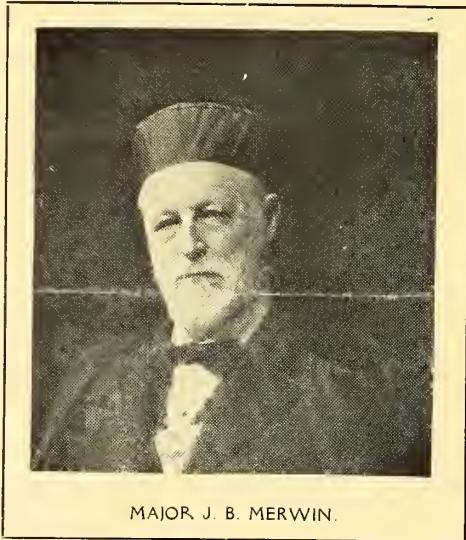
what patriotic thoughts kindle, by the recollection of his deeds. Lincoln the reformer—Lincoln the patriot—Lincoln the emancipator. Can those of mature years forget while living the shock that came, the indignation that spread over land and sea when news of his assassination was flashed around the world.

All civilization poured its sympathy to us in the loss of the best friend that liberty had—the champion of the poor and down trodden. From first to last he was the peoples' champion. "The great commoner," he has been called. Of his glorious achievements the whole world knows. Of his assassination, ELIHU BURRITT, THE NOTED AMERICAN, writing to a friend, said: "The irrepressible conflict has come and gone. It is behind us. We can now face a new future and see God's face in it with hope and comfort.

There is one event just gone to the record of these great years, so sublime in its working upon the mind of the world, that it seems to be taken up into the ranks of those Divine Providences and Revelations that have come at intervening spaces of a thousand years to mark the history of God's dealings with mankind. Certainly not for a thousand years has the death of one man produced such an impression upon the whole of Christendom, as the sudden and most atrocious taking off of Abraham Lincoln. No American life ever had such a burden put upon it; none that has breathed on our continent ever performed a greater work. But he was stronger in his death than in his life. Living, he saw the wide and ensanguined rift in the American Union close forever its devouring jaws to open no more; dying, he closed the wider chasm between the two hemispheres. I say it reverently, by death, he made of twain one, abolishing the *enmity* between the Old World and New, between England and America. The fires of indignation that burst forth from the heart of the English nation at his martyrdom, and the surging flood of sympathy with our country at the bereavement with it unlocked, seemed in one day and night, to burn up and down every unfriendly sentiment toward our nation, that ever found expression in Great Britain."

Jefferson Davis said, "Next to the destruction of the Confederacy the death of Abraham Lincoln was the darkest day the South has ever known."

An Evening With Lincoln



**Do not fail to
hear this dis-
course on his
life and ser-
vices as ren-
dered by his
friend and
associate**

**Maj. J. B. Merwin
Of St. Louis**

A T

It is unquestionably true that no man at present alive knew Abraham Lincoln more intimately than did Major Merwin. Those who fail of the opportunity of hearing him on this occasion will probably never again be privileged to listen to such a broad minded discourse by one who was so long in such close touch with the martyred President.

**EVERY PATRIOTIC CITIZEN
Young and Old Should Hear This Address**

**The Lecture will Positively be given whether the
weather is favorable or not, as the time
of speaker is limited**

N. B.—Lecture Committees desiring to arrange dates for this lecture
address _____

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An Evening With Abraham Lincoln

THE LIFE OF LINCOLN, the record of his glorious deeds is a trumpet call to higher ideals and nobler Americanism, typifying as it does, his almost Divine nature as a man, his patriotism as a leader, his far-reaching wisdom as a ruler.

Those who lived in the anxious time of his administration will feel their blood tingle anew as they listen to the story of his deeds—a story that will live forever. It will bring back to them the memory of the tented camp field—the fife and the drum—brother arrayed against brother. The hope, the suspense, the fear that prevailed as the battle went one way or the other. The glorious anthem of peace that went up as the struggle was ended. The wave of horror and indignation that swept o'er the land east, west, north and south, at news of his assassination. Major J. B. Merwin is peculiarly fitted to speak of Abraham Lincoln, for he was his personal friend and associate in the days before he was chosen to lead the people. During his administration Major Merwin was the trusted friend of the martyred President, and as such has a fund of memories intensely interesting, showing the character and giving an insight into the motives that prompted this great American citizen, Abraham Lincoln.

By some Major Merwin's discourse has been described as a "burst of patriotic eloquence rarely equalled," but it is more than that—it is the heartfelt tribute of one who is living, to a friend who has gone before, recalling the acts of his life time, the noble deeds he performed.

The Life of Lincoln can be read in books, but they breathe an artificial air.

In listening to Major Merwin you look upon one who was wont to grasp the great emancipator by the hand—who greeted him from day to day—who knew of his ideals, his hopes, his disappointments—of his faith!

Cold type spread upon inanimate paper fails to awaken your interest or kindle your memory, rousing you to a higher sense of patriotism or veneration for the illustrious Lincoln, as do the living breathing words of one who was at his side, and whose mind is stored with priceless memories of our venerated martyr. As one friend paying tribute to another. Major Merwin tells many interesting facts heretofore unknown to the world at large, and all in all his discourse is one that should be listened to by every patriotic citizen. When you have listened to the story of the saviour of our country as told by Major Merwin, you will feel that you have cause to thank the Creator that you are of the same race as Abraham Lincoln. The story of his life and deeds as told by Major Merwin is one of enthralling interest, arousing the patriotism of the listener, young or old, to its highest pitch. **An Evening with Lincoln** is an occasion that should not be missed.

Excerpts from Press Notices of Major Merwin's Lecture on Abraham Lincoln

"The most brilliant and complete analysis of Lincoln's career and character ever given." "Commanded the closest attention and thrilled the hearts of all." "Able—eloquent." "Forceful, graphic, eloquent." "Seldom, if ever, have an audience been thrilled with such eloquence and power." "Attracts, charms, rivets attention, carries conviction." "His humor convulses, his imagery electrifies, his reasoning is brilliant." "Received with the greatest enthusiasm." "A brilliant and popular orator." "His hearers were held enthralled from the opening to the closing sentence." "At the close the orator was given a veritable ovation." "A brilliant orator and a man of ripe scholarship."

Lincoln's Study of Shakespeare.

Major J. B. Merwin Tells Students of University of Rochester, How Deep It Was.

Lincoln Found Many Parallelisms Between Shakespeare
Plays and the Bible. Shakespeare Wrote as Lincoln
Worked, for the People.

(Special to The Telegram.)

Enthusiastic cheers were heard in Anderson Hall, University of Rochester yesterday afternoon when Major J. B. Merwin, a long-time close friend of Abraham Lincoln, walked to the platform to give his address on "Lincoln's Interpretation of Shakespeare." Major Merwin had spoken before the students but a short time ago and they greeted him warmly. Many persons were present, from outside the University.

"I am indebted to that wise, great and good man, Mr. Lincoln, for most of what I have to offer you to-day," said the speaker. Mr. Lincoln's occupation of the executive chair was a triumph of the good sense of the American people. * * * * *

They had a middle-class president at last. Middle-class in manners only, but not middle-class by any means in ability. If a man's power was ever fully tested, his was.

"In his Gettysburg oration we see a result of Mr. Lincoln's study of Shakespeare. Shakespeare, let us remember, wrote as Lincoln worked, for all classes. No other compilation of words excepting the Bible contained so much good advice to the young, as do his works.

Many think we do not get much religion out of Shakespeare, but Mr. Lincoln saw close parallelisms between Shakespeare and the Bible. Among humorists, Shakespeare was the king. Mr. Lincoln's success in disposing of people was often due to his keen sense of humor.

"Shakespeare, said Mr. Lincoln, had ever an unerring moral sense; a sense of justice, of what is due to others a sense of what is kind, what is polite, of what is proper under all circumstances. Mr. Lincoln insisted that no preparation was needed for the study of Shakespeare. With the exception of a good edition with foot notes to explain obsolete words, no further aid was necessary. This is

the way Mr. Lincoln studied him. Every jewel of thought, every beauty of sentiment was gathered in by Lincoln. On his words will the leading minds of the world always be nourished.

He has used a greater number of words easily understood in proportion to the amount of his writings than any other author. Here is another result of Lincoln's study of the dramatist; No piece of literature now extant contains so many words of one syllable as the Gettysburg speech.

"Said Lincoln, what point is there of morals, of manners, of economy, of religion, that Shakespeare has not settled; What maiden has not found his teaching something finer than her own delicacy? What lover is there whom Shakespeare has not out-loved? What sage that he has not outseen?

"His plays bring more hope to the common people than any other writings. Shakespeare predicted the future. Mr. Lincoln sensed this, for nothing escaped him. If all other books were destroyed excepting the bible and Shakespeare the world would still have the best literature preserved. Shakespeare's mind was like a sea to which all others in the world were as tributaries, and why should we not drink from this inexhaustible fountain, said Mr. Lincoln. His words teach more for our use to-day than this year's almanac. If we only understand how, to get it. You can warm your hands and your heart both by the light of his genius. He is filled with the sap of life. "He was one of those geniuses God leaves unbridled," said Mr. Lincoln, "that he might dip into the infinite as far and as deep as he liked." * * * * *

"What can bronze or marble do for such a man as Shakespeare?"

He is his own best monument with England for a pedestal. (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.)

LINCOLN DAY

AT THE

Chautauqua Tent

MAJOR J. B. MERWIN

OF CONNECTICUT

PERSONAL FRIEND AND COMPANION OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Will tell with authority Lincoln's exact position on the Liquor Question. Major Merwin stumped the state with Lincoln for Prohibition in 1855.

Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott, U. S. A., said of him: "A man of such force and moral power to inspire courage, patriotism, faith and obedience among the troops is worth more than a half dozen regiments of raw recruits."

A Word of Congratulation.

"Prof. M. N. Corn, Superintendent of Schools, Pinckneyville, Ill., his teachers, the Board of Education and the graduates, are all to be congratulated on being able to secure the services of Major J. B. Merwin, editor American Journal of Education, to deliver their commencement address."

The Opera House in Belleville was packed to its utmost capacity to hear him on "The New Era in Education," at the commencement exercises of our public schools.

It was conceded by all, that it was the most eloquent, helpful, practical address, of its kind, ever delivered in this city.

We make mention again of the matter, because it is given to few speakers to add, as this orator adds, to the sense of our being; his words are so surcharged with vital truth, that life culture, and destiny seem larger and deeper. He liberates, sets free, he enfranchises powers and capacities of the mind that we were not aware we possessed before, and this, he proves to be knowledge, not that the mind accumulates of a sudden any new increments of power, but rather that veils drop, walls fall and our mental skies clear, and are enlarged so that we come to know ourselves; and how to use our capacities to better purpose.

Such an interpreter, such a torch bearer—is an inspiration to all of us—for the far shining light he brings."

Daily News Democrat.

It will be a matter of interest to many, North as well as South, to know that Mr. Lincoln had looked very favorably upon a proposal that had been made for the excavation and completion of the Panama Canal by means of the labor of the freedmen. Those close to the President at the time were aware of the fact that he favored the plan and it was for the purpose of securing the views of Horace Greeley, of the New York Tribune, and other moulders of public thought, to the plan, that he called Major Merwin to the White House on the fatal Friday, April 14, 1865, the day that he was assassinated. After the President had explained this matter freely, to Mr. Merwin, recalling again those stirring times ten years before, when he had campaigned in Illinois with him he said "AFTER RECONSTRUCTION THE NEXT GREAT QUESTION WILL BE THE OVERTHROW OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC." That evening Mr. Merwin was on his way to New York, and the following morning as he stepped from the train in that city he heard the terrible news of the assassination, at Ford's Theatre, the night before. It is unquestionably true that no man alive knew Mr. Lincoln in his public or private life more intimately than did Major Merwin.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S MILITARY ORDER

"The Surgeon General will send Mr. Merwin wherever he thinks the public service may require."

June 24, 1862.

A. LINCOLN.

See p. 22 where
he says he
of as-
sination
Ford. ev.
at Philadelphia

PRESS COMMENTS

would seem absolutely superfluous. Major Merwin carries warm words of appreciation bearing the names of Charles Sumner, Richard Yates, who was the War Governor of Illinois; Lyman Trumbull, Henry Wilson, Austin Blair, David Willmot, famous as the author of the Willmot Proviso, and over a hundred others, including governor, senators, congressmen, generals, soldiers and prominent men of the time. Nevertheless we append a few of the many.

ST. LOUIS TRUTH—Major Merwin's lecture tours have won for him laurels as one of our most brilliant orators—of more than national note.

DAILY EAGLE (WICHITA)—On the platform he is a very king among literary and thinking men.

BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER—The lecture and speaker will be remembered by all present with unmixed pleasure and profit.

THE NATION (BOSTON)—His oration has never been excelled for eloquence and power.

MISCELLANEOUS—"The most brilliant and complete analysis of Lincoln's career and character ever given." "Commanded the closest attention and thrilled the hearts of all." "Able—eloquent." "Forceful, graphic, eloquent." "Seldom, if ever have an audience been thrilled with such eloquence and power." "Attracts, charms, rivets attention, carries conviction." "His humor convulses, his imagery electrifies, his reasoning is brilliant." "Received with the greatest enthusiasm." "A brilliant and popular orator." "His hearers were held enthralled from the opening to the closing sentence." "At the close the orator was given a veritable ovation." "A brilliant orator and a man of large experience and ripe scholarship"

ADDRESS, (for the present)

J. B. MERWIN,

Middlefield, Conn.

ANOTHER LECTURE.

"Major J. B. Merwin, of St. Louis, for thirty years editor of the "AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION," will give his lecture "An Evening with Shakespeare," in the Baptist Church, at Jacksonville, Ill., Friday Evening, 25th inst.

This promises to be the best lecture ever delivered in our city. Major Merwin has given this lecture in many of the leading cities of the country, including Boston, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, and the leading intervening cities to crowded houses. Extracts from several of the leading journals of the country of its wisdom, pathos, wit and eloquence, were furnished in the city dailies of last week.

Major Merwin is no stranger on the lecture platform, but is known to many of our leading citizens as a man of ripe scholarship, a profound thinker, a brilliant and popular orator. No man has done more for the cause of popular education in the West and Southwest than he. At all times he has been a leader in the progress and improvement in our best educational facilities; nor has he neglected an opportunity for enriching his own mind with the best literature of the world. He owns one of the largest and best selected private libraries in the west.

The great dramatist Shakespeare, has been his favorite study for more than a quarter of a century and he brings to us the largest and ripest result of this study in the lecture of the evening. He will show us more of the beauty, strength and power of Shakespeare in this lecture than we could get in a month's continuous reading.

No lover of poetry, learning or literature can well afford to miss this rare treat."

Spoke of Lincoln as One Who Knew Him

Major Merwin Told Many Interesting Facts Concerning the Martyred War President of Whom He Had a Personal Knowledge Through Close Association From 1852, on, -to The Day-He Was Assassinated.

Repertoire of Topics

1. An Evening with Abraham Lincoln
2. An Evening with Shakespeare
3. An Evening with Emerson
4. An Evening with Holmes
5. An Evening with Whittier
6. International Peace
7. The New Era in Education
8. Curiosity
9. Shakespeare's Estimate of Woman
10. What of it?
11. The Keys of Power
12. American Citizenship

Seldom is a Johnstown audience privileged to listen to as able a platform speaker as Major J. B. Merwin of Middlefield, Conn., who addressed a representative audience at the Grand opera house in this city last evening. Major Merwin possesses all of the qualifications of a public speaker and in his subject "Abraham Lincoln," he without doubt appears at his best. It is a rare privilege in these days to meet and listen to a man who had been the bosom friend and confidential adviser of the chief executive of the United States a generation ago, but such is the case with Major Merwin. As was anticipated, his lecture upon the life of the martyr-president was fully up to the highest expectations. Although well along in years, and with the hoary locks of time distinguishable, Major Merwin goes into his talk with vivacity and interest of a young man.

The lecture last evening was under the auspices of McMartin post, No. 257, G. A. R. The members of the post, Woman's Relief corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., members of the common council, water board, clergy, and board of education, occupied seats upon the stage, while the members of the D. A. R. were present among the audience.

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11. The Keys of Power
12. American Citizenship

The stage was decorated in patriotic colors, the American flag predominating, and made a pretty effect. Large flags were draped on either side and in the rear while in front, at the speaker's table, a finely framed picture of Abraham Lincoln graced the flag which hung in folds over the table. Among the flags were many carried in battle.

Commander John Karg of McMartin post presided. The program opened with a selection by a quartette composed of Messrs. Baker, Sands, Clements and Colin after which Rev. B. F. Livingston offered prayer. The audience then arose and sang “America” and at the conclusion of the lecture the quartette rendered “Tenting on the Old Camp Ground. Commander Karg introduced Major Merwin in a brief and appropriate speech referring to the war days and the speaker who was to follow him.

Mr. Merwin said:

I found Mr. Lincoln to be, with a riper, fuller acquaintance, a man absolutely without conceit. He neither fancied himself a philosopher, nor a saint. A modest man, engaged in the common duties of life, always equal to the occasion, but as the occasion grew, good sense and a great fertility of resources developed,—a serious devotion to the cause of his country that never swerved—a hope and a faith

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that never waivered—never failed. To all this, was added a growing wisdom—an integrity, absolutely incorruptible, and an ability that always rose to the need. The face of Mr. Lincoln, told the story, of his life—a life of sorrow and struggle and deep seated sadness—a life of ceaseless endeavor to find the right, the true way. It would have taken no Lahvahter to interpret the rugged energy, stamped on that uncomely, swarthy, plebian countenance—with its great, crag-like brow, and large bones, or to read the deep melancholy that overshadowed every feature of it. But beneath this ungainly, rough exterior—he wore a golden heart. Abraham Lincoln stands for today, and worked for, while he lived, the people of all kinds, and in all places, more, than any other “statesman” of any period in our history, as a government. He was the most sympathetic, and a mind and character of the deepest charity for all classes.

Lowell, you remember, the great poet, spoke of him as “sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame,” morally—more than that—spiritually—in other words, in attributes of heart, his greatness was preeminent. None of our great men if we realized it—meant so much to our hearts, or did so much for the “common people” as Mr. Lincoln. For none of our great men is the love of the people so cordial and so warm. In none other ar

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found so many qualities which can serve us, in our daily life, if we lay well to heart his teaching and example.

What Lincoln would have done is a constant inquiry coming to me on every hand. There was in him that perfect combination of humility, honesty and strength. No pride, no arrogance, none even of what most people call self respect—nothing done for show, or for what other people would say or do or think of him! Great charity for others, under all circumstances was a natural sister to his humility.

Once beginning to show the versatility of Mr. Lincoln, it is difficult to pause. To appreciate his work we must go into close study of his character to get at his motives. All insight and application of these higher political truths seem a sort of acensation, before the public mind rises, to their level—but as these higher faculties become developed, Lincoln's name and fame rises and his work will be better appreciated.

All prophetic revelation stammers, as it passes human lips. It reaches us in fragments, leaving gaps difficult to fill but evermore ennobling and inspiring. Today we think of Lincoln as the English people think of their blameless King Arthur, who, "Throughout his tract of years, wore the white flower of a blameless life."

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Lincoln could be eloquent if he would—we remember the close of his Ohio letter to the voters of that state in explanation of his dealings with Vallindingham.

