



THE PEOPLE'S KEEPSAKE;

OR,

FUNERAL ADDRESS

ON THE DEATH OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

WITH THE

PRINCIPAL INCIDENTS OF HIS LIFE.

DELIVERED

BY REV. HIRAM SEARS, A. M.

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The People's Keepsake;

OR,

FUNERAL ADDRESS

ON THE DEATH OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

LATE LAMENTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

WITH THE

PRINCIPAL INCIDENTS OF HIS LIFE.

DELIVERED

BY REV. HIRAM SEARS, A. M.,

IN THE CITY OF MOUNT CARMEL, ILL.,

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1865,

AND DEDICATED TO THE

LOYAL MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN OF ALL PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY.

CINCINNATI:
POE & HITCHCOCK.

E. P. THOMPSON, PRINTER.

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BY HIRAM SEARS,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern
District of Illinois.

FUNERAL ADDRESS.

“Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?” 2 SAMUEL iii, 38.

HOW inscrutable are the ways of Divine Providence! How incomprehensible his majestic plans and purposes! Although inscrutable to us, they are nevertheless for the best, upon the whole. Why the good and great of earth should be so frequently taken away in their years of usefulness, and the depraved and vicious left to vex and torment society with their diabolical plots and practices, we can not tell. But we are sure that the God of infinite benevolence and power will make even the wrath of man to praise him, and the remainder of wrath he will restrain. His purposes will yet be accomplished. Our finite minds may not comprehend them, but they are all perfectly known to Him who sees the end from the beginning. Though they appear to us to move slowly, yet they are ever going forward to their completion. Guizot, one of the first French Protestant writers, says on this subject, that “Providence moves through time as the gods of Homer through space—it makes a step, and ages have rolled away.” We must not grow impatient, therefore. We must not complain that the great thread of events, now unwinding from the reel of God’s providence, runs off too slowly. The significant hand upon the dial of time is working round, and a just and righteous retribution is awaiting the enemies of human progress and truth throughout the world. Though the one we recognized as the Chief Magistrate of our nation and the

flower of our Israel has been suddenly and ruthlessly stricken down, yet God rules and reigns, and will forever reign.

To-day our nation is in mourning. The world resounds with the fall of its mighty chieftain. Our whole land is filled with lamentations of no ordinary character. The wail has gone up from every loyal house and home from the lakes to the gulf, and from ocean to ocean. In this vast funeral dirge which the nation chants over her mighty dead, all loyal hearts and voices are inseparably joined. In this great national mourning it is meet and proper for all ranks, sexes, and conditions to take a part. Let the officers of the General Government, the heads of all departments, the generals and commodores in our army and navy, join with the soldier, sailor, citizen, and freedman, and give vent to their inconsolable grief in a fit and becoming manner. And let the widow, the orphan, the matron, and the blushing maid all mingle their sobs and tears at the shrine of public sorrow. We need not tell you the sad and fearful import of these sable weeds around us to-day; nor need we comment upon the tears you have already shed in this time of public lamentation. All know too well the cause of this funeral occasion, and will join with us in swelling the general deluge of grief which has burst upon our country. For "there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in" our common "Israel."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the sixteenth President of the United States, the subject of our remarks to-day, was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, February 12, 1809. In Mr. Lincoln's boyhood his father, Thomas Lincoln, emigrated with his family to the State of Indiana, where he spent a number of years, and from thence he removed to Illinois. He settled near Decatur, where his late distinguished son won for himself the conspicuous and enviable name among the industrial classes of "rail-splitter." Though a young man well grown up, he determined not to leave his father and set up for himself in the world till he had seen him and his family

comfortably settled in their new home, a good farm opened, and well secured by a fence, the material of which he prepared with his own industrious hands. Like many others of his times in the West, Mr. Lincoln had to overcome the embarrassments of a meager early education by close and untiring application and study after he had become a man. How nobly he accomplished this his various successes in subsequent life will fully prove. If the sources from which we derive our information be correct, it would seem that throughout his life Mr. Lincoln was a most stirring and laborious man.

In 1832 he was elected captain in a volunteer company, and served his country as such in the Blackhawk war.

In 1834 he was sent by his constituents to the Legislature of his State.

In 1836 he obtained license in the profession of the law.

In 1837 he removed to Springfield, the capital of the State, and made it the place of his general residence thereafter, and his family. Mr. Lincoln served several terms in the Illinois Legislature, where he became acquainted with the late lamented Stephen A. Douglas.

In 1847 Mr. Lincoln first took his seat in Congress. In politics he was an old-line Whig, and became an able advocate and defender of the general doctrines of that once great and powerful party. Whenever the subject of slavery came up in Congress in the form of petitions, motions, or public debates, he always paid a profound deference to the principles of human liberty. His great and good heart was too soft to support the barbarities of slavery, and his ear was too delicate to hear the clankings of its merciless chains. He became, therefore, a warm and vigorous supporter of the Wilmot Proviso in all territorial questions, a noble defender of the right of petition on the slavery question, and an able advocate for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and of the infamous slave-trade throughout the world.

In 1848 Mr. Lincoln was elected a member of the National Convention, held in Philadelphia, which nominated General Taylor for President.

In 1854 the famous Kansas-Nebraska Bill, by which the Missouri Compromise was abolished, was introduced into Congress by Mr. Douglas, and was finally passed. This gave rise to long and heated debates all over the country. Mr. Lincoln joined issue with Mr. Douglas upon the precedent and principles involved in that celebrated bill, and met him at Springfield and Peoria in public debate.

Meanwhile the slavery question gave rise to the organization of the Republican party; not that the party ever intended to interfere with slavery in the Southern States, but simply to check the vaunting claims of the pro-slavery party, that it was a national institution, and that the Constitution defended them in their rights of human property any where within the territories of the General Government.

In 1856 Mr. Lincoln stood next to Mr. Dayton for the Vice-Presidency, in the Republican Convention, held at Philadelphia.

In 1858 he was nominated by the Republicans, in their State Convention at Springfield, as a candidate for the United States Senate. This gave rise to those seven great tournaments of public debate between himself and Mr. Douglas, which added much to his popularity, and secured him a handsome majority over Mr. Douglas in the popular vote, though Mr. Douglas gained his re-election to the Senate finally by the vote of the Legislature.

In the Spring of 1860 Mr. Lincoln was nominated, by