Mr. Lincoln said: "Peace does not seem so distant as it did. I hope it will come soon, and come to stay, and to so come as to be worth keeping. It will then have been proved that among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet, and that they who take such appeal are sure to lose their case and pay the costs. And then there will appear some black men who can remember that with silent tongue and clenched teeth and steady eye and well poised bayonet, they have helped mankind on to this great consummation—while I fear that there will be some white men unable to forget that with malignant heart and deceitful speech they have striven to hinder it."

It has been truly said by those fully competent to judge, that Mr. Lincoln came to the point, where he surpassed all orators in eloquence, all diplomats in wisdom, all statesmen in foresight!

We do not say much about it, it is not necessary, but there were occasions when Mr. Lincoln came to be in his administration of the government, greater than law—when his wisdom was greater than the combined wisdom of all the people.

ANOTHER LECTURE.

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The people, the lawmakers, had never before in the experience of the government come face to face with the conditions and situation that confronted him.

Lincoln was as great as necessity, and our safety lay in the fact—that he was as just as he was great, and as wise as he was just.

Great is law, but greater is necessity.

It was this and this only—the latent but omnipotent power of character. Abraham Lincoln had every virtue, every courage, every heroism, every faith and every holiness. He did the deed that won him both fame and immortality. He gave to political America, her greatness. You know that Mr. Lincoln changed the status of millions of American citizens—changed the law of the nation—the legal tribunals—the decisions of the highest courts he reversed. It was Abraham Lincoln who draped his country's shoulders with the purple robe of equity and justice. When such a man is a glory on the brow of the nation, the people who do not recognize this fact excite the amazement of the race.

I knew the anxious days and nights of what the people called Mr. Lincoln's "extreme moderation."

He had to be and chose to be strictly the executive of the best and sanest

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public sentiment of the country—waiting only until it should be unmistakably pronounced.

So fair in mind that none ever listened so patiently to such extreme variations of opinions—so reticent that his final decisions stand—stand solid—that the people have come to know the capacity and virtue which the Divine Providence made him an instrument of benefits so vast.

Mr. Lincoln did more for America than any other American. When it finally came home to the consciousness of the American people—that the war we were waging was a war for the liberty of all nations—all peoples of the world—for the principle of freedom itself—they thanked God for giving them strength to endure the cost and severity of the trial to which he had put their sincerity, and nerved themselves for their duty with an inexorable will.

President Lincoln himself was led along in answer to prayer, led by this self sacrificing example of the people—led—as a child in a dark night on a rugged way catches hold of the hand of its father for guidance and support, so he clung fast to the hand of God, to the hands of the people, and moved calmly on with a faith that never waned through the gloom, the treachery, and the disasters which were multiplied by this treachery.

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It was Mr. Lincoln who said, "Those soldiers who went through those dreadful fields of battle, blood and death—and returned not—deserve much more than all the honors we can pay.

"But let us remember always—those who went through the same fields and returned alive, put just as much at hazard as those who died, and in other countries would wear distinctive badges of honor as long as they lived."

And in closing his second inaugural you remember Mr. Lincoln said, "Let use care for him who shall have borne the battle—and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

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in such institutions as the Tuck School. training into different groups, according careers to be followed by the students While not approving of what he calls in college, he believes that the ordina tion should be supplemented in such a it *practical*.

As was expected the lecture on Abraham Lincoln, given at the Grand opera house, last evening by his close personal friend and associate, Major J. B. Merwin of Middlefield, Conn., was of thrilling interest.

It is a rare privilege these days to meet a man who knew intimately the principal national figures of a generation ago, and when such a one is talented and brings the powers of a trained and observant mind to the discussion of the men and events that made all this nation free, the privilege is still more to be enjoyed.

The members of McMartin post had worked hard to make Major Merwin's visit to the city a pleasant one, and his reception was a fine one.

The opera house stage was beautifully festooned with flags, while the colors that are in the possession of the post and were carried on many a southern battle field were also on exhibition.

The centre of the stage was graced by a beautiful picture of Lincoln. Many old soldiers and members of the Woman's Relief corps, and J. J. Buchanan circle, L. G. A. R. and the clergy of the city occupied seats on the platform, beside the mayor and aldermen, representatives of the board of education and water board.

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Commander John Karg of McMartin post presided.

A quartette composed of Messrs. Clements, Baker, Sands and Colin rendered a beautiful vocal selection, after which the Rev. B. F. Livingston offered prayer. The audience then arose and sang "America" and after the lecture the quartette rendered another song, "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground."

In introducing the speaker Commander Karg referred to the stirring days of the war, and paid a fitting tribute to the men who fought its battles. Major Merwin held the close attention of his audience to the end, his descriptions of those stirring days and the pictures which he drew of the Great Emancipator being very realistic.

President Lincoln's letter to General Joseph Hooker, appointing him the successor of General Burnside, as commander of the Army of the Potomac, is one of Lincoln's most characteristic utterances—it somewhat astonished the soldiers and officers present—by its frankness and fullness of statement as did Beecher's account of his visit to President Lincoln in 1854.

This evening Major Merwin will deliver his lecture at St. James Lutheran church in Groversville and doubtless will be greeted by a large audience.

[Morning Herald.]

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LAUDS LINCOLN; TEARS FLOW.

Maj. J. B. Merwin's Oration on Friend Moves Auditors.

Mayville, N. D., Special, July 10.—The people who gathered by thousands in the beautiful grove of native trees from all parts of North Dakota, near Mayville and Hatton, to celebrate Independence day were greatly and deeply interested in the several addresses made on the occasion.

Hon. B. F. Spalding of Fargo, ex-member of congress, made a telling address of absorbing interest, on the problems of the day.

The committee in charge had secured from the Minnesota state prohibition committee the services of Maj. J. B. Merwin, the early and long-time friend of Abraham Lincoln. People came overland a hundred miles by private conveyance to hear the thrilling story of the life of Lincoln from the lips of the man who knew him, worked, and walked in life with him, loved him—the plain, homely, humble man that all Christendom loves and honors to-day.

Tears ran down the bronzed, wrinkled faces of gray-haired men and women, as they listened to the pathetic, thrilling story of the poor boy struggling up through poverty, adversity and trial to the highest position in the nation.

Rev. Walter L. Ferris, D. D., writes as follows:

"Mr. Merwin gave the people much of important personal history of Mr. Lincoln, which they had never heard. It was a refreshing revelation, a real uplift to all who were fortunate enough to hear him. The speaker had been in a campaign for prohibition with the great Lincoln, in the fifties, and knew whereof he spoke. Maj. Merwin is himself a magnificent orator, a noble character, a great man. I wish this address might be heard by all the young men in the land."

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Lincoln by Merwin

The people of New England, and of the whole Country, are in a fair way to learn something of the real character and greatness of President Lincoln from the revelations made in various addresses by his friend and associate, Major J. B. Merwin, of St. Louis.

The Times, Courant, and other papers of Hartford, gave large space to a report of Major Merwin's address, at the Hartford Opera House, Sunday afternoon before Lincoln's birthday.

Members of the Hartford posts of the Grand Army of the Republic were given a special invitation to attend. The veterans entered the lobby in double file, occupying the front seats at the center of the orchestra circle, reserved for them.

The Times said: "'Lincoln, the Christian Statesman' was Major Merwin's subject. From the time of his first meeting with Lincoln in 1852, on, to the day of his funeral the speaker gave a vivid description of his noble character, using many items of conversation he had had with him, together with many anecdotes, illustrating in the concrete, various phases of his great character."

* * * * *

The Courant said: "The Young Men's Christian Association had a distinguished guest, at the Hartford Opera House yesterday afternoon in the person of Major J. B. Merwin, who spoke on 'Abraham Lincoln, the Christian Statesman.' The first rows of the theatre were filled with G. A. R. men, who turned out in force to give Major

Merwin a deserved and hearty welcome, and every reference to the man, whom they had loved so much, in the trying days of the war, was hailed with deafening applause."

"The Major certainly had his audience with him from the very beginning. Major Merwin gave a varied, close concrete view of Lincoln and his career. He said that there had been 170 or more biographies of Lincoln's life published, all but one or two of them had missed the real fundamental basis, of Lincoln's greatness that was at the bottom of it all—his religious side. He went on to explain his acquaintance with Lincoln, with whom he was intimately thrown from 1852, on, until the day of his assassination in Washington.

Lincoln from his innate, sense of Justice, always saw conditions, from the standpoint of the other man, as well as from his own. That is what made him so successful as a lawyer.

He was always ready for the arguments of the other side. He had thought it all out from the other man's point of view before.

The sagest of philosophers, he was at times, the most ridiculous of jesters, the best informed man on political affairs of the nineteenth century, but above all a Christian gentleman was Lincoln, realizing his own dependence on God more than those less able to wield great things, when it came to the crises.

Major Merwin ended with a blood-tingling eulogy for the men of the G. A. R., who saved to the world this form of government."

1852-1861
17 yrs of age

"His Thrilling and Beautiful Story."

Chaplain Writes of Major Merwin.

Connecticut Comrades Thrilled by his Story of Abraham Lincoln and the Days when Men Died for the Flag.

Comrade Fred Meyer of this city has received the following highly interesting letter from Department Chaplain William F. Hilton, of Hartford Conn., relative to Major J. B. Merwin, who is to speak in the Grand opera house tomorrow evening on Abraham Lincoln.

Hartford, Conn.
Oct. 22, 1907.

My dear Comrade:

Having received a letter from my friend, Major J. B. Merwin in which he speaks of your noble purpose in the effort to secure a monument or our heroic dead, and I say our dead, for in a real and true sense we are of one body—let me extend my most hearty wish that you may more than realize your object.

We hear among ourselves, as oft repeated in the quiet silence of our own gatherings, "that God may grant that the memory of the noble dead who freely gave their lives for the land they love may dwell ever in our hearts."

This is our own sentiment and expresses that devotion which a patient and long suffering service engenders, but the sentiment needs to be carried further into the life about us and to become the seed of a new fruitage and that fruitage found in those we are now among and from among whose association we ere long must disappear.

The monument must speak for us

even better than the blood of righteous Abel and be a witness to that spirit which was in them *who gave their lives* for the land they loved; a land bequeathed in peace to those who witness where the monument stands in whom must dwell a spirit equally as sacrificing and suffering.

May the day soon come when the land shall be filled not only with school houses in which patriotism is taught; with churches where patriotism shall be baptized with the spirit of "the Christ" who laid down His life for all but also our resting places and habitations be beautiful and adorned with those silent testimonies that reveal a patriotism that is sanetified.

So I wish you great success in your undertaking.

I congratulate you in having secured Major Merwin's services to thrill the heart and to make the pulse beat quick with *his beautiful story* of our Martyred President. If he inspires you as he did us, there will, I am sure, be started a current of intense patriotic life in your community that will arouse the sluggish, awaken the indifferent and cause the pride to rise in behalf of that little band who loved not their lives only to offer them as a sweet-smelling sacrifice upon the great altar of our noble land. May the good Lord prosper you in all good and bless you with His abounding grace.

Yours fraternally,
WM. F. HILTON.

Major Merwin Told Many Interesting Facts Concerning the Martyred War President of Whom He Had a Personal Knowledge Through Close Association From 1852, on, to The Day-He Was Assassinated.

Spoke of Lincoln as One Who Knew Him

Seldom is a Johnstown audience privileged to listen to as able a platform speaker as Major J. B. Merwin of Middlefield, Conn., who addressed a representative audience at the Grand opera house in this city last evening. Major Merwin possesses all of the qualifications of a public speaker and in his subject "Abraham Lincoln," he without doubt appears at his best. It is a rare privilege in these days to meet and listen to a man who had been the bosom friend and confidential adviser of the chief executive of the United States a generation ago, but such is the case with Major Merwin. As was anticipated, his lecture upon the life of the martyr-president was fully up to the highest expectations. Although well along in years, and with the hoary locks of time distinguishable, Major Merwin goes into his talk with vivacity and interest of a young man.

The lecture last evening was under the auspices of McMartin post, No. 257, G. A. R. The members of the post, Woman's Relief corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., members of the common council, water board, clergy, and board of education, occupied seats upon the stage, while the members of the D. A. R. were present among the audience.

The stage was decorated in patriotic colors, the American flag predominating, and made a pretty effect. Large flags were draped on either side and in the rear while in front, at the speaker's table, a finely framed picture of

"HIS THRILLING AND BEAUTIFUL STORY."

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Yours fraternally,
WM. F. HILTON.

Abraham Lincoln graced the flag which hung in folds over the table. Among the flags were many carried in battle.

Commander John Karg of McMartin post presided. The program opened with a selection by a quartette composed of Messrs. Baker, Sands, Clements and Colin after which Rev. B. F. Livingston offered prayer. The audience then arose and sang "America" and at the conclusion of the lecture the quartette rendered "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground." Commander Karg introduced Major Merwin in a brief and appropriate speech referring to the war days and the speaker who was to follow him.

In addition, the Argentine... Mr. Merwin said:
I found Mr. Lincoln to be, with a ripe, fuller acquaintance, a man absolutely without conceit. He neither fancied himself a philosopher, nor a saint. A modest man, engaged in the common duties of life, always equal to the occasion, but as the occasion grew, good sense and a great fertility of resources developed,—a serious devotion to the cause of his country that never swerved—a hope and a faith that never wavered—never failed. To all this, was added a growing wisdom—an integrity, absolutely incorruptible, and an ability that always rose to the need. The face of Mr. Lincoln, told the story, of his life—a life of sorrow and struggle and deep seated sadness—a life of ceaseless endeavor to find the right, the true way. It would have taken no Lahvahter to in-

terpret the rugged energy, stamped on that uncomely, swarthy, plebian countenance—with its great, crag-like brow, and large bones, or to read, the deep melancholy that overshadowed every feature of it. But beneath this ungainly, rough exterior—he wore a golden heart. Abraham Lincoln stands for today, and worked for, while he lived, the people of all kinds, and in all places, more, than any other “statesman” of any period in our history, as a government. He was the most sympathetic, and a mind and character of the deepest charity for all classes.

Lowell, you remember, the great poet, spoke of him as “sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame,” morally—more than that—spiritually—in other words, in attributes of heart, his greatness was preeminent. None of our great men if we realized it—meant so much to our hearts, or did so much for the “common people” as Mr. Lincoln. For none of our great men is the love of the people so cordial and so warm. In none other are found so many qualities which can serve us, in our daily life, if we lay well to heart his teaching and example.

What Lincoln would have done is a constant inquiry coming to me on every hand. There was in him that perfect combination of humility, honesty and strength. No pride, no arrogance, none even of what most people call self respect—nothing done for show, or for what other people would say or

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We hear among ourselves, as oft repeated in the quiet silence of our own gatherings, "that God may grant that *the memory of the noble dead* who freely gave their lives for the land they love may dwell ever in our hearts."

This is our own sentiment and expresses that devotion which a patient and long suffering service engenders, but the sentiment needs to be carried further into the life about us and to become *the seed of a new Fraternity* and that fraternal found in those we are now among and from among whose association we ere long must disappear. The monument must speak for us

even better than the blood of righteous Abel and be a witness to that spirit which was in them *who gave their lives* for the land they loved; a land bequeathed in peace to those who witness where the monument stands in whom must dwell a spirit equally as sacrificing and suffering.

May the day soon come when the land shall be filked not only with school houses in which patriotism is taught; with churches where patriotism shall be baptized with the spirit of "the Christ" who laid down His life for all but also our resting places and habitations be beautiful and adorned with those silent testimonies that reveal a patriotism that is sanctified.

So I wish you great success in your undertaking.

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Yours fraternally,
WM. F. HILTON.

do or think of him! Great charity for others, under all circumstances was a natural sister to his humility.

Once beginning to show the versatility of Mr. Lincoln, it is difficult to pause. To appreciate his work we must go into close study of his character to get at his motives. All insight and application of these higher political truths seem a sort of accusation, before the public mind rises, to their level—but as these higher faculties become developed, Lincoln's name and fame rises and his work will be better appreciated.

All prophetic revelation stammers, as it passes human lips. It reaches us in fragments, leaving gaps difficult to fill but evermore ennobling and inspiring. Today we think of Lincoln as the English people think of their blameless King Arthur, who, "Throughout his tract of years, wore the white flower of a blameless life."

Lincoln could be eloquent if he would—we remember the close of his Ohio letter to the voters of that state in explanation of his dealings with Vallandigham.

Mr. Lincoln said: "Peace does not seem so distant as it did. I hope it will come soon, and come to stay, and to so come as to be worth keeping. It will then have been proved that among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet, and that they who take such appeal are sure to lose their case and pay the costs. And then there will appear some black men who can remember that with silent tongue and clenched teeth and steady eye and well poised bayonet, they have helped mankind, on

to this great consummation—while I
fear that there will be some white
men unable to forget that with malign-
ant heart and deceitful speech they
have striven to hinder it.”

It has been truly said by those fully
competent to judge, that Mr. Lincoln
came to the point, where he surpassed
all orators in eloquence, all diplomats
in wisdom, all statesmen in foresight!

We do not say much about it, it is
not necessary, but there were occa-
sions when Mr. Lincoln came to be in
his administration of the government,
greater than law—when his wisdom
was greater than the combined wis-
dom of all the people.

The people, the lawmakers, had nev-
er before in the experience of the gov-
ernment come face to face with the
conditions and situation that confront-
ed him.

Lincoln was as great as necessity,
and our safety lay in the fact—that he
was as just as he was great, and as
wise as he was just.

Great is law, but greater is neces-
sity.

It was this and this only—the latent
but omnipotent power of character.
Abraham Lincoln had every virtue,
every courage, every heroism, every
faith and every holiness. He did the
deed that won him both fame and im-
mortality. He gave to political
America, her greatness. You know
that Mr. Lincoln changed the status of
millions of American citizens—
changed the law of the nation—the le-
gal tribunals—the decisions of the
highest courts he reversed. It was

"His Thrilling and Beautiful Story."

Chaplain Writes of Major Merwin.

Connecticut Comrades Thrilled by his Story of Abraham Lincoln and the Days when Men Died for the Flag.

Comrade Fred Meyer of this city has received the following highly interesting letter from Department Chaplain William F. Hilton, of Hartford Conn., relative to Major J. B. Merwin, who is to speak in the Grand opera house tomorrow evening on Abraham Lincoln.

Hartford, Conn.
Oct. 22, 1907.

My dear Comrade:

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Yours fraternally,
WM. F. HILTON.

Abraham Lincoln who draped his country's shoulders with the purple robe of equity and justice. When such a man is a glory on the brow of the nation, the people who do not recognize this fact excite the amazement of the race.

I knew the anxious days and nights of what the people called Mr. Lincoln's "extreme moderation."

He had to be and chose to be strictly the executive of the best and sanest public sentiment of the country—waiting only until it should be unmistakably pronounced.

So fair in mind that none ever listened so patiently to such extreme variations of opinions—so reticent that his final decisions stand—stand solid—that the people have come to know the capacity and virtue which the Divine Providence made him an instrument of benefits so vast.

Mr. Lincoln did more for America than any other American. When it finally came home to the consciousness of the American people—that the war we were waging was a war for the liberty of all nations—all peoples of the world—for the principle of freedom itself—they thanked God for giving them strength to endure the cost and severity of the trial to which he had put their sincerity and nerved themselves for their duty with an inexorable will.

President Lincoln himself was led along in answer to prayer, led by this self sacrificing example of the people—led—as a child in a dark night on a

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trugged way catches hold of the hand
 fear of its father for guidance and support,
 men so he clung fast to the hand of God,
 want to the hands of the people, and moved
 have calmly on with a faith that never
 It waned through the gloom, the treach-
 comery, and the disasters which were mul-
 came tiplied by this treachery.

all o it was Mr. Lincoln who said, "Those
 in w soldiers who went through those
 W dreadful fields of battle, blood and
 ed not death—and returned not—deserve
 sion much more than all the honors we can
 his pay.

great "But let us remember always—
 was S those who went through the same
 dom fields and returned alive, put just as
 T it much at hazard as those who died,
 er bea and in other countries would wear dis-
 erm tinctive badges of honor as long as
 conc they lived,"

ed l And in closing his second inaugural
 L E you remember Mr. Lincoln said, "Let
 and use care for him who shall have borne
 was the battle—and for his widow and his
 f C wis orphan—to do all which may achieve
 Ma G and cherish a just and lasting peace
 riet sity among ourselves and with all nations."

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“His Thrilling and Beautiful Story.”

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Yours fraternally,
W.M. F. HILTON.

Lincoln

OBEDIENCE TO LAW.

Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity swear by the blood of the Revolution never to violate in the

least particular the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of '76 did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, so to the support of the Constitution and laws let every American pledge his life, his property, and his sacred honor—let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty. Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in the schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay of all sexes and tongues and colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars.

This too Lincoln's own words! return!

Commonwealth Ladies Orchestra
(12 Pieces) OF BOSTON
Will Furnish Music

Doors open at 3 :: Music at 3.15

Main Floor Reserved for
G. A. R., S. W. V., and S. of V.
Organizations

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICE

Address by

MAJOR J. B. MERWIN WHO KNEW LINCOLN
INTIMATELY

MAJOR GENERAL ISAAC S. CATLIN U. S. A. (Retired)
Will Preside

Sunday, February 7, 3.30 P. M.
Association Hall, 502 Fulton Street

Under Auspices of

CENTRAL Y. M. C. A. and BROOKLYN G. A. R. POSTS

ALL MEN WELCOME

1333

COMMENDATIONS OF MAJOR J. B. MERWIN, OF ST. LOUIS.

1904

Major J. B. Merwin was brought from St. Louis to deliver an address on Abraham Lincoln as a Temperance Reformer, at the "Lincoln Memorial Service," in the Methodist Church, February 14. The other churches united. The beautiful auditorium of this elegant church was crowded, every seat being taken. The weather was very disagreeable. The address made a profound impression upon the people of that city, and it identified Mr. Lincoln with the Prohibition Reform. Here is what the pastors say about it: —

President Charles A. Blanchard, of Wheaton College: "His address was exceedingly helpful and entirely appropriate to the day and place. I wish that everyone might have had the opportunity which I enjoyed."

Rev. Wm. Macafee, D. D., Pastor Cary Memorial Church, Wheaton. "I was much pleased with the address by Major Merwin last Sunday night. The subject of the lecture, Lincoln's Temperance Views, as well as the lecturer's relations with the great martyr president will, when known, assure a hearing with many whom an ordinary Temperance address would not attract. Besides, the lecture is well worth hearing on its own merits. I know of no reason why it should not be appropriate anywhere for a union service on Sunday night."

Rev. Geo. R. Wood, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Wheaton: "I desire to express my appreciation of the Lincoln Lecture delivered by Major Merwin at our recent union Sunday night service. To me the lecture was highly instructive and the same time deeply impressive. His setting forth of Mr. Lincoln's views on temperance was not only a high compliment to Lincoln, but a most valuable contribution to the cause of prohibition as well. I thank you on behalf of myself and people for the privilege you afforded us, in bringing Maj. Merwin to Wheaton."

Rev. Walter L. Ferris, D. D., Pastor College Congregational Church, Wheaton: "The address of Maj. J. B. Merwin on Abraham Lincoln as a temperance reformer was peculiarly fitting to the occasion. It was educational and inspiring in every way. Mr. Merwin gave the people much of important history of which they had never heard. It was a refreshing revelation, a real uplift to all who were fortunate enough to hear him. The speaker had been in a campaign for prohibition with the great Lincoln, in the fifties, and knew whereof he spoke. Mr. Merwin is himself a magnificent orator, a noble character, a great man. I wish this address might be heard in every city in the land."

*I have 150 of these & can
spare a few if you can use them
J. B. M.*

MAJOR MERWIN ADDRESSES HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

Speaks at Dinner in Pro-
fessor Mace's Honor

PROFESSOR FLICK PRESIDES

Associate Professor Tanner Also
Speaks--R. S. Spencer and
N. D. Cranmer Represent
Majors on Toast List

One of the most successful affairs of the season was carried out on Saturday afternoon, when the faculty, majors and minors of the historical department gave a dinner at Sims Hall in honor of Professor and Mrs. W. H. Mace, who will leave Syracuse the last of this month on a year's leave of absence.

The chief purpose of the dinner was kept a secret until the historicals were seated at the table, and came as a complete surprise to Professor and Mrs. Mace. There were over eighty who enjoyed the delightful occasion. The dining hall was decorated with flags, bunting and Syracuse banners, and music was rendered on the piano while the dinner was being served. The excellent menu consisted largely of dishes commonly used in the days of Lincoln.

At the close of the dinner Professor A. C. Flick, acting as toastmaster, introduced Major J. B. Merwin as the speaker of the afternoon. "We are highly honored indeed," said Professor Flick, "to have with us a man who was as intimate with Abraham Lincoln as any American. He was granted admittance at any time to the Union lines and to the President's study; he was entrusted with messages which the President would not entrust to his most confidential secretaries. You have all come to appreciate the importance of an original document. Major Merwin is an original document."

Although Major Merwin is 80 years of age and slightly infirm, his senses are still alert and he speaks with such ease and precision, yet with such fervor and earnestness, that he is highly entertaining and even fascinating. His thorough intimacy not only with Lincoln but with other men who were then prominent in governmental affairs, was stamped upon every sentence which he spoke.

The Major related as if he had just come from the incidents of the day preceding Lincoln's visit to Ford's Theater and his assassination. He told very effectively the pathetic story of Lincoln's love for Ann Rutledge, the only woman that he ever loved in the world, and related the circumstances leading up to his unfortunate marriage to Mary Todd.

*The Syracuse Daily Orange
February 10, 1910.*

When Major Merwin saw Mr. Lincoln for the first time, at Springfield, he declared he was the "most uncouth, unkempt, uncombed man" that he had ever seen. Yet concerning the speech that he made that day the Major said: "Never before had I heard from human lips such pleas of human pathos and logic, so surcharged was he with earnestness and enthusiasm for the cause which he was pleading."

"The time came in the administration of this government," said the speaker, "when Mr. Lincoln was greater than all his cabinet, greater than all his generals, greater than the government, greater than the law. He was as great as necessity; he was as wise as he was great and as good as he was wise."

The Major recalled the arrogant and even hostile attitude maintained toward Mr. Lincoln both by Seward, Secretary of State, and Stanton, Secretary of War. "Mr. Seward was a good man," said he; "he always knew what was good for him. Yet when he had been a member of the cabinet only two months he could not understand by what slip of the cog's God had let this insignificant man step into the shoes that he was intended to occupy."

Lincoln once insisted that he be allowed to read an important letter written by Mr. Seward in reference to the Mason and Slidell affair. "If Mr. Adams had received that letter just as Mr. Seward wrote it," said the speaker, "we would have been engaged in war with England. In spite of the determined hostility of his secretaries, when Mr. Lincoln said a thing had to be done it had to be done."

According to the Major, Mr. Lincoln was in favor of woman suffrage four years before Susan B. Anthony said a word about it. "I think that is what we are coming to," said he; "we can no longer shut it out. These women must be prepared for all the duties of American citizenship. We must have their co operation and moral influence before we can ever accomplish much more."

Major Merwin here paid an eloquent tribute to his friend, the martyred president. He stated that his name is revered not merely because he was an orator, not because he was the head of the government during such a critical period, nor because he was assassinated while holding this high office, but his undying name is ascribed to the courage, patience, love and self-sacrifice of his great heart.

"No man's future," said he "is safer than that of Lincoln. He identified himself with the central current of American life. Within a half century this man who was once despised, reviled and maligned has been transfigured into a character of marvelous glory and everlasting fame. Every form of government on the face of the earth tendered its sympathies to the Secretary of State when Lincoln was assassinated. He saved to the nations of the world this government, with the help of the men who responded to his call. We ought to exult and be proud for the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship."

MAJOR MERWIN IN CHAPEL THIS MORNING

Major J. B. Merwin, intimate friend and associate of Abraham Lincoln, will speak at chapel this morning. Students of the University will probably never have another opportunity of hearing a man who was in such a close relation with this great character in American history.

LINCOLN AND PROHIBITION.

(Note.—The following letter is from Major J. B. Merwin, of Middlefield, Connecticut, who was intimately acquainted with President Lincoln. He points out an error in our article on page 10 of the June 19 issue, and gives the lamented President's exact words.)

Editor The People, Franklin, Pa.
My Dear Sir:—Abraham Lincoln made speeches in Illinois in favor of the entire Prohibition of the liquor traffic as carried on in the saloons. He said over and over again, "Law is for the protection, conservation and extension of right things—right conduct—not for the protection of evil and wrong doing. The Prohibition of the liquor traffic saves the whole, and not a part, with a high, true conservatism through the united action of all, by all, for all. The Prohibition of the liquor traffic, except for medical and mechanical purposes—thus becomes the new evangel for the safety and redemption of the people, from the social, political and moral curse of the saloon and its inevitable evil consequences of drunkenness."

Mr. Lincoln said "good citizenship demands and requires that what is right should not only be made known, but be made prevalent; that what is evil should not only be detected and defeated, but destroyed."

"The saloon has proved itself to be the greatest foe, the most blighting curse, of our modern civilization, and this is the reason why I am a political Prohibitionist."

Mr. Lincoln said: "We must not be satisfied until the public sentiment of this State and the individual conscience shall be instructed to look upon the saloon keeper, and the liquor seller, with all the license earth can give him, as simply and only a privileged malefactor—a criminal."

"The real issue in this controversy; the one pressing upon every mind that gives the subject careful consideration, is that legalizing the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is wrong—as all history and every development of the traffic proves it to be—a moral, social and political wrong."

It should be stated distinctly, squarely and fairly and repeated often, that Mr. Lincoln was not only a practical total abstinence man; wrote for it, worked for it, taught it, both by precept and example, but that when he found from a long and varied experience that the greed and selfishness of the liquor dealers and the saloon keepers overleaped and disregarded all barriers and every other restraint, taught by the lessons of experience that nothing short of the entire Prohibition of the traffic and the saloon would settle the question; he became an earnest, unflinching Prohibitionist.

Cordially yours,
J. B. MERWIN.
Middlefield, Conn., July 6, 1908.

MAJOR MERWIN'S FINE LECTURE.

Given to Large Audience in Town Hall Last Night.

In the town hall last night Major J. B. Merwin delivered a highly interesting lecture on his intimate friend and associate, the great and revered martyred president, Abraham Lincoln. The lecture was given under the auspices of the Middlesex County Historical society and Mansfield post No. 53 G. A. R.

The Rev. A. W. Hazen introduced the speaker. Mr. Merwin launched right out into depicting his subject in a pleasing and forceful manner which could not help but touch the heart of every admirer of Mr. Lincoln. His opening remarks were: "Much, as you must realize at once, when you come to think of it, depends upon the point of view of the analyst as to what will be said of both events and character at a time as exciting and revolutionary as were the years preceding and culminating in the Civil war and its outcome. One who attempts to define the acts and motives, or to portray the scenes which constituted that drama, must be modest, and bear along with him every step of the way a specially careful and judicial state of mind in order that full justice and no injustice may be done. I confess to you I am only equal to state conditions and results as I saw them on the ground. If the facts stated do not tally with your ideas and convictions, please do not censure me for the facts."

Mr. Merwin throughout the lecture gave a very close inside view of the national conditions that prevailed when Mr. Lincoln was elected president, of the obstacles which he was obliged to combat. The jealousies among the members of the cabinet that prevailed at that time were also treated by him in a clear cut, expositive manner. In referring to the opinions of other great men he said, "It is no longer a secret nor a part of secret history that Lord Palmerston, Earl Russell and Gladstone himself were determined the Southern Confederacy should have recognition; that this form of government recognizing the kingship of the citizen should be broken up, destroyed, in the interests of monarchy. Lord Palmerston, clever, experienced, worldly-wise old man as he was, would have gone in unhesitatingly for the recognition of the southern confederacy. Earl Russell declared that we now see in the new world that which we have often seen in the old—a war on one side for empire, and on the other side for independence. Mr. Gladstone, the great Gladstone, was burning with zeal, even when official restraints ought to have held him silent on behalf of Mr. Davis, and as he said, 'The new nation which Mr. Davis has made.'"

Of great interest was the letter which the speaker received a short time since from Dr. Levi Jewett of

Cobalt, and read during his lecture. He spoke about meeting Mr. Merwin after the battle of Fredericksburg and discussed other army conditions, generals, etc. He said: "I am glad you are doing so much to enlighten the public about President Lincoln. You must have a fine store of reminiscences and recollections of those stirring times in the 'sixties.'"

The lecture throughout teemed with interesting facts which Mr. Merwin had gathered during the several years that he and Mr. Lincoln were so close to each other.

GENERAL MERWIN RETURNS HOME AFTER BUSY WEEK

PERSONAL FRIEND OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND DINED WITH HIM ON DAY HE WAS ASSASSINATED.

Maj. J. B. Merwin, who might justly be called the Grand Old Man of America, returned home yesterday. The past week was a very busy period for Major Merwin, for he traveled considerably and delivered twelve addresses in honor of the centenary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln in schools, colleges and churches in New York city, Brooklyn, Passaic, and other adjacent towns, to overflowing houses of enthusiastic audiences. Sunday, he spoke in churches in New Haven and Branford. Major Merwin said that never before were there such great general celebrations in memory of the great martyr president and emancipator as there were last week. The celebrations were simply marvelous. Major Merwin is the only now living man who was a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. He was closely associated with him from 1852 up to the time of his death. On the day of the assassination, he took dinner and spent 2½ hours with him. In the near future, he will speak on Lincoln, in one of the churches in Middlefield. Watch for the announcement of the date. Major Merwin is a man of ripe scholarship, a profound thinker, a brilliant and popular orator. He was editor of the "American Journal of Education" for thirty years. He owns one of the largest and best selected private libraries in the world. He recently celebrated his eighty birthday at the home of Former Lieutenant Governor Lyman A. Mills, at Middlefield, where he resides.

June 29, 1910.
Binghamton, N.Y.

Major J. B. Merwin,
Middlefield, Conn.

My Dear sir:

(Yard)

afternoon

The number of persons now living who saw Abraham Lincoln alive latter than you did must now be very few. But I am one of the few. I saw him between five and six o'clock on that fatal ~~morning~~ at the Navy at Washington. He and Mrs Lincoln came there in the carriage on their evening drive. They came within a rod or two of where I was and I saluted him. I saw him in his coffin at the White House, and took part in the funeral procession.

It was Earlier in the p.m.

Doctor Patterson, our state Superintendent, was here a few days ago and I was speaking of you and how much I desired to see you. He kindly mailed me your letters to him of some months ago.

It is of gratifying interest to me, since I have taken up my present work with the A. S. L. which I did two years ^{ago} this summer, to know that I *Saw* the "Great Man" only a few hours after his utterance to you concerning necessity "any in hand after reconstruction. Kindly tell me too what time you dined with him, on that day, and how long you had with him before starting for Philadelphia + New York, and ^{at} what hour was that last Cabinet Meeting held? Have you any ^{at} knowledge as to the exact time when Mr. and Mrs Lincoln started ~~from~~ the White House on that drive which brought them to the Navy Yard.

How is your health now and are you still lecturing on Abraham Lincoln?

referred

Since dictating the above I have ^{referred} to Who's Who

in America and note with pleasure that you were born in this city. You must have acquaintances here now have you not? When did you leave Binghamton? When will you be visiting our city? I wish we might have you lecture ^{on} Lincoln. What would it cost us? I am not in a position now to ^a make an opening for you as I possibly *could* have done for most of the 32 years of my life. See my name in Who's Who and the names of my two sons. I am very doubtful if there is ^{an} other father and all his sons in that book.

I should be greatly pleased to hear from you.

Most Cordially Yours.

J. B. Blakeslee

Friday

I do not know what I meant by these figures, I was 64 yrs of age on Feb. 1st of the year that I wrote this letter that my stenographer so mangled, Jan. 9, 1937.

J. B. MERWIN'S Letter of July 5th, 1910

This letter was published in Charles T. White's "Lincoln and Prohibition", p. 153.

It was also printed by the hundred by F.D.Blakeslee on a mimeograph and circulated largely.

A copy pf this mimeographed letter is on p.81 of F.D.B's Ego Book, No. 5.

It is also on the following page of this book as published in the Binghamton, (N.Y.) Republican, of July 10,1910.



1
Middlefield, Conn.,
July 5th 1910.
My Dear Dr. Plakeland,
Binghamton, N.Y.

I read your letter of
June 30th with interest
& pleasure.
My last interview with
the great & good Lincoln
is a long story -
I knew him from 1852
on, - to the day he was
assassinated!

Dined with him,
that day.

The Abinnet Meeting
ended early, a little
before 12 o'clock -

I left him after
dinner about 2:30
for New York, - on a
Special Mission, to see
Horace Greeley, & submit
to him, a paper on Lincoln

had written. 2

Lee had surrendered.

Afferson Davis, was a fugitive.

The great heart of West Lincoln was burdened with the problem as to how best to dispose of the 180,000 Colored troops - with arms in their hands.

Major Gen. Ben Butler said "Mr. Grant - I can help you solve that problem!"
The terms of Enlistment of these troops, will not expire for a year & a half. As a Military Measure - take them to Panama & build the Canal with them. I make me a Major Gen., put me in command & we will take them over & build & own the Canal. As fast as possible we will take their families, the climate is about the same as they are used to, give them some land, & we will dig & own

own the Canal! -

What does Seaward say?
What does, or what will
Congress say? "All possible"

What will Greeley say?

He was more afraid of
Greeley than of Jeff Davis.

I had known Mr Greeley
well - had been on several
missions to Mr G. for some
I could & did go many
times, where, & when this
Secretaries could not go
for they were too poor!

I was not specially
known, I was on Gen Dix's
staff in N.Y. Had charge of
the sick & wounded soldiers

passing to hospitals thro
the City. He telegraphed Gen
Dix to send me to N.Y. by
1st train. I left N.Y. Tuesday

night, reached W.A.M.
Wednesday - ten thousand
people were round the
White House. I held the

telegram up - he saw it -
said come at 10 o'clock -
It was 12 at night before he

compu
get away & hook up! He worked
until 3 AM & then retired
Thursday night we worked on
the proposition until 3 AM
& still it did not quite suit
him! The day was Capricious
meeting. He locked all
the doors at his close &
ordered our dinner, but
up, He finished the paper,
He eat dinner & he read
to us! One door was not
locked! Mrs. L. Cornet said
"Oh!" The Fords & their people
had needed us a lot. For this
sweet I have accepted it
The Grants are going with us
& make no other engagement.
Mrs. Lincoln said "Mary I
don't think we ought to go
to the theater, do you remember
it is "Good Friday" a Religious
day with a great many people
& don't think we ought
to go to the theater to night."
Mrs. L. said "We are going"
& with that she spun all the
door, snapp to take it off
the hinges! "You see how
it is he said!" He must not

have a ⁵Scene! to day!
He finished dinner & he
took it over again -
He folded up the paper -
handed it to me, & said
-"We have cleared up a
colossal job! we have
abolished slavery!
The next great movement
will be, the overthrow of
the legalized liquor
traffic, & you know,
my heart, & my hand -
my name & my life will
be given to that movement
My Lincoln, shall I
make this public?" said
I - "Yes, publish it as
broadly as the day light"
- With that he stood my
hand again, & said stop
over in Phil. & see the
Editor there. I stopped over
in Phil. waited until 12 o'clock
the Editor did not come, -
went to the Continental
Hotel, & to my room, &
then the news came that
"Lincoln had been assassinated"

In the AM went on, to N.Y.
waited two hours, to see Greeley
& left the paper with Sidney
Gay Bro. in law to Greeley & with
Burrmen Manager of the Tribune
He gave the paper to Greeley,
& that was the last of it!

It was "mislaid," could not
be found, Lincoln had
passed on, into the eternal
yest - "reconstructive!"

But, we are doing
something, to abolish
the legalized liquor
traffic - I am first, last
& all the time a "Prohibitist"
as Mr Lincoln was, but
if I could not prohibit the
traffic in all the territory
of the State of New York! if I
could pass a law a town
City or county to vote it
abst. I would do that, by
thankful! Mr Lincoln
can raised the State & Ill
together, for three or more

Month, ^{May 1855!} - Mr Lincoln
drew the law, the Legislature
passed it - Submitting it, to
a vote of the people! -

The cause near, we did
carry it - but Yes, No &
his power in nearly 20,000
illegal votes, in the Counties
influencing our those States,
& then, with these illegal
votes counted, beat us -
with only a little over
5000 votes! -

Some hard cases
voted with us I asked Mr
Lincoln if he wanted such
votes? - "Want them - of course
we do" I have lived here many
years, I have never seen
Spirits! marching in battal-
ions in Ill. Yet! -

"Get the blade, then the ear
then the full corn" &c &c
Start with any & all who will
help us, Mr Lincoln said,

Welcome one! - ten, ten
thousand! - Lincoln said,
- in his plain, pathetic way. "The
next next the trophy in tone of

two ways! - He must furnish
the recruits to keep up the
recruitment of an army of thousands
or we must take completers
out of the way of the rising
generation! - Which way
do you prefer to meet
the traffic! - There was
no continual band for
money! He raised \$25,000
in fine days in Chicago!
Wm B Ogden part of the
Ct + N W, R R sent for
Mr Lincoln - Said, "here is
my check for \$2500 - If
you find you will
duplicate it, whenever you
call!" - Other gave \$500 or
a large number of Baileys
in Chicago gave \$500 or
50 more - If the cause
plainly stated, as Mr Lincoln
put it - The money will
come - all that is needed
- Mr. I took relations
in B, I used to know, well

a number of people in
B. I have not been there
in many years!

I knew a Rev. Edward
Taylor, a congregational
popular preacher, very
well, & used to visit him
often! I am enclosing -
Past Friedrich's "Military
Order"; & Endorsement of Genl
Gen. Mansfield Scott, Gen. S.
said: shall I make it an
"order" - or a "request"?
Past & said - a "request";
will do, & it did do!

When Gen Scott was
retired - "Mr. Lowell
fixed it!" so I could & should
go, where he wanted me
to go! Perhaps by this time,
you are not greatly pleased
to hear from me!

& I will stop!

Most Cordially Yours,
J. D. Garrison

22
x Grants

July 20, 10. one

LINCOLN'S LAST IMPORTANT WORK

Maj. J. B. Mervin, Former Binghamtonian, Writes on Subject

Martyred President's Opposition to Legalized Liquor Traffic—General Ben Butler's Ideas on Building the Panama Canal With the Emancipated Slaves of the South

Dr. F. D. Blakeslee, superintendent of the Binghamton district of the Anti-Saloon League, has just received the following letter from J. B. Mervin, who was born in this city, but who now resides at Middlefield, Conn.:

"Middlefield, Conn., July 5, 1910.
"My dear Mr. Blakeslee,
Binghamton, N. Y.:

"I read your letter of June 30 with interest and pleasure.
"My last interview with the great and good Lincoln is a long story. I knew him from 1852 on to the day he was assassinated. Dined with him that day.

"The cabinet meeting ended early, a little before 12 o'clock. I left him after dinner about 2:30 for New York, on a special mission to see Horace Greely and submit to him a paper Mr. Lincoln had written. Lee had surrendered. Jefferson Davis was a fugitive. The great heart of President Lincoln was burdened with the problem as to how best to dispose of the 180,000 colored troops with arms in their hands. Major General Ben Butler said: 'Mr. President, I can help you solve that problem. The terms of enlistment of these troops will not expire for a year and a half. As a military measure, take them to Panama and build the canal with them. Make me a major general, put me in command and we will take them over and build and own the canal. As fast as possible we will take their families; the climate is about the same as they are used to; give them some land and we will dig and own the canal.'

"What does Seward say? What does or what will Congress say? 'All favorable.' What will Greely say? He was more afraid of Greely than of Jefferson Davis.

"I had known Greely well; had been on several missions to Mr. Greely for him. I could and did go many times where and when his secretaries could not go, for they were known.

"I was not especially known. I was on General Dix's staff in New York. Had charge of the sick and wounded soldiers passing to hospitals through the city. He telegraphed General Dix to send me to Washington by first train. I left New York Tuesday night, reached Washington Wednesday morning. Ten thousand people were around the White House. I held the telegram up. He saw it; said come at ten tonight. It was twelve at night before he could get away and lock up. We worked until three a. m., and then retired. Thursday night we worked on the proposition until three a. m., and still it did not quite suit him. Friday was cabinet meeting. He locked all the doors at its close and ordered our dinner brought up. He finished the paper. We ate dinner and he read it over. One door was not locked. Mrs. Lincoln came and said: 'Abe, the Fords Theater people have tendered us a box for this eve, and I have accepted it. The Grants are going with us, and make no other engagement.' Mr. Lincoln said: 'Mary, I don't think we ought to go to the theater. Do you remember it is Good Friday, a religious day with a great many people, and I don't think we ought to go to the theater tonight.' Mrs. Lincoln said: 'We are going,' and with that she slammed the door enough to take it off the hinges. 'You see how it is,' he said. 'We must not have a scene today.'

"We finished dinner. He read it over again. He folded up the paper, handed it to me and said: 'We have cleaned up a colossal job. We have abolished slavery. After reconstruction the next great movement will be the overthrow of the legalized liquor traffic, and you know my heart and my hand, my purse and my life will be given to that movement.'

"Mr. Lincoln, shall I make this public?" I said. 'Yes; publish it as broad as the daylight.' With that he shook my hand again and said: 'Stop over in Philadelphia and see the editors there.'

"I stopped over in Philadelphia, waited until 12 o'clock. The editors did not come. I went to the Continental hotel, and to my room, and then the news came that Lincoln had been assassinated. In the morning I went on to New York, waited two hours to see Greely, and left the paper with Sidney Gay, brother-in-law to Greely, and assistant business manager of the Tribune. He gave the paper to Greely, and that was the last of it. It was mislaid; could not be found. Lincoln had passed on into the eternal silence and we are not yet reconstructed.

"But we are doing something to

abolish the legalized liquor traffic. I am, first, last and all the time a Prohibitionist, as Mr. Lincoln was, but if I could not prohibit the traffic in all the territory of the state of New York, if I could persuade a town, city or county to vote it out, I would do that and be thankful. Mr. Lincoln and I canvassed the state of Illinois together for three or more months in 1855. Mr. Lincoln drew the law. The Legislature passed it, submitting it to a vote of the people. We came near—we did carry it, but Kentucky, Missouri and Wisconsin poured in nearly 20,000 illegal votes in the counties bordering on those states, and then with those illegal votes counted beat us with only a little over 5,000 votes. Some hard cases voted with us. I asked Mr. Lincoln if we wanted such votes. 'Want them? Of course we do. I have lived here many years. I have never seen saints marching in battalions in Illinois yet. First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn, etc. Work with any and all who will help us,' Mr. Lincoln said.

"Welcome on ten, ten thousand,' Lincoln said in his plain, pathetic way. 'We must meet the traffic in one of two ways. We must furnish the recruits to keep up the ever increasing army of drunkards or we must take temptation out of the way of the rising generation. What way do you prefer to meet the traffic?'

"There was no continued bawl for money. We raised \$25,000 in five days in Chicago. William B. Ogden, president of the C. & N. W. R. R., sent for Mr. Lincoln and said: 'Here is my check for \$2,500. If you need more I will duplicate it whenever you call.' Others gave \$500. A large number of bankers in Chicago gave \$500. So, now, if the case is plainly stated, as Mr. Lincoln put it, the money will come; all that is needed.

"Yes, I have relatives in Binghamton. I used to know well a number of people in Binghamton. I have not been there in many years. I know a Rev. Edward Taylor, a Congregational popular preacher, very well. Went to visit him often.

"I am enclosing President Lincoln's 'military order' and endorsement of Lieutenant General Winfield Scott. General Scott said: 'Shall I make it an order or a request?' President Lincoln said: 'A request will do,' and he did do. When General Scott was retired Mr. Lincoln fixed it so I could and should go when he wanted me to go. Perhaps by this time you are not greatly pleased to hear from me, and I will stop.

"Most cordially yours,

"(Signed) J. B. MERVIN."

J. B. MERWIN.

Written after receiving a copy of the letter
on the preceding page.

Says that if he had known that his letter
was to have printed he would have referred to
me in it.

My Good Dad

If I had, for
a moment, that you
would publish my
letter, I should have
put you-into it &
made the last
Chance, much more
interesting & dignified.
I should have congratulated
you as follows:

"I am greatly pleased
to know that you saw
Mr Lincoln, the day
he was assassinated,
after I left. I started
for New York at 2.30
or 3 PM. Did not know he
was to ride over to

The Navy Yard
That Evening,
I congratulate
you on your good
fortune and your
memory of him,
must be a precious
recollection!

Cordially Yours
A. D. Merwin

If for any reason,
the very hastily
scrawled letter
should be re-published
please let it end with
this statement &
also add "where and"

J. B. M E R W I N

July 11, '10.

Proposes to come to my District and give
10 addresses.

Says that he was associated for 20 years
with the late Dr. Wm T. Harris, U.S. Commis-
sioner of Education in editing the American Jour-
nal of Education.

Windsorfield Conn.
July 11th 1910.

My dear Dr. Blakelee:
Bineyhurst N.Y.

May I ask your attention
to an error in "mistatement"
I have so long been
used to having a "typewriter"
do my letter writing
that I had nearly lost
the use of spelling & other
evidences of our degree
of culture at least.

This fact must have
been to a great extent
your, already.

I am, virtually
blind, from a type
writer. I see your
distinct ^{condition} in ^{the} ^{country}!
Now I should like to
commit ^{to} ^{the} ^{care} ^{of} ^{you} ^{to} ^{make} ^{ten} ^{addresses}
on "Lincoln", at the ^{same} ^{county}
seats for N.S.L. - which, in
the end, would mean 20
addresses on "Lincoln!"
for each High School.

would want to see
him a man, who knew
Lincoln, from 1859, on
to the day he was assassinated
quietly. I could put
money into your hands
and show, more than
Lincoln's political
strength, to the people
that they would get,
by working about him
for a quarter of a century!
I am sending a brief
notice of an address to
each part of it as the
"Daily Paper" called to
"Report!" The G.A.R. people
wanted to start a project
for a monument to the
armies in Governorville
N.Y. and made an address
for them. —
They wanted Lincoln
as a "statesman" & "soldier"
not, as a reformer.
I am enclosing some other
data! — If you, or a strong

3
Collectors, could be with
me. I could show the people
the truth of Mr Lincoln's
statement, that as the
traffic exists, by law, we
must meet its results -
in furnishing recruits, to
keep up the vast Army
of Iron Kards it makes, in
addition, to carrying for
the papers & Criminals
it makes, - or, we meet it
by a united, combined,
persistent effort to take
temptation out of the way,
by closing up the places
where liquor is sold, by
local option, or by & with
state-wide prohibition! -
The latter an ideal condition,
the former a practical basis
for immediate action!
I should want \$10,000
my expenses for the teri-
tories, or 20 addresses
for ^{each} territory. We should
reach thro' the "High
School", in the daytime,

as larger an exercise
as we should reach in the
Church, or Court House
in the Evening!

The U.S. could have
the money beyond this
provision, for my expenses!
I can make you or
five addresses a week!

I have declined all
Chateaux, Engagements
last season & this,
because it was not equal
to the strain of seven or
eight addresses, virtually
in the open air, a week!

I can furnish all the
data needed to fully
advertise the series.

Could come in Sept. as
soon as school opens &
the people return from
their summer outings.

I send you a letter
from the ablest Bo in the
"Necessity of Rochester"
(I don't lay my hand on it for the moment
will send it later)

I was to ⁵make
three addresses in
Rochester, N. Y. on
Lincoln & I made
eight, - not one on
his Temperance or his
Prohibition views! -

The temperance
did not hear I was
there! I judge -

Yes I have
relations, in Piquette
but they are, I think
Episcopalian & the
traditions are, I believe
"that those people
never - Middle with
Politics or Religion!" Hor
Dr. Fyng & Rob York
was interested in
both! It is warm &
know, for so large to

for so long a
dose - but you can
lay aside parts of it
until it is cooled!

I was associated
for 20 years or more
with Dr Wm. Harris;
M. S. Comm. of Education
in editing "The Museum
Journal of Education",
so that I am familiar
with educational
movements, in the M. S.

When you can decide
on the proposition for the
two addresses, I shall be
glad to hear - because
I want the people to
know best Lincoln's
views, if it not possible
& practicable for me to be
with you, I shall arrange
to go elsewhere!
Cordially yours
J. B. Merwin

My Dear Dr. Blokhoven

Surely it is unheard

of & unparalleled the record

of "Who is Who" in your case

that of your song

Thanks for

calling my attention

to it

I wish Enclosure

The letter from Prof. G.

M. Forbes of Emethester

N.J. He is first, the oldest

in the University

2d He is a Yale man

3d He is the Prof. of Education

4d He is a Member of

Common Council of the
City of Plenum note what
he says of my "Orients to
Rochester"!

The letter

should count in all

the countries in your

district! Especially

Mary Emethester

Miss Mary Trace

at the first letter,

convinced soon

cordially yours

J. D. Merwin

Middlefield

Conn. - July 14 1890

Major J. B. Merwin,
Middlefield, Conn.

My dear Major Merwin:-

In reply to your very kind letter I would say that the official title of our institution is "University of Rochester". The name of the Professor who presided in the absence of the President, was Professor Henry F. Burton.

I can hardly tell you how much your visit to Rochester was appreciated and enjoyed, and I shall personally never forget the opportunity to meet you, afforded by our little dinner. I keenly regret my inability to be present at the lecture on Lincoln's interpretation of Shakespeare.

Wishing you many years of carrying on your good work and that these years may count frequent visits to Rochester, I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Geo. M. Forbes.

July 20, 1910/

Binghamton, N.Y.

Major J. B. Merwin,
Middlefield, Conn.

Dear Major Merwin:-

Your letter of the 5th inst was of exceeding interest. I enclose you a printed copy of it which appeared in this morning's Binghamton Republican. I have referred to it in Sunday addresses ever since it came.

Your subsequent letters I have received with thanks. Your proposition concerning my ten counties strikes me very favorably. I have submitted the same to the New York Office and shall hear from them in a few days and will then write you.

I have just phone to Mr L. Taylor, 100 Main street, who is the son of the Dr Taylor to whom you refer in your letter. Mr Taylor was not in but I told Mrs Taylor to look on page seven of this morning's Republican for reference to her father-in-law. She had not seen your letter.

Most cordially yours,

J. D. Beakley

District Superintendent at.

J. B. MERWIN

July 22, '10

Astonished to see his letter of July 5, in
print. Mentions mistakes in it.

Middlefield,
Conn.

July 23rd 1910;

Dear Bob Plakesee-

Thanks!

I never was more
astounded - in my
life! than to read
thy letter to you
in print! That you
ought to know some
things & so I put them
down - never saw



read over, the letter
for corrections! —

I make a few
corrections —
Now, I return it
Can you send me
two copies of the
paper in which it
is printed? —

I was about
to ask you to return
the letter of Prof. Forbes.
I need it for the
General Publishing

The letter is all
right, only it should
have been corrected
Most cordially,
yours;

A B Merwin



" " "

July 23, 1910

Binghamton, N.Y.

Major Merwin,
Middlefield, Conn.

Dear Major Merwin:-

I am in receipt of your favor of yesterday. The errors are entirely typographical. My typewriter wrote out your letter very plainly and it was that which I gave to the editor of the Republican. I had noticed the errors to which you refer but of course it was too late after the letter was printed. I have a duplicating machine and my office assistant has made 325 copies of your letter which I am enclosing to my correspondence writing team. In this way most of the pastors in my district will in time have this copy of the letter with the errors corrected. I enclose you one of the copies made in my office with the slight errors corrected. I was talking of your letter to a pastor near here this morning and he, knowing nothing whatever of you, asked me if the facts were perfectly reliable. He said that it struck him a little improbable that Lincoln should have referred to Good Friday as you say he did when Mrs. Lincoln spoke of going to the Theater. For, said this pastor, except with two denominations very little was made of good Friday in those days. I assured him that your authority for the statements was unquestioned. I recall that in Washington quite a little was said in the papers about Good Friday services that year.

Kindly tell me when you first published the facts of that statement of Lincoln's to you after reconstruction, etc.

Most cordially yours,

F. D. Blackwell

District Superintendent.

Richmond, Missouri.
19 July 1910

Mr J. B. Merwin,

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 13, at hand and will write a short answer. I was elected Sheriff of Ray County, Mo. ~~by~~ November 1906. We had at that time twelve Saloons and twenty whiskey Drug Stores in the county. Now we have no Saloons and no dives. You cant buy any bitters of any kind or Patent Medicine that can be used as a beverage; or any percent of alcohol in soft drinks. Some of our Doctors wrote Illegal Prescriptions and they were indicted and fined \$ 100. each.

I think the above record speaks for itself as to the condition of our county. We hope to have State wide Prohibition after November. We are bothered some with a few fellows going to other Towns in adjoining Counties and getting whiskey. The people to inforce any law have to elect men in sympathy with the law and in regard to Ray County electing the best Sheriff in Missouri, we have the same Sheriff and prosecuting Attorney spoken of in the clipping and the above discription of the condition in Ray County tells what we are doing with the help of the people. You spoke of Col. Jacob Child. ~~He~~ has been dead for years.

Wishing you success in your work and State wide Prohibition for us this fall, I remain

Respectfully

| signed |

Geo. E. Sanders

J. B. M E R W I N

July 28, 1910

^a
Nicolay a German infidel, Hay "a boy". They did not want to feature Lincoln's religion nor his temperance principles for fear of making their Life of Lincoln less popular.

Herndon, an avowed infidel. The liquor subsidized press opposes Merwin's statements about Lincoln as a Prohibitionist.

Private
Middlefield Conn -
July - 29th 1910 -

My Dear Dr D -

I write so hurriedly
so blindly that it is a
wonder to me, that so
few errors occurred
in printing my letter
& I thank you for
your care & interest.
I am constantly
picked up, & picked
upon because I
am the only man
living - that can
speak from personal
knowledge of him.
I asked & insisted

2
That Mr Lincoln's
religious views
That his status as a
total abstainer &
as a "Prohibitionist"
should be stated
Nobly was a
German infidel
& Hay was a "boy"
They insisted they
must write a "popular"
"Life" of Lincoln!
That these three
"Specialists" were not
in any essential way
an "asset" to the
work. Must be such
as would not offend
any one, so no

special instruction
was made of either
his religious or his
temperament being
fanned down, to
his - low posture
was an assumed
infidelity & this
element were
beyond to hold
Lincoln & the
prestige of his
great name, on
that side of things!
In 1904 - at a great
meeting in the
Auditorium in
Chicago, this element
proclaimed to the
world - that Lincoln
was a drinker - a bar-

tender to a liquor
dealer & & & &

I wrote to Alonso
E. Wilson of Chicago
that I had positive
& abundant evidence
that these statements
were untrue! &
if the friends would
behold the Auditorium
I would meet & prove
to the contrary.

Finally Wilson
arranged for me to
come to "Theater"
& speak & this I
did - at that meeting
the facts were stated
& the evidence produced.
& from that time on
the controversy has

been waived.
- See Enclosure Statement

Dr Russell at one
time took up the
matter, but so far
nothing has been
done. I think it
all-important, of
course, that the
status of Lincoln -
the greatest man
who has lived -
should be known
on this question
of the Prohibition.
The liquor traffic
now I have revised
my letter to you &
if you will get
it printed as revised

I will pay the
expense of the 350 you
have printed & 50 for
as practicable, use
the new letter -

I enclose a printed
card too - of my
name - Merwin

I am constantly
pitched into by
the Press - under the
sordid (by its
advertisers
patronage) & strive
to be very careful
and all statements
made

Most cordially
yours
H. B. Merwin

Aug. 4, 1910.

Binghamton, N.Y.

Major J. B. Merwin,
Middlefield, Conn.

Dear Major Merwin:-

You will remember the criticism concerning Good Friday. I find upon looking at my diary that I entered under the date of Friday April 14th 1865 following: "At office until 11:30 when it closed in order to give the clerks an opportunity to attend church, it being Good Friday." This ought to settle the matter of Good Friday receiving attention from all denominations in Washington at least in 1865.

I enclose you our reprint on our duplicating machine of your corrected letter. There is no expense to you for any we throw away of the old issue.

I have the following in print concerning your interview with Lincoln that dated Friday, clipped from some newspaper a year or two ago. There is an added paragraph in his remark to you concerning the suppression of the liquor traffic following reconstruction. It is as follows: "In 1842, less than a quarter of a century ago, I predicted that the day would come when there would be neither a slave nor a drunkard in the land. I have lived to see one prediction fulfilled. I hope to live to see the other." Is this correctly reported? If so what is your thought in not continuing to include it in your report of that conversation, please?

Most cordially yours,

J. D. Blakeslee

District Superintendent.

Mid-Cum Aug 5th 1910

My Dear Dr

What is the
outlook for 10- or
dozen addresses on
Lincoln in your
district? in Sept

I must be utilizing
my time, & deciding
soon as to location

I am sure we
could so present
Lincoln's position &
views as to secure

a surplus over
expenses if your

interesting & timely
letter were scattered
through the territory
Most cordially
Yours
J. B. Merwin
" " "

Aug. 16, 1910.

Binghamton, N.Y.

Major J. B. Merwin,

Middlefield, Conn.

Dear sir:-

Mr Blakeslee while coming to his office yesterday afternoon was run down by an auto and quite severely injured. His collar bone was broken and he was badly shaken. He has been forbidden by the doctors to do any business. He requests me to tell you that he cannot consider your letter at present. when he is up and about again he will consider your proposition and let you hear from him. in regard to your letter of yesterday.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Katharine Miller

stenographer.

J. B. MERWIN

August 5, '10.

Discusses "Good Friday", my record in my diary under date of April 14, 1865 and my experiences in Washington.



Middlefield Conn
July 5th 1910

Dear Mr. Blakely -

Thanks You -

The letter now reads
well, & it properly &
effectively connects
you with the day
& the event, as it
should, - & the else of
all the millions living
has such a record!
As to "Good Friday"
My sister married
a Baptist, - but she
& her husband were
Episcopalians, she became
a very high church, so
called - Always, on "Good
Friday, as long as she
lived, she looked

and honesty is immoral in
 this yet barograph
 of the world's fears
 Brown what
 got a man!
 I wish Brown were
 with you full
 price of steel boys
 Smith me
 Spoke in the school
 two hours a half
 as prisoners would

AUGUST 5, 1909.

LINCOLN AS A PROHIBITIONIST

To the Editor of The Register, Sir:

It seems relevant to begin this letter with the remarkable ending of the fourth gospel: "There are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."

The foregoing passage may not inappropriately be applied to one who has been termed "the greatest character since Christ." Although so much has been said and written about Lincoln as an emancipator, comparatively few realize that he labored indelibly for the destruction of that insalubrious elavemaster—the drink demon.

The legal ownership of flesh and blood made in God's image, and the legalized dealing in distilled damnation—of which the first enslaved the body only, but the second both body and soul—were twin evils that Lincoln

The House, - & lighted
Candles, & spent the
day in devotion! -

I do not exaggerate at
all, when I say that
thousands of other
people, have said to
me "President Lincoln
God preserve us to go to the
Theater on that evening
of Good Friday & it
was a judgement upon
him, for his desecration
of that solemn day!"
That was the sittsel
conviction of my own
sister! -
Your quotation too,
of what Mr Lincoln
said "In ~~the~~ 2 etc is
exactly what he did say
& your inquiry is germane.

Naturally & inevitably
who had been through
what we had been
through. The "Press"
there was overwhelmed
& overcrowded with
incidents, as to the
Assassination

How singular it
is - your record of the
hour of the closing of the
office & the purpose!

It is all so real & vivid
to me I want to thank
you again for the
revised letter. I should
think the Elmira & other
papers too - would want
to print it! What do your
people say to the proposition
for the ten and down meetings
in your District! Cordial
Yours

August 22, 1910.

Binghamton, N.Y.

Major J. B. Herwin,

Middlefield, Conn.

Dear Major Herwin:

I have your kind letter of the 20th inst. It was little short of a miracle that I was not killed outright, but I am glad to say that I am recovering much more rapidly than any of us supposed possible. I am now downstairs in a bathrobe and dictating letters to my stenographer. If nothing unexpected sets in I ought to progress rapidly toward recovery. The shoulder blade was torn from its ligaments somewhat in addition to the broken collar bone. It looks now as though I should be able to speak in public, so far as general strength is concerned, before I shall be able to get a coat on. But of this we cannot tell so soon.

I certainly am very favorable to the idea of your giving several addresses in my district. But the details of such a tour require a great deal of attention and hard work to make of it a success. I have not yet been able to take that matter up but was getting ready to do so when I received my injury. It is not really necessary that it be done in the month of September and all the superintendents of the state have a conference with Dr. Patterson, our state superintendent, at Penn Yan, where he is for a vacation, on the 50th of this month. I hope to be able to attend and will there present this matter surely and see if we can figure out how to make it go.

You are certainly right about the atrocious recklessness of automobile drivers. They are killing people, take the country at large, by the score. There will have to be a crusade for law enforcement against law-breaking automobile drivers as well as against the infernal liquor traffic.

Thanking you for your sympathy, I am,

Most cordially yours,

F. D. Blakelee

District Superintendent.

Meriden, Conn.

20th Aug 1910.

Dear Dr. Blakeslee -

I was shocked
to hear of the fearful
accident that had
overtaken you.

Something must
be done to protect us
from the reckless
drivers of automobiles.

My own car
was ~~overturned~~

in your Address -
I have thought
they might be. I would
like to see & the same
with your opinion
& initials in that
might be set out on
I have for some
I hope to have
I have early and
I am left very

on the way to Church
last Sabbath &
considerably damaged
by an Automobile

It seems very
serious break of
the collar bone!
& I fear it will
take a long time
to recover

Do not think
at all of my
propagation for
some address

(Signed) Most cordially yours
J. A. McArthur

J. B. MERWIN

August 25, 1910

My automobile accident. His proposed addresses. Those he gave in Rochester. Warns against my going to Penn Yan.

1
Worcester, Conn.

Aug 25th 1910

My Dear Dr. Blakeslee

I have read with great pleasure

your letter of the

22^d - That a

testimony it is of the

value of the habit

of obstinacy!

Some of our most

eminent physicians

in the larger cities

will not take the

case of a beer drinker

at all. The system

is so saturated

with poison

I doubt whether

your physician

2
will consent to
your going to them
if you go soon as
the 30th. The
fair incident to
travelling will
be apt to prevent
the frithing together
of the broken bones
& bigamets!

I should think
it to be a very
dangerous
experiment!

In regard
to the addresses
talked of - if your
people at all
realized what
they are going to
get, no halls -
churches or theatres

Would hold them

I was to give
three addresses
in Rochester!

I gave three
on Tuesday!

With one single
exception I did
not even mention
the word "Temperance"

The one exception
it was forced by
direct exhortations
from the audience.

I think you
can, without
effort, read a
type written
not done by any man
so well or plainly as
yours - is done -

inside 4 views of
Lincoln which I
am sending
for "your own eyes
alone! & no others!
I am not polemic
at all; but, as Lincoln
was, persuasive in
my addresses — as
you will see by
this sample.

Only take time
& read it, slowly if
you read it, at all!
Notices should be
such — if you are to
reach all outsiders
then especially not
identified or affiliates
with them; & you want
the people want
to know need to know

5
About Lincoln
When they do learn
about him he
will wire them to
his beer & his
way of living
doing

This is why
Especially, I should
be able to reach
the High Schools
I can't if you think
it wise & best send
"First Lincolns & Scotts
Military Order &
"A Part of History"
from the N.Y. Eve-
ning Post" a dozen or
so to your direct
You can put them
where they will

"As the most good"
But I should judge
it were wire better not
to emphasize - at all
the temperance part
but after you read
"A Personal View
Of Mr Gibson" -

from me - if you
do read it slowly
what, could you
not say of him -
his work - his
example! his
influence!!!

Who - would
not come to hear
you. I have a
number, of such &
similar resumes!
The word, temperance

in Prohibition or
A.S. & is not Merit
You observe at all
It is something
larger - power
It is the
Concrete Essence
of power; ability
Moral & Spiritual
uplift based on
a concrete reality
as Eternal as God
himself! &
Yet the Commonest,
Truest & Everyday
Man that has Ever
Lived in the world!
- but Enough
I should want, if come
to the largest auditorium
You have & Union
Meeting of all the

organization of all
tribes - Wesley &
all - To start with
& we should win
them

In Rochester the
last meeting we had
the Hall seated 1500
Every seat was taken
& about 80 stood
all through

I hope you will
give it a "hat hard
work" but every-
but details & course must
be looked after closely
& fully

I fear it will
not be safe for you
to make the far & a
trip to Penn you most
cordially revere

Margaretta Com
Sept 27 1891
My dear Dr
Maryd from
the shop I sent
you on success?
Shamps Sreboij
I have not
hear from you
since the meeting

at Herkman!
On whether you
were able to go
Herkman are
receiving from
the shop of you
are a young the
Antoinee!
Most cordially
Yours
A D Merwin
P.O. Box 100
Bingham, N.Y.

Bro Blakeley

I am enclosing
another address
or three or

I hope several
of these do not
care to have them
returned

Wm S. S. S. S. S.
a notice of an Ed
admission that might
be shown your
Supt of Schools
if you think

it best.

I hope to hear
of your entire
recovery from
the unfortunate
accident
most sincerely,
Yours

A. D. Merwin

" "

Rev Dr Blakeley

Supt. A. S. S.

Binghamton

Spt 29 1879
N. Y.

Binghamton, N.Y.,

Oct. 5, 1910.

Major J. B. Merwin,
Middlefield, Conn.

Dear Major Merwin:-

I did not intend to neglect you so. Please pardon my not writing you sooner. I have been a semi-invalid for some time and this must be my apology together with pressure of work.

As you prophesied I was unable to go to the Penn Yan meeting. At that meeting the matter of the employment of a field secretary to assist me on my district was taken up with the prospect that a man would be engaged. This was not consummated until within two or three days. The headquarters committee voted unanimously to employ a man as field secretary. Now it is up to us to make dates for both himself and myself. Gov. Glenn who was in the state speaking for the A.S.L. last March was at that time engaged to come this Fall. Tomorrow evening he speaks at Elmira on my district.

I have talked with Dr Patterson within a short time and we do not see how we can make it practical to give you tea evenings on my district, as much as I should like to do so. If you were nearer and we could use you now and then on a Sunday evening it would be well perhaps. But to try to find you ten appointments on Sunday and have to pay your traveling expenses to and from your home, we fear would hardly pay.

Then, again, were you to speak in a town would it not result in closing to a degree the churches of that town to any further presentation of the League work until another year? Another objection to the Sunday presentation is that some officer of the League ought really to be with you and pass the subscription cards. But this would take him from presenting the cause on that evening and it might practically cost not only the expenses incident to your speaking but what the League officer himself would have gotten by speaking at that time elsewhere. Were we to have a series of consecutive week evening engagements for you we are in doubt whether this would pay. In order to make such a thing a real success there ought to be a good deal of time and money spent in advertising and working up the thing. As suggested above, there is the added danger of having burnt over the territory so far as A.S.L. matters are concerned to the prejudice of any other presentation of the cause for at least a year. How does it seem to you with reference to these points?

I sent your letter to half a dozen papers in addition to those you know about, the dailies of Elmira, etc., etc. Not one of them published it with the exception of a paper in

Middlefield Conn

Oct 15th 1910

Geo M Blakeslee

Binghamton

N.Y.-

My dear Sir -
I have been
absent some time -

Regret very much
to hear of your later
accident
To be tripped by
a wire - is almost



as dangerous, as
to be run by
an automobile!
Hope before this,
you have fully
informed from
both, In the
pressure upon you,
I fear you overlooked
your design to mail
to me, a type written
address, of Lincoln
that I valued very
highly - so got

It has not come to
hand, I want to
use it & have not
time to write another
covering this, & my
inquiries to friends,
made in the various
and many before
Stamps & try for reputation
with Brace & Down,
W. H. Thomson



F. D. B L A K E S L E E to Charles T. White,
January 23, 1918

concerning discrepancies in Maj. J.B.
Merwin's statements.

C H A R L E S T. W H I T E

to F.D.Blakeslee, 3 letters, January
26, 28 & 30, 1918, relating to Merwin's statements.

CHAS T. WHITE

277 Decatur St.

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jan 26, 1918

Dear Dr Blakeslee

Letter and inclos-
ure received. The narra-
tive in Meinweis letter
to you is the same in
substance that he told
me two or three times
during the last year of
his life. I believe it is
substantially true, although
"wobbly" in some respects.
I'll write you later
after I have checked up
on some of the more
doubtful of the mafos's
stories
Cordially C.T.W

CHAS. T. WHITE

277 Decatur St.

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jan 28, 1918

Dear Dr. Blakeslee

I neglected to answer one of your important questions, about Major Merriam willing his old army pass to the Antislavery League. He didn't do it. A poor woman and her invalid daughter took care of the major during his last year, and he gave all his personal effects to the daughter, who sold them to me.

I will write the major's brother-in-law about his birthplace and age

C. T. W.

CHAS T. WHITE

27 Decatur St.

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jan 30 1918

Dear Doctor Blakeslee

Major Merriam, so his
brother-in-law, Ex-Lieut.
Gov. Lyman A Mills of
Middlefield, Conn., writes
me, was born in Cairo
Greene County N.Y. on
May 22, 1829.

That made nearly 89
years old when he died
last April, and would
make his age harmonize
with his association with
Lincoln in 1854-55.

Cordially
C. T. W.

THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF NEW YORK

OFFICIAL ORGAN

"THE AMERICAN ISSUE" NEW YORK EDITION

WEEKLY, ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

ROLLIN O. EVERHART, EDITOR

WILLIAM H. ANDERSON, STATE SUPERINTENDENT

156 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

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DISTRICT OFFICES UP-STATE

CAPITAL (ALBANY), CENTRAL (SYRACUSE)
WESTERN (ROCHESTER)

June 23, 1917

TO THE FIELD FORCE:--

I would suggest if you have not already thought of it, that you file away the names of the Red Cross contributors in all the cities in your district where they have been published.

Yours very cordially,

William H. Anderson

State Superintendent.

WHA/P

the Maj.'s first account of these things to the Anti-Slavery League. At that date there ought to be no doubt as to the clearness of his mind. It w'd be very interesting to compare that record with the Maj.'s later statements.

presents
I am very greatly interested in this matter, and if you have the time and the patience to help me look carefully into it I shall feel greatly obliged to you. I have no doubt you are equally interested with me. The subject is a very interesting psychological problem, so it seems to me. I was impressed at Atlan. City that the Maj. did not promptly and definitely answer Dr. Russel's questions, showing in many cases, showing a weakening of his mind, as I construed it.

On p. 269 Dr. R. states that Merwin willed the Lincoln order to the A.S.L. Yes, I see that the Maj. also makes that statement. What do you know of this?

On p. 270 Maj. says that L. when he left the partnership of the grocery store had to pay a thousand dollars of the debts of the concern. Leonard Swett is quoted as saying:-"he was to step out as he stepped in. He had nothing when he stepped in, and he had nothing when he stepped out". S. does not deny that L. had to pay the \$1000., but one w'd not suppose it to be so, from Swett's acct:

Does the statement on p. 272 that Lincoln sent Merwin to consult 25 Or 30 leading judges and lawyers seem reasonable to you?

upon the publication here of M's letter to me a preacher said to me that the statement about Easter in the cabinet room when Mrs. L. told her husband of the theatre engagement, seemed improbable because at that time very little was made of Easter by the churches. Major M. answers that by telling what he knew of those observances, and I looked up in my diary and find this record:-"At office until 11.30 when it closed in order to give the clerks an opportunity to attend church, it being Good Friday." This was under the date April 14th, 1865. Maj. M. wrote me after I had sent him this quotation:-"Who else of all the millions living has such a record as to Good Friday". He then tells that many have spoken to him of the assassination being a judgment upon Mr. L. for his so desecrating that holy day. Of course none but an almost fanatic would talk that way, I think. He then again refers to my diary and says:- "How singular it is, -your record of the hour of the closing of the office and the purpose! It is all so real and vivid to me."

On p. 265 Russell says that Maj. M. is a native of Conn. Whos Who says he was born in this city and the Maj. confirmed to me that statement.

On pp 246--248 Of the Proceedings of the Fifteenth Nat'l A.S.L.Conv., at Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 10-15, '13, is a report of Maj. M's speech. He is quoted as saying that Lincoln when the proposal of taxing the liq. traff. as a war measure was up said that he w'd rather cut off his right arm than to sign such a measure, and that he did it only after assurance that after the war it w'd be repealed. Do you know of any confirmation of this?

I am wondering if Robert Lincoln could not throw light on the matter of the engagement of the box at Ford's Theatre.

I asked Maj. M. why such histories as Nic. & Hay's did not give the facts regarding Lincoln's temp. principles and his religious character. In reply he said:- "I asked and insisted that Mr. Lincoln's religious views and his status as a total abstainer & a "Prohibitionist" sh'd be stated. But Nick-oly was a German infidel and Hay a "boy". They insisted they must write a "popular" Life of Lincoln. That these two "specialties" were not in any essential way an asset & the work must be such as w'd not offend any one, so no mention was made of either his religious or his temp. views.
Yours cordially, J. P. Blakelee

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June 21, 1917

TO THE FIELD FORCE;--

It is important that we be clear on the question of the National American Issue being sent to those who subscribe \$1.00 a month or more. I enclose copy of a letter which is sent to each \$1.00 a month subscriber. There has been one complaint and one case that I heard of, of a man who took offense because of the form of the letter. After thinking it over I have slightly modified the phraseology and changed the sequence, but we prefer to let it stand on the same general basis, viz: that we will not go to the expense of sending the extra paper unless the party is enough interested to say that he wants it.

The way to obviate any possible afterclap is not to say in the Sunday speech the National paper "will be sent" but to say if you subscribe \$1.00 a month, or more, "YOU ARE ENTITLED" to the American Issue.

We want every man in every Sunday speech to make this point because it does act as an inducement. It gets some men to go up to \$1.00 by driving a peg at the place, who really do not care for the paper.

If there are any further complaints on this score I would like to hear them.

Yours very cordially,

William H. Anderson
State Superintendent.

WHA/P

copy of letter sent

to be sent to each \$1.00 a month subscriber

1/15, 1917

60 copies

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Ringhamton, N.Y.

60 Schubert Street,
1/23/18.

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Charles T. White,
277 Decatur Street,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Bro. White:-

It was a great pleasure to meet you last Sunday and I hope we may meet again at no distant day.

I am enclosing copy of the letter which Maj. Merwin wrote me and to which I referred in my little talk at the Sunday School. Note that he tells me he heard of the assassination in Phil. the night it occurred. See the statement on the red slip enclosed which he sent me, and for which he must have been responsible, that he did not know of it till ~~he~~ stepped out of the train at New York the next morning.

Concerning the Maj.'s statement to me of Mrs. Lincoln's informing her husband of her having accepted an invitation to the theatre, it seems to be contradicted in Osborn H. Oldroyd's "Assassination of Abraham Lincoln". On p. 11 I read:- "Mr. James R. Ford, business manager of the theatre, was in the box office when the messenger came from the White House at half-past ten o'clock on the morning of the 14th to secure a box for the President, Mrs. Lincoln, and General and Mrs. Grant. The two latter had accepted an invitation from the President to accompany him and Mrs. Lincoln to the theatre. The President had been previously invited to the theatre that night, but they had no knowledge there of his intended visit until the reception of the message at half-past ten o'clock that day."

I find that I have quite a voluminous correspondence with the Maj., many more letters than I had supposed. Also many clippings sent me by him. I presume you have all the clippings concerning his different addresses, have you not?

I have read that the Maj. had a very large and valuable library. Did he leave this to you, also? Convention

As to the Maj.'s age, Who's Who in Amer. states that his birthday was May 22, '35. On p. 267 of the Proceedings of the Sixteenth National of the Anti-Saloon of America he confirms that date. On p. 265 the statement is made that he was fully prepared for College at 20 years of age, but did not enter college. Instead he became a temperance editor and later (One w'd suppose it must have been some later) Cor. Sec'y of the Conn. Temp. Sec'y, and after a time the state adopted the "Main Law". This law was adopted in '51 we are told on p. 266. There is a discrepancy right here on the pp of this volume. At '51 he w'd have been but 16 years of age! The vol referred to is the one I understood you to tell me you have, 266 the inference w'd be that his first interview, with 16-22, took place shortly after he was 16.

at At. City: July 6-9, '16 From p. 266 the inference w'd be that his 1st interview with him was very On p. 272 Merwin says that Lincoln and he began to confer on his trip to Greely on Thursday eve. In his letter to me he says that it was on Wed. ev. and that it was continued the next eve.

Have you ever seen the record of the interview that Dr. Howard H. Russell says he had with the Maj. when Russell had a stenographer take down for six hours, in '05

At the time of his death the papers said he was 87. It seems reasonable.

It refers to the great Con.

Binghamton, N.Y.,
60 Schubert Street, 2/1/18.

RUS P. KEEN, ASST. STATE Supt.
MER B. BROWN, ATTORNEY
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
V. SAM L. HAMILTON, Supt.
X. W. BEYER, ASST. Supt.

DISTRICT OFFICER UP-STATE
CAPITAL (A) DISTRICT
WESTERN (A) DISTRICT

Dear Brother White:-

I arrived home late last evening after an absence of six days to find your three letters. I sincerely thank you for the trouble you have taken in the matter. But the effect upon me is depressing. Maj. Merwin had sent him each time the Who's Who was revised, as well as at the beginning, a proof of his write-up in that volume, at least that was the case with me and my two sons, and I have no doubt it was the case with every one whose name appears, that the subject of the sketch might make any corrections. That the Maj. allowed this several times to be returned to the publisher with his birthplace, Binghamton, and his birthdate six years out of the way is too bad. It calls to mind the adage:- "Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus." One does not know what to believe of his many statements concerning Lincoln which are not confirmed by others and as I understand it most of his utterances concerning Lincoln's temperance history are such. Did the brother-in-law offer any remark concerning the misstatements concerning age and birthplace? I am curious to know why the Major selected Binghamton as the place for his birth. I stated to you that he had confirmed to me that he was born here. But I am in error so far as a direct statement is concerned, I think. I referred to the fact that he was born in the city of my residence and in replying to that letter he did not deny it but referred to the people he used to know here, which would seem to confirm my statement, but does not exactly do so. Lincoln's birthday is not far away. If you know of any organization, school, association of any kind that would like me to give a Lincoln talk on that day kindly let me know. I have covered this section in that way for some years past.

Most cordially yours,

J. D. Blakeslee

REV WILLIAM C. PRICER, D. DISTRICT
REV L. B. SAULT, D. DISTRICT
REV WILLIAM H. MORAN, D. DISTRICT
REV R. CALKINS, WASHINGTON
REV W. W. T. DUNCAN, D. DISTRICT
REV GEORGE CALLENDER, D. DISTRICT
REV ALFRED R. NICK, D. DISTRICT

If it be ascertained at the War Department that the President has legal authority to make an appointment such as is asked within, and Gen. Scott is of opinion it will be available for good, then let it be done -

July 17, 1861
A. Lincoln

I esteem the mission of Mr. Merwin to this army a happy circumstance, and request all commanders to give him free access to all of our camps and posts, and also to multiply occasions to enable him to address our officers and men.

Very truly
Wm. Scott

The occasion is
of great benefit to the troops, and I will furnish him with every facility to address the troops under my command. I hope the general commanding the Army will give him such official position as Mr. Merwin may desire to carry out his object.

Department of Virginia
The mission of Mr. Merwin will be of great benefit to the troops, and I will furnish him with every facility to address the troops under my command. I hope the general commanding the Army will give him such official position as Mr. Merwin may desire to carry out his object.

Aug 8th 1861
B. F. Butler
Major General

LINCOLN INDORSES TEMPERANCE FOR THE ARMY. (See page 166)

In July, 1861, a memorial, or petition, signed by a score or more of the most influential men in American public life, asking for the appointment of James B. Merwin as a major in the army, or to some position where he would be able to make temperance addresses to the troops in the field and hospital, was presented to President Lincoln. Merwin always asserted that this was done at Lincoln's own suggestion. This memorial was written by Governor Buckingham, of Connecticut, on a sheet foolscap size. Following his ordinary custom, President Lincoln wrote his indorsement on the fold of the document, as follows:

"If it be ascertained at the War Department that the President has legal authority to make an appointment such as is asked within, and Gen. Scott is of opinion it will be available for good, then let it be done."
"July 17, 1861."
"A. LINCOLN."

Following the President's memorandum are two others:
"I esteem the mission of Mr. Merwin to this army a happy circumstance, and request all commanders to give him free access to all of our camps and posts, and also to multiply occasions to enable him to address our officers and men."
"July 24, 1861."
WINFIELD SCOTT.

"DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA."
"The mission of Mr. Merwin will be of great benefit to the troops, and I will furnish him with every facility to address the troops under my command. I hope the general commanding the army will give him such official position as Mr. Merwin may desire to carry out his object."
B. F. BUTLER,
"Major General."

Abraham Lincoln—Framer of a Prohibition Law

The Late Rev. James B. Merwin's Affidavit, Documents and Data Telling of Lincoln's Aggressive Activity for the Suppression of Alcoholic Beverages

By CHARLES T. WHITE, Former Commissioner of Taxes, New York City

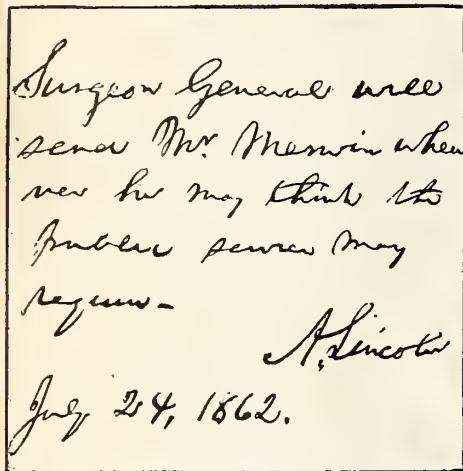
THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE in this issue presents photographic reproductions of original documents and data owned by the late Rev. James B. Merwin, associate of Abraham Lincoln, Congregational minister, army chaplain, editor of the American Journal of Education, and temperance reformer, who died in Brooklyn on April 5, 1917, and was buried in New Britain, Conn.

Merwin's contention, on and off the lecture platform, that Lincoln took an active part in a campaign for State-wide prohibition in Illinois in 1855, and wrote the prohibition law, which was passed by the Legislature and defeated through gross fraud by 14,000 votes at a special referendum election on June 24, 1855, seems to be reasonably well sustained.

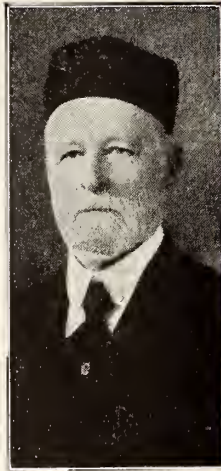
While it would perhaps be straining the facts, in the absence of absolute proof, to say that Lincoln was a prohibitionist, as the term is politically understood, still it remains for those who hold to the contrary to controvert Merwin and his documents.

ADVOCATE

February 6, 1919



Surgeon General will send Mr. Merwin when ever he may think its public service may require -
A. Lincoln
July 24, 1862.



"MAJOR" MERWIN AND HIS ARMY PASS

A heavy gold watch, with an inscription on an inside case, which inscription was written by Lincoln, according to the affidavit of Merwin, turns up as a "document" tending to connect Lincoln directly with the prohibition campaign in Illinois in 1855. The watch now is the property of the family of Lyman A. Mills, of Middlefield, Connecticut.

A statement by Merwin that, because of its prophetic content, never failed to attract attention, was that on the afternoon of April 14, 1865, the day of the assassination, as he was leaving Washington for New York to see Horace Greeley on a private mission for President Lincoln, the latter said to him:

"Merwin, we have cleaned up a colossal job. We have abolished slavery. After reconstruction the next great movement on the part of the people will be the overthrow of the legalized liquor traffic, and you know my heart and my hand, my purse and my life will be given to that great movement. I prophesied twenty-five years ago that the day would come when there would not be a slave or a drunkard in the land. I have seen the first part come true."

"Mr. Lincoln, shall I make this public?" asked Merwin.

"Yes, publish it as broad as the daylight," said Lincoln.

This statement by Merwin never has been successfully controverted. Nor was the other feature of it, namely, that he lunched with Lincoln on the last day of the Great Emancipator's life, conferring over General Butler's plan for employing colored soldier help on the digging of the Panama Canal. That the plan was thoroughly discussed by both Lincoln and Butler is proved by General Butler's own narrative.

The Illinois Prohibition Campaign of 1855

The thing that Merwin had most trouble in establishing was Lincoln's participation in the prohibition campaign in Illinois in 1855. He first asserted it soon after President Lincoln's assassination, but other things were so much more important than Lincoln's affiliation with temperance work that it attracted no attention.

Illinois history does not directly connect President Lincoln with the 1855 campaign. Mr. Merwin's statement to the writer, as well as to others who asked him about this particular point, follows:

"Lincoln in 1855 was a poor country lawyer, and his practice, while considerable, was anything but lucrative. Stenographers were a rarity in Illinois at that time. It would have been surprising if any record of a temperance address in 1855 was made. Lincoln, however, made twenty or thirty magnificent addresses for the suppression of the liquor traffic in that campaign in various cities and towns of Illinois. Many of the addresses were made on court house steps. Few were made in churches. Abraham Lincoln at that time was not regarded as an orthodox Christian believer. Few clergymen were broad enough in their spirit to welcome him to their pulpits. In Springfield he was a regular attendant at the Presbyterian Church, although he never joined the church or subscribed to a religious creed."

With reference to his association with Lincoln and how it came about, Major Merwin said:

"After temperance campaign work in the State of Connecticut, on the solicitation of friends in Illinois, who wanted a law like the Dow law in Maine for Illinois, I went to Springfield in the early winter of 1854. There was a temperance meeting in progress in the old State House the night I arrived. I went to it. After a number of addresses, there were calls for 'Abe Lincoln' from various parts of the assembly room. These were repeated until finally some one went out and summoned him. He had been reading law in the State Library. When he entered the assembly room he was dressed in an absurd looking coat, with sleeves too short for him by nearly a foot. In his hurry to the call, he had picked up the janitor's coat and put it on in his walk through the hall on his way to the meeting. There was a titter at his appearance, but it stopped as soon as he began to talk. No one ever had occasion to laugh at Abraham Lincoln when he was speaking from the heart. He made a most wonderful temperance address, far more powerful than that made by him in Springfield on February 22, 1842, and quoted in the histories.

"After the meeting I introduced myself to him, told him my mission to Springfield, and we went to his home together. I had with me a copy of the Maine law, and we sat up all night looking over that statute. I was a young man of about twenty-five then, and Lincoln, of course, was much older.

The Law that Lincoln Framed

"That was the beginning of the campaign for the adoption of a prohibition law for the State of Illinois. Mr. Lincoln set to work to frame a law, and he worked at it almost constantly for weeks. After he had completed it he had me take it around the State to get the views of his lawyer friends. I showed it to John M. Palmer, Leonard Swett and others. I went to the home of Judge David Davis and asked him to pass judgment on it. Davis was surly, and asked me if Mr. Lincoln had sent a retainer along to pay for the work. When I reported this back to Mr. Lincoln he was deeply hurt, as he had considered Judge Davis a good friend. He spoke to me about the incident just before he, as President, appointed Judge Davis to the Supreme Court bench.

"The law drafted by Lincoln was passed by the Legislature. It carried a referendum clause, providing for its submission to the

AN ACT for the suppression of intemperance, and to amend chapter 30 of the Revised Statutes.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the people of the state of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That no person shall, at any time or place, within this state, manufacture or sell, or shall, at any store, grocery, tavern or place of trade, entertainment or public resort, or railroad or canal, or in any of the appurtenances or dependencies of any such place, give away, contrary to the provisions of this act, by himself, his servant or agent, directly or indirectly, any spirituous or intoxicating liquor, or any mixed liquor, of which a part is spiritous or intoxicating, except as hereinafter provided; and ale, porter, lager beer, cider,*

and all wines, are added among intoxicating liquors within the meaning of this act.

Facsimile of Section 1, of the Illinois Prohibition Act of 1855, drafted by Abraham Lincoln. From the printed volume of the "Public Laws of Illinois, 1855."

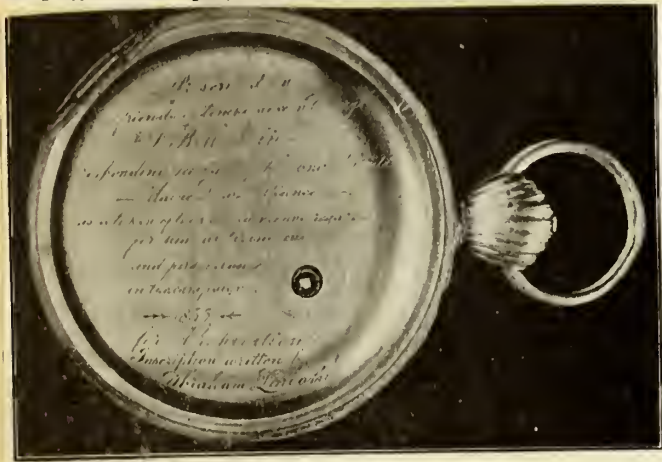
voters at a special election in June. It also provided that something like 50,000 copies should be printed for public distribution. These were parceled out to the various counties.

"The campaign was largely financed by William B. Ogden, of Chicago, and Mr. Ogden's business associates. Some of them were very suspicious of Lincoln's connection with the movement in any relation whatsoever. One Dr. N. P. Davis, a prominent physician, denounced Lincoln as a mountebank, and said that he would not serve as chairman of the State committee if Lincoln had anything to do with the campaign. He said that Lincoln was ready to join any new movement, and that his connection with the temperance campaign would hurt the cause.

"In company with Mr. Lincoln I called on William B. Ogden, who said: 'Here is my check for \$2,500. As President of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad I can well afford to give this and much more if I can lessen drunkenness among my employees. If you want more money come back and I will have it ready for you.'

"Lincoln was the brains of that campaign. The rest of us took orders. The anti-slavery excitement was keen, and Lincoln was deeply interested in that, but he did not relax in the campaign for the adoption of the law which he himself had framed. We really won that election, but were cheated out of it in Chicago and in the border towns where the slavery and whisky people ran in illegal voters without let or hindrance.

"After the campaign was over, and before I left the State to go



THE "PROHIBITION WATCH"

The inscription in the watch reads:

"Presented by the friends of temperance in Chicago to J. B. Merwin, corresponding secretary of the Illinois Maine Law Alliance, as a token of their confidence and regard for his untiring energy and perseverance in its campaign, 1855, for Prohibition."

Mr. Merwin made the following affidavit, October 12, 1916:

"The aforesaid watch was presented to me in the year of 1855, the presentation taking place in the editorial rooms of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, there being present at the time the editor of the Advocate, Mr. Watson, Abraham Lincoln and others interested in the cause of State Prohibition at that time. Abraham Lincoln was a contributor to the fund for the purchase of the watch, and wrote the watch inscription incorporated in this deposition.

"Abraham Lincoln had been associated with me in campaigning for more than six months, and without solicitation or prompting upon the part of anyone, and wholly, as I believe, from personal regard, wrote the inscription already referred to."

to Michigan to do temperance work, Mr. Lincoln, after conference with others interested in our work, got up a purse, bought a handsome solid gold watch, with a heavy gold chain, and after writing an inscription which was engraved on the inside case, he presented it to me in the office of the Northwestern Christian Advocate in Chicago, in the presence of the editor, the Rev. J. V. Watson, and others."

New York watch experts have valued the watch as having cost between \$200 and \$300 when it was bought new in the fifties. When the writer was informed by Mr. Merwin about the inscription he asked him if he was willing to take his oath that Abraham Lincoln wrote the inscription for the watch, and was present at the presentation. He assented without hesitation.

"It is strange that I never thought of doing that years ago," said the Major. "That old watch and my old army pass, which Lincoln helped to make with his own hands, were the most precious things I ever owned. I lost the watch in a mud hole once during the war, and I hired a Negro to walk around in the mud in his bare feet until he found it. I gave him twenty-five dollars.

Sent by Lincoln to Talk Temperance to Soldiers

"With reference to the President's desire to appoint me as a major I have this to say. The suggestion was his own. He sent for me at Adrian, Michigan, and told me that he wanted temperance addresses made to the troops. I was accounted an effective speaker at that time. President Lincoln suggested that the best way to accomplish the object was for a memorial, or petition, to be drawn up asking for my appointment as a major. This was done by Governor Buckingham, of Connecticut, a personal friend, and a man of great force. That petition was signed by the leading men around President Lincoln, including Senators Sumner and Wilson, of Massachusetts, Senators Trumbull and Browning, of Illinois, Harlan and Grimes, of Iowa, and many others.

"Then it was sent to President Lincoln, who indorsed it and sent it to General Winfield Scott, the commander in chief of the army. He indorsed it and sent it to General Butler, who likewise approved of the plan.

"Then the document was sent to the War Department, where it struck a snag. The heads of divisions there ridiculed the idea of a young clergyman, lame in the hip, being appointed a major. They 'lost' the document in the War Department, and when President Lincoln heard that it was lost he sent a message to the Secretary of War that resulted in the 'finding' of it again in short order.

"I was kept steadily at the job of talking temperance to the soldiers in and around Washington. I frequently spoke from a carriage provided for me by the President, and I reported to him every week. When I learned that some of the officers were drink-

I take great pleasure in recommending the appointment of Mr. J. B. Merwin to the position which will enable him to carry on his work of promoting temperance among the troops, regarding of I do, the vice of spirituous liquors, as the cause of the service.
Oct 12th 1861
John A. Dix
Major, Gen.

A note given by Gen. John A. Dix, to Mr. Merwin in 1861, to enable him to promote temperance among the soldiers in the Union camps.

ing to excess, I let the President know of it. This made me very much disliked by certain men in the War Department. One day Secretary Stanton sent for me and gave me a tongue lashing.

"Merwin," said he, "if you don't stop bothering around and making trouble I'll lock you up in the Capitol Prison."

"He meant every word of it. I was much distressed about it, and reported it to the President.

"No, Merwin, no," said he. "Stanton won't lock you up. I would not let him do that. But, Merwin, you must get along with Stanton, somehow. I will not let him persecute you, but you must get along peaceably with him. He is doing great work in the War Department, and I can't spare him."

"Surgeon General Hammond and I became fast friends. I was in New York very often on hospital ships. I knew John Wilkes Booth. I think that he once talked with the President about Shakespeare. I know that he was a drunkard, and that he was bedeviled with whisky when he killed the President.

Lincoln's Last Day

"I was with the President at luncheon on the fatal Friday, the last day of his life. He was greatly concerned about the disposition of the colored soldiers soon to be discharged. There didn't seem to be any place for them to go. Those who had borne arms did not feel like going back to the plantations. General Benjamin F. Butler, a very resourceful man, suggested to the President that the colored soldiers be used to dig a canal at Panama. Mr. Lincoln was much interested in the idea, and had General Butler send him information about it.

"That was the subject of our conversation at luncheon. Mr. Lincoln had written out a plan comprehending General Butler's ideas for digging the Panama Canal with colored soldiers, and he told me that he wanted me to stop off in Philadelphia and see some of the editors there, and then go on to New York, and ask Horace Greeley to read the plan, and tell the President what he thought of it.

"I was in Philadelphia that night when the news of the assassination of the President was received. I went on the next forenoon to New York and went to the Tribune office, where I left the manuscript containing the President's ideas with Sidney Howard Gay, the managing editor, whom I had known for many years. Mr. Gay said that he would bring it to the attention of Mr. Greeley. When I went back the next day for a conference with Mr. Greeley he had not seen the manuscript. Everything was in a turmoil over the death of the President. I never was able to recover the manuscript.

"That was not as serious a loss as one I sustained in the Chicago fire. In a trunk at my boarding house in Chicago at the time of the fire I had altogether sixty-six signed letters and notes from Abraham Lincoln. They had reference to the work of the temperance campaign in 1855, and also to the suppression of slavery. It was accidental that the other documents and papers which I still have were not in that trunk. I happened to have them in another place at the time of the fire.

"Those letters, if I had them now, would afford the basis for a valuable book, as in some of the letters Lincoln discussed current day problems with marvelous ability."

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A little more than a year ago I went to Washington to see Robert T. Lincoln about the Merwin documents. Mr. Lincoln looked them over, and then said, in substance:

"As to Merwin himself, after reading some of the things purporting to come from him, I have been forced to the conclusion that he allowed his imagination to get the best of him. But as to these documents (referring to the old army pass and the signed petition) the signatures are genuine. I recognize nearly all of them. My own father-in-law's name (James Harlan) is among them. I knew nearly all of the signers."

William O. Stoddard, one of Abraham Lincoln's secretaries, now residing in Madison, New Jersey, when asked about Merwin, said:

"I not only have read a good deal about him, but I remember him. I have no reason to doubt his veracity. He seems to be an entirely credible witness."

The 1855 campaign for State prohibition in Illinois receives only the scantiest recognition at the hands of the historians. Gustave Koerner, once Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, in his memoirs, says that the campaign was a bitter contest. There was much rioting in Chicago on election day. Koerner says that the temperance forces consisted principally of those who (like Lincoln) were opposed to the extension of slavery, and he mentions Lincoln's long-time friend, Owen Lovejoy, a Congregational preacher and Congressman, a brother of Elijah Lovejoy, killed by the pro-slavery mob in Alton, Colonel Farnsworth, and others, as leaders. The printed histories carry little about Lincoln in 1855, except the overshadowing thing, his contest for the United States senatorship, in which he was defeated by Lyman Trumbull. Immediately after the special election in June, the politicians of all parties turned their attention to the approaching struggle over the slavery issue, and the prohibition movement seems to have been entirely forgotten.

Major Merwin in commenting on the absence in the Nicolay-Hay life of Lincoln of a record about the 1855 campaign said:

"I went to see John Hay about that very thing. All the satisfaction I got was that he and Mr. Nicolay had no data about the 1855 campaign. When I told him I would supply the data, he said that it would be pretty sure to provoke controversy, and that the publishers would not care to consider the matter."

February 6, 1919

THE CHRI

The Lincoln Pew

By LYMAN WHITNEY ALLEN

[The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C., has been refurnished since the '60s, but the pew in which Abraham Lincoln used to sit remains conspicuously unchanged, the center of interest for all visitors to the historic shrine. This poem has been given to thousands of soldier boys who have entered the church in the past eighteen months.]

Within the historic church both eye and soul
Perceived it. 'Twas the pew where Lincoln sat—
The only Lincoln God hath given to men—
Olden among the modern seats of prayer,
Dark like the 'sixties, place and past akin.
All else has changed, but this remains the same,
A sanctuary in a sanctuary.

Where Lincoln prayed!—What passion had his soul—
Mixt faith and anguish melting into prayer
Upon the burning altar of God's fane.
A nation's altar even as his own!

Where Lincoln prayed!—Such worshipers as he
Make thiu ranks down the ages. Would'st thou know
His spirit suppliant? Then must thou feel
War's fiery baptism, taste hate's bitter cup,
Spend similar sweat of blood vicarious,
And sound like cry, "If it be possible!"
From stricken heart in new Gethsemane.
Who saw him there are gone, as he is gone;
The pew remains, with what God gave him there,
And all the world through him. So let it be—
One of the people's shrines.

The patriotic address of the evening was given by Dr. Paul Voelker, President of Battle Creek College. Doctor Voelker, known all over this part of the country for his brilliant oratory, chose as his subject, "The Heart of Abraham Lincoln."

"The greatest thing about Abraham Lincoln was his heart," Dr. Voelker said. "He had a great and noble heart. I want to analyze that heart for you. First of all he had a great sense of humor, and humor is an aptitude of the heart. Lincoln could laugh when confronted with the gravest dangers. He read jokes when weighed down with the great problems of State. We become ill physically because we cannot laugh. Several of us would not be here tonight if we had had Lincoln's sense of humor and could have laughed instead of worried. He did not allow failure to worry him. He once said, 'I have failed in so many attempts that another failure does not matter.'

"A second part of Lincoln's heart was his keen sense of justice, his realization that fairness in all things is necessary.

"Another part was his rugged honesty—his unimpeachable integrity. On one occasion when Lincoln was working in a little country store, he unwittingly, in making change, gave a poor old woman three cents less than she should have had. That night he walked nine miles on a muddy road to return it to her.

"Charity was still another part of Lincoln's heart—charity for all and malice toward none. He was charitable to all living things. One day, dressed in a new home-spun suit and shining shoes, he passed a pig caught in the wire fencing of his dirty and muddy pen. To release the pig meant destruction to his clothes and shoes, so Lincoln went on his way. After he had travelled a mile and a half, his heart smote him. He returned, went into the pig's pen and lifted him from the wires that were making him suffer.

"His spirit of tolerance was another great part of Lincoln's heart; so was his patience. His was the patience to follow through the things he knew were true and right.

"And he had the spirit of conservatism and the spirit of unity encased in his great heart, and through them he preserved the Union."

Dr. Voelker described Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg speech as a monument of the finest English that has ever been penned.

J.B.MERWIN

at

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.,

JULY, 1915

0 0 0 0 0 0 0

institutions the cost to the state of maintaining that proportion of them made necessary by the liquor evil is estimated at \$2.70 for every dollar received in license fees.

As a source of public or personal revenue license is a pitiful mockery. The production of liquor yields to the employees of the business in wages only 10 per cent of the value of the product, while of all money spent over and above the bare necessities of life in Massachusetts, 35 per cent goes for liquor.

The moment a community is freed from liquor its fortunes rise.

The city of Lynn, under a no-license policy of six years, forged to the front rank and became the first city in the world in the manufacture of shoes; and then in the first year of license it slipped back to the second city in the state, and Brockton, a consistently no-license city for nearly 30 years, today occupies the proud place recently held by Lynn.

Back in 1633 we began our attempts to regulate the liquor traffic. In that year the General Court of the Massachusetts colony enacted a statute which was the first American-made law to regulate this evil, and for nearly three centuries we have been trying to find or devise a remedy for this industrial, political and moral cancer. We have tried every known kind of regulation; low license and high license, unlimited number of saloons and a limited number, state-wide Prohibition and local option. While some methods have proved better than others, in the end, all have signally failed.

We have seen the organized liquor traffic with its vast wealth and political power nullify our state laws, and then parade its crimes before our people, boast of its ability to circumvent or violate our statutes and escape punishment and then because of this arrogance, to ask that we do not further legislate against it. And when the advance of Prohibition in other parts of the country has threatened the traffic, we have heard them in their desperation, point to our compulsory local option law as the panacea for the difficulties of that community and as the ideal way to regulate the sale of intoxicating poison. We have heard so much of this within and without our state that most of us believed it ourselves, for a time at least, but even conservative Massachusetts is now awakening, and we of the Bay state have come to realize that local option is an absurd failure and that the only effectual way to regulate this traffic is its entire extermination by the federal government through the medium of a constitutional amendment.

Having been elected three times Governor of the state, and being an employer of skilled labor within the state, I have been in a position to see for myself the failure of our present system and to recognize the demand for national constitutional Prohibition.

Millions of Americans today are conscious and even militant Prohibitionists who have never been Prohibitionists before. This is because the great chance has but just now come to them. And, if this great opportunity cannot now be grasped effectively, they will never be Prohibitionists again. That is because the great chance will never come again.

In the history of civilization, human society has been stirred at successive periods by big ideas which for the moment have been of paramount importance. In not one of them, including so recent a problem as tariff

reform, can genuine popular interest now be aroused. Today the whole civilized world is unfolding a drama, which beggars description, that brings home to all, the one central idea that the renunciation of personal liberty in the matter of drinking intoxicants is a high patriotic duty and the surest guarantee of national and individual safety and prosperity.

The opportunity is here now to carry the issue of national Prohibition on to a sweeping victory. I am impelled to fight for this issue by my practical experience with those problems of public administration which arise from the liquor evil. And no one who has had these problems pointed out to him can escape the responsibility of failure if he wilfully rejects the opportunity afforded by current circumstances, to make national Prohibition an accomplished fact.

Never before has public intelligence been so informed as to the true nature and extent of the drink evil and as to the remedy.

Never before has the public mind been so free of complicating cross-currents of political thought.

Never before has the propaganda against the liquor traffic been so strongly organized or so well equipped to place itself in the lead as a national movement for the practical realization of its purpose.

Never before has the enemy permitted itself to be so clearly identified or to appear **so odious and intolerable**.

Never before has the liquor traffic so boldly thrown down the gauge of battle and declared its right to political and intellectual leadership in the United States.

You have always known that the stronghold of the liquor traffic is its political activity and that the disease that has all the while corrupted American politics has been the liquor traffic. Now at this opportune time—this moment of national destiny—the great strategy for the temperance forces is to fight liquor in the political arena; to meet them on their own ground—and drive them out.

WHAT WOULD LINCOLN DO?

By Dr. Howard H. Russell, D.D.

(Including Major Merwin's Statement)

Doctor Russell first gave answer to the question, "What Would Lincoln Do" as to the use of liquor as a beverage. In a vivid way he gave the facts which he had discovered, covering the life of Lincoln in Illinois and at Washington, showing that from the time he promised his dying mother he would "never touch that which makes people drunk" to the day of his death he was a total abstainer. He gave an interesting description of the scene at the South Fork School House, sixteen miles from Springfield, in 1846, when Abraham Lincoln made a plea for total abstinence, inviting the people to sign the pledge with him; when Moses Martin, Cleopas Breckenridge and seven other witnesses—found by Dr. Russell in recent years—were present, and, at the request of Lincoln, signed the total abstinence pledge.

In answering the question, "What Would Lincoln Do" with reference to the Prohibition of the liquor traffic, after giving other facts showing Lincoln's advocacy of Prohibition, he introduced, as a living witness upon the

witness stand, Major J. B. Merwin, of Brooklyn, New York, who gave testimony which was of intense interest to the assembled thousands. In introducing Major Merwin, Doctor Russell said:

DR. RUSSELL: As an appropriate prelude to what I have to say, I am going to introduce, once more tonight, my companions in the water-wagon tour over the Lincoln Highway, which starts from here on Friday, the Rail-Splitter Quartet of Ohio Wesleyan University, who will now sing the war songs which Lincoln heard and which Lincoln loved.

(Here the quartet sang.)

("We Will Rally Round the Flag, Boys, Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom." "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp." "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground." "Star Spangled Banner.")

I am about to introduce a man who was an intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln, to give us his testimony first-handed. I want you to look the witness in the face, hear his testimony and bear it in your hearts and minds for all time to come. But before I introduce upon the stand this witness, tonight, I want to outline a part of his testimony. Ten years ago, in 1905, having heard something of the facts in the possession of this friend of Lincoln, I invited him to come to the Grand Union Hotel, in New York City, took my best office stenographer and for six hours, three hours in the morning, and three after lunch in the afternoon, I cross-examined this friend, asked a series of questions to test his memory, his competency as a witness and the facts of which he has possession, and it is a precious document which I have thought enough of to keep in my safe until, as I expect soon to do, I embody it with a volume of other testimonies with regard to Lincoln's attitude on sobriety and the liquor traffic.

This man is Major J. B. Merwin. He is a native of Connecticut, a grandson of a soldier in the Revolutionary War, Nathan Merwin. In the examination I made of this witness in the six hours of our interview at New York, I learned that he secured his education at the Brookfield Academy in Connecticut. He was fully prepared for Amherst College at 20 years of age, but his circumstances precluded for the time and afterward for all time the pleasure of the college course. His first work after his graduation in the academy was an editor of a temperance paper in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, appropriately called "Fountain." He became the Corresponding Secretary of the Connecticut Temperance Society, which was the agitational force, the non-partisan organization for temperance in Connecticut at that time, this society after the "Maine law" had been passed in Maine, brought on the issue in Connecticut for state-wide Prohibition. The issue was successful. Neal Dow, himself, appeared before the Legislature in Connecticut, so he says, advocated the Maine law, impressed it upon the consciences and hearts of the Legislature. The state had been influenced by such men, whose appointments for addresses were made by this witness—such men as Henry Ward Beecher, Horace Greeley and P. T. Barnum. We have known Barnum as a circus man, but he was an earnest and enthusiastic temperance advocate, and took part in temperance campaigns. The

law was carried. During one of the meetings, just before the passage of that law, a citizen of Springfield, Illinois, heard Mr. Merwin in that meeting and he came to him and said: "When this work is over here, if you will come to Springfield and give an address to Springfield's citizens upon the question of the Maine law, I will not only pay your expenses, but will pay you also a reasonable fee for your services." Soon after the Maine law had passed in Connecticut in 1851, Mr. Merwin went out to Springfield, Illinois. The meeting had been arranged in the hall of the House of Representatives of the state Capitol at Springfield. The Legislature was not then in session. He found the hall crowded with people when he arose to address them. After he had finished the speech, giving them an outline of what the Maine law was, and as was suggested by members of the committee, an appeal upon the general subject of temperance and the need of the enactment of law to save the people from the curse of drink. When he finished his speech, after the applause subsided, there came a call here and there over the house, "Lincoln!" "Lincoln!" "Lincoln!" and it was a very persistent call, a very earnest call, and as Major Merwin looked over to the left, he saw on a low chair, there, a peculiar tall, awkward looking individual rising from the chair. He unfolded his long arms and his still longer legs and started toward the platform. Mr. Merwin says that he was the most unique, uncombed, unkempt, awkward individual in his notions and his appearance, that he had ever yet seen. As he came forward there was a question in Merwin's mind as to whether this interruption at the close of the address was favorable or unfavorable. He strided up to the platform, bowed to Mr. Merwin, laid his hand upon the secretary's desk in the House of Representatives, and began his speech. Very soon all trouble of mind passed away from the heart of Mr. Merwin for he began, and gave in twenty minutes, a most earnest appeal upon the subject of law. Law, its mission, its scope and its purpose, and went on to say that law is made for protection of the right, for the protection of the home, the church, the school, the children. Never was a law made for the protection of wrong, and the time had come, he said, in the progress of the temperance reform when law was necessary to be invoked in order to further the progress of the temperance campaign. He said, we have tried local option, we have tried the work of persuasion, by various organizations. The Washingtonian movement has swept over the land and a great many have been convinced, and a great many have gone back under the stress of continued temptation, and the time has now come when the iron hand of law must be put upon the liquor traffic. This thought he developed in a most eloquent way. Mr. Merwin asserts that he had heard Beecher, Webster and Phillips, but for twenty minutes he never heard a more earnest appeal for law as applied to a great moral reform than he heard on that occasion. He felt that he could hear every heart beat in that vast concourse of people. When Lincoln finished there was the silence of deep thoughtfulness. He said it seemed five minutes, the people were in profound and respectful silence. Then Mr. Lincoln turned to him and invited him to come with him to his home. Mr. Merwin hesitated a little and spoke to his host. He wondered what kind of a home he would find. He went to Mr. Lincoln's home and they talked together of this young temper-

ance reformer and the future president and martyr until the break of day. For the conclusion of my speech tonight I want to introduce this man, Major J. B. Merwin. I want to ask him some questions on the witness stand here tonight. I want to propound to him, interrogatories, that will follow up what I have said, justify and warrant my statements and put it into your hearts and minds, a living testimony that you can carry with you always, and know absolutely where Abraham Lincoln stood and what he would now do upon this great question.

DR. RUSSELL: Now I think if you will all give careful attention you will hear every word that he has to say. I am going to ask your age in the first place Major.

MAJOR MERWIN: Well I should pass for a young man but I was eighty years old last May. *He was 86*

DR. RUSSELL: I want you next, Major, to tell these people whether or not the statements I have already made with regard to the testimony you gave me in New York about these matters—whether these statements are correct or not.

MAJOR MERWIN: Absolutely! Absolutely correct. Every word of it. Mildly stated.

DR. RUSSELL: I want now to ask a few questions about your intimacy with Abraham Lincoln. When did you first see him?

MAJOR MERWIN: In 1852 I went to Springfield as you have described.

DR. RUSSELL: Spent the night with Mr. Lincoln?

MAJOR MERWIN: I did.

DR. RUSSELL: And you had co-operation with him in temperance work from that time on?

MAJOR MERWIN: That is correct. Until he was assassinated, from that time on.

DR. RUSSELL: How did you come to be related with him during the Civil War?

MAJOR MERWIN: He invited me to come to Washington.

DR. RUSSELL: Where were you at that time?

MAJOR MERWIN: At Detroit, Michigan.

DR. RUSSELL: What were you doing in Michigan at that time?

MAJOR MERWIN: I was the agent of the Michigan State Temperance Alliance at that time when Lincoln wrote for me to come to Washington.

DR. RUSSELL: What did he want you to do at Washington?

MAJOR MERWIN: He wanted to have me speak to the soldiers in the camps about the city of Washington and other places.

DR. RUSSELL: Did you do that?

MAJOR MERWIN: I did that for four years.

DR. RUSSELL: What conveyance, if any, did you use in the early meetings around Washington?

MAJOR MERWIN: Mr. Lincoln gave me his carriage to go here and there, wherever necessary.

DR. RUSSELL: Now, in addition to your work in the temperance line during the Civil War, what else did you do at Mr. Lincoln's request?

MAJOR MERWIN: Behaved myself.

DR. RUSSELL: What other commissions did he give you?

MAJOR MERWIN: Well, some of the regular army officers thought that the volunteers should obey the law of the land and not give way to separate influences, to drink, and Mr. Lincoln urged me to go before the soldiers, and speak to them to preserve their manhood and their integrity, and not go home wrecks as they would have gone had they yielded to drink.

DR. RUSSELL: What request did he make to you with regard to drinking officers or inefficient officers?

MAJOR MERWIN: That was a pretty serious question, for a good many of the officers felt as though as officers they were perfectly safe but liquor never respects the man. It gets him.

DR. RUSSELL: Now with regard to drinking officers, did he ask privately for reports from you with regard to the efficiency of the service in this regard and did you give him such reports?

MAJOR MERWIN: I did as far as it was proper, perhaps, more sometimes. It was between him and me however. The regular army officers did not like the reports and they made a fuss about it, and put every obstacle in their way, yet Lieutenant General Winfield Scott—shall I read it?

DR. RUSSELL: Yes, you may.

MAJOR MERWIN: Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, I have the facsimile of his letter, it says: "I esteem the mission of Mr. Merwin to this army a happy circumstance and request all Commanders to give him free access to our camps and posts and also to multiply occasions to enable him to address our officers and men.—Winfield Scott."

DR. RUSSELL: So that you had a commission from General Scott in 1861 to carry forward this temperance work among the soldiers.

MAJOR MERWIN: I did.

DR. RUSSELL: That was at the request of whom?

MAJOR MERWIN: Mr. Lincoln.

DR. RUSSELL: What happened to General Scott a little while after that date?

MAJOR MERWIN: General Scott, you know, passed away early and the officers said: "Why that is old, that is stale, Scott died, we don't want to hear anything more about that."

DR. RUSSELL: After he died did you have another commission issued to cover your work?

MAJOR MERWIN: I did. And Mr. Lincoln issued that commission. He said, "The Surgeon General will send Mr. Merwin, wherever he may think the public service may require," that is, wherever Mr. Lincoln wanted me to go inside the lines or outside the lines, but he charged me always to speak for total abstinence and nothing short of that!

DR. RUSSELL: Have you the original order that Mr. Lincoln wrote?

MAJOR MERWIN: Yes, sir, I have it.

DR. RUSSELL: Please produce it.

The A. S. L. never rec'd it!

MAJOR MERWIN: I have it written with his own hands and there is not wealth enough in the state of New Jersey and the other states of the Union to buy it. And I have willed it to this Anti-Saloon League, which has done so much and is doing so much good.

DR. RUSSELL: This is to be placed in the future in the Lincoln temperance memorial buildings. This will be enshrined permanently in the future according to the will of Major Merwin, which has been duly executed already. Now, Major, I want to ask about your relation with Mr. Lincoln in connection with his spirit of prayer during the Civil War. I'd like to have you tell these friends about Mr. Lincoln as a praying man.

MAJOR MERWIN: Many, many times Mr. Lincoln and myself went into his private office and he knelt down and prayed as only one could pray that God would give him wisdom to bring this country out of its trouble into the light and glory of American independence. We are a hundred millions of people here today my friends, not disintegrated as they are in the kingdoms of the old country, but a united people, and that unity has come by virtue of what Abraham Lincoln did for the law of the country and the people of the country by the help of the people of the country.

DR. RUSSELL: What special times were there when he was most concerned and most anxious to have prayer with you, what special occasions, Major Merwin, when there were defeats?

MAJOR MERWIN: When some soldiers, some officers, and God only knows the awful toll that this country paid to the liquor traffic by the mismanagement and failure of the officers of the army. It would chill your blood this warm day for me to stand here and tell you how these brave soldiers faced orders and obeyed orders when they knew that it meant certain death. A soldier must obey orders.

DR. RUSSELL: You mean to say that some orders were given by officers who were under the influence of liquor?

MAJOR MERWIN: That is true.

DR. RUSSELL: I want you to tell the people in connection with these prayers, whether Mr. Lincoln himself led in prayer when you bowed together.

MAJOR MERWIN: He did often. He says, "I must go and seek help beyond human help. The officers have betrayed me. The officers have failed. I must go to the infinite Father himself and lay the burden before him," and he did over and over and over again. Lincoln was a God-fearing man.

DR. RUSSELL: That reminds me to ask you to tell the people about your chaplaincy which led up in a measure to this relation in prayer service. Did Mr. Lincoln make you a Chaplain? Did he ask you to be ordained as a minister?

MAJOR MERWIN: He did and he wrote a special letter to a friend of his at Adrian, Michigan, asking him to ordain me but says he, "Don't spoil him."

DR. RUSSELL: After that chaplaincy and your appointment, where did you serve, in what parts of the field?

MAJOR MERWIN: Wherever Mr. Lincoln wanted me to go.

DR. RUSSELL: Was it especially in the hospitals or sometimes in the hospitals?

MAJOR MERWIN: Yes. I served as visiting chaplain to all the hospitals in the department of the East, and I have General McDougal's indorsement of my work in that direction.

DR. RUSSELL: Major, I want to come back to the Illinois campaign. The Prohibition campaign was conducted by what organization?

MAJOR MERWIN: By the Illinois State Maine Law Alliance.

DR. RUSSELL: Where were the headquarters?

MAJOR MERWIN: In Chicago.

DR. RUSSELL: Can you name some of the officers or supporters of it?

MAJOR MERWIN: Yes, I will mention one man particularly who was very much interested in this work of Prohibition which Lincoln carried on so successfully and vigorously, and that was William B. Ogden, at that time president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, and he said to me, "I want to have you bring Mr. Lincoln in, I want to see him and talk with him about it." When we went to call on him he gave Mr. Lincoln a check for \$2,500 and said if you need more money come to me and I will duplicate that check cheerfully. We can better afford to meet the traffic by taking temptations out of the way when we meet it by its results, and Mr. Lincoln made that so plain that we raised all the money that was necessary in the state of Illinois. He says, "You have got to meet this one way or the other. You have got to meet it by taking temptation out of the way, or you have got to meet it by furnishing recruits to keep this army of drunkards good, and the better way common sense teaches us," Mr. Lincoln said, "is to take the temptation out of the way by prohibiting the liquor traffic." I want that settled. I want these evangels of the press to speak to the hundred millions of people of Lincoln as a Prohibitionist. I am tired of this everlasting rehearsal that Lincoln "set up" here and there, whisky. He was at one time in company with a man, in a grocery, who insisted that they sell whisky and when Lincoln reproved him, the man would not stop, Lincoln withdrew and had more than a thousand dollars of the debts to pay. Lincoln said, it was a conscience debt of his. He worked ten years to pay it, and paid every dollar of it with interest.

DR. RUSSELL: Now it is a fact, then, that Mr. Lincoln took part in the preliminary agitation, took part in the submission of the question to the people and co-operated in campaigns by many speakers in different parts of the state of Illinois?

MAJOR MERWIN: All over the state. I know it because I was with him day after day and night after night. And also after the campaign ended when he made me a present of this.

DR. RUSSELL: Have you anything in your possession relating to that campaign which you can show the people?

MAJOR MERWIN: Yes, I have it here.

DR. RUSSELL: Where did the watch come from?

MAJOR MERWIN: I suppose it is an English watch. It was a present to me from friends of temperance in Chicago, and Mr. Lincoln, at that

time, in 1855, clearly saw that we must prohibit the liquor traffic, and Mr. Lincoln wrote the inscription that was put into that watch.

DR. RUSSELL: What is the inscription?

MAJOR MERWIN: "Presented by the friends of temperance in Chicago to J. B. Merwin, corresponding secretary of the Illinois Maine Law Alliance, as a token of their confidence and regard for his untiring energy and perseverance in its campaign, 1855, for Prohibition." I want to fix in your mind, brethren and sisters, that Mr. Lincoln then and there, without any solicitation or prompting upon the part of anyone, drew this inscription that is on the watch.

DR. RUSSELL: Now, Major, let's come back for a moment to Washington again. I want you to tell the people about that Grant story.

MAJOR MERWIN: You know the story is that when Grant had won some victory that some people were complaining about Grant's drinking habits, and the story goes that Mr. Lincoln only said: "Well, I would like to know what brand of liquor it is so that I can get some for some of the other Generals." Now the facts are that Lincoln had that marvelously wonderful ready capacity that if there was no story to illustrate the point on the spot, to conceive it and tell it as though it was original. When Lincoln denied that he had made that statement, he said: "I am not obliged to resort to a story that was two hundred years old before I was born." That is the fact about that story, Abraham Lincoln instead of saying that he wanted to know where Grant got his whisky, that he might send a barrel to some of the Generals. He said, he did not say it and that was an old story two hundred years before he was born. He never was guilty of perpetrating or telling any such incidents as that, because the toll was too heavy on his soul and on the soul of the mothers and fathers who sent their boys to the war from the results of drinking.

DR. RUSSELL: Do you want us to understand that Mr. Lincoln didn't say that? It went out as a false statement in the press made up by somebody which Mr. Lincoln disowned, and had recalled that it was told by somebody 200 years before he was born, and that he didn't say any such thing. That is simply a false statement in itself.

MAJOR MERWIN: That is correct and I wish the papers could state that fact so distinctly and clearly and plainly that the people, the hundred millions that we are, might know it.

DR. RUSSELL: Now, let us come to the last three days of Mr. Lincoln's life and your relation to him at that time and the last words that he spoke to you before you parted from him. Will you give us the narrative of the three days briefly.

MAJOR MERWIN: The war had closed, Lee had surrendered. It was on the great heart of Lincoln, "What shall we do! What shall we do with the nearly 200,000 colored soldiers with arms in their hands." Ben Butler says: "I can suggest to you a proposition that will relieve you." "Well," Lincoln says, "it will relieve me very much." He says: "The thing to do with the colored soldiers is to dig the Panama Canal and we shall own as we must own, ultimately that canal and the thing to do with the colored

1915
1829
was 20 yrs old
of 80!

soldiers is to dig the Panama Canal with them as a military measure," and he sent me to Greeley to know whether Greeley would consent to it.

DR. RUSSELL: Were you engaged in the preparation of that, upon the last morning of Mr. Lincoln's life?

MAJOR MERWIN: We started to write it in the evening but the pressure was so great in front that his mind wasn't quite clear and he says: "Come tomorrow morning and we will write the thing and I will get it clear." I went the next morning, and he wrote on it. That is how I come to dine with him that day that he was assassinated. I was there to hear his message with regard to digging the Panama Canal with the colored troops.

DR. RUSSELL: Were you present when anything was said about the meeting at Ford Theater at that night?

MAJOR MERWIN: Why yes. Will you please, while I tell it to you in an honest, humble way, please, to remember that Mr. Lincoln said to his wife, "Mary, I do not think we ought to go to the theater this evening because it is with a great many of our best people in the country a sacred day." Mrs. Lincoln said she didn't think anything about that nor care anything about it. She was going. The Ford Theater people had tendered, for them, the use of a box. Then he said again: "Mary, it seems to me that it is not a proper thing for us to go to theaters upon a religious day, Good Friday," and he was very conscientious about it, but she said that they were going and that ended it.

DR. RUSSELL: Now, state, please the last words Mr. Lincoln said to you before he parted from you that day, as you parted from him to go on the commission to Greeley and said, "Good-bye" what did he say in parting?

MAJOR MERWIN: He said: "Merwin, with the help of the people we have cleaned up a colossal job. I prophesied 25 years ago that the day would come when there would be no slaves and no drunkards in the land. I have lived to see one of those prophecies fulfilled. The next movement on the part of the people will be the suppression of the liquor traffic by law," Said I, Mr. Lincoln, that seems to me a very important statement. Shall I publish it as from you? Mr. Lincoln turned, and says he, "Merwin, publish that as broad as the daylight shines."

DR. RUSSELL: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, if anyone wants to ask any questions, it will be in order.

MAJOR MERWIN: If any one wants to ask any questions I will answer them briefly. I hope the papers will stop this constant reiteration on the part of those engaged in the liquor traffic in stating that Lincoln didn't believe in Prohibition. He believed in it as profoundly as he believed in his own being.

A DELEGATE: Mr. Merwin, will you tell me how you know Mr. Lincoln wrote that Prohibition law for Illinois?

MAJOR MERWIN: Yes, with great pleasure, too, because he said of it when it was written: "I know it will hold water, but I want to know whether it will hold whisky or not." He sent me to 25 or 30 of the leading judges and lawyers of the state of Illinois with a copy of that law to submit to them to see whether it would hold Prohibition and be

effective. I thank you very much for this opportunity to look into your faces and tell you these facts modestly about Lincoln, as I knew them from actual observation day after day and week after week, and year after year.

AMERICA'S GREATEST SHAME

By Rev. Homer W. Tope, D.D., of Philadelphia

Four hundred years ago a remarkable scene was enacted on this American continent that had far-reaching and mighty results in the formation and development of American civilization. On the Isthmus of Panama stood a little band of soldiers, dismayed by the dread silence of the vast wilderness, disheartened by the difficulties of the craggy Andes, and discouraged by other obstacles, not seen, which rumor brought to their ears. One man, alone, stemmed the tide of defeated purposes. He was the leader. Stepping to the front, he drew with his sword a line running east and west on the sand, and, pointing to the south, said:

"Soldiers, on that side of the line are toil, hunger, nakedness, the drenching storm, battle and death; on that side," pointing to the north, "lies ease and safety. But on the south lies Peru and its untold wealth; on the north, Panama and its poverty. Choose, each man, what best becomes a brave Castillian. For my part, I go to the south."

Having said this, he stepped to the southern side of the line. Twelve soldiers, a muleteer, and a minister of religion joined him; the rest went aboard their ship and returned to Panama. Nothing has ever been heard of those who returned, but the exploits of Pizarro and his little band won the best of South America for their King, gained a wonderful prestige in their day, and inscribed their names in great capitals in that book which numbers its pages by centuries. They made the choice between shameful defeat and cowardice on the one hand and victory and power on the other.

Crucial Moment Arrives

To the American citizen, in various times of history, has come that same crucial moment. In the convention of Virginia of 1775, in old St. John's Church, Richmond, when the colony was trembling in balance between the shame of submission to the mother country's oppressions and thorough independence, the choice again rang out in the memorable words of Patrick Henry: "There is no retreat but in submission and slavery. I know not what course others may take, but, as for me—give me liberty or give me death;" and the fame of Henry is as eternal as the great American commonwealth which he so largely aided in forming.

Now, in every age there is some great burning question of the hour, and only one, that overshadows every other, the crucial one of the times, one that underlies, as a basis, every other problem, the settlement of which depends upon the choice of the citizen.

Choice Must Be Made

In every case it is a choice between shame and degradation on the one hand, and justice, righteousness, power and glory on the other. All other things are subsidiary to it. In the colonial days it was freedom from for-

eign oppression. In later times, it was for the freedom of our citizens on the high seas, that no American should be impressed into the service of an alien power. In more modern period, within our remembrance, we answered, in the Spanish war, the old question of Cain in the affirmative, that we are our brother's keeper. We placed ourselves on record that as long as a free heart pulsates in the American nation and while she retains her iron thews and sinewy strength the downtrodden and oppressed everywhere shall see a rainbow of hope in the flash of the American saber and in the detonating roar of her artillery the thunder of God's wrath on the heads of those despots whose iron heels are crushing them into the mire.

What is the great flaming question of the present, at the basis of every problem of the times, that presents itself to every citizen, however humble, than that crime of all crimes, the breeder of poverty, the mother of all shame and sorrow, the despoiler of the home, the curse of suffering wife and child, and the bitter enemy of God—the legalized liquor traffic of today?

On the brow of our great country rests the diadem of supreme wealth and prosperity; with raised arm, and seen of all the world, she holds aloft the torch of liberty and equality; by her side is girded the sword of intelligence and education; her feet are shod with the Gospel of truth and righteousness; but—a shameful thing—her beautiful garments are befouled by the pollutions of the monster, drink, whose slimy trail, leading back to the dawn of recorded time, is marked all along with tears and blood, with devastation and death. Upon the back of this monster rides every problem which causes us the twinge of shame. We are troubled by the high price of living, perplexed by the masses of the unemployed, worried by the contest of capital and labor, grieved by the evidence of poverty in a land of plenty, and shocked by the ramifications of the social evil. The liquor traffic is the basic force neath all.

Shameful Contrasts

What patriotic American is there today but proudly asserts his nation possesses the acme of civilization and is in the van of all progress; and that, cryptic in our humanity, is the best of all time and clime. And quite rightly so. Yet when I consider that other peoples, with less opportunity, poorer enlightenment, and miserable environment have forged ahead of us in this vital question; that heathen Sparta, as Plato asserted, banished all drunkenness and debauchery from her territory, that the ancient Germans, according to Froude, were admired by Caesar for "their abstinence from wine;" that the infidel Mohammedans have a positive general law adjuring all liquor and drunkenness—aye, have had it since the days of Mahomet; that benighted Russia has utterly banished liquor from her territories; that Iceland has utterly cast it out,—when these things come before me I must say with Shakespeare's Duthin:

"Reproach and everlasting shame
Sits mocking in our plumes."

This Moloch of the liquor traffic has burdened our prosperity with a weight of woe and crippled the finances of our people with a burden of debt for which there is no return save a Dead Sea of desolation. It has been estimated that the annual liquor bill of our country is two and a half bil-

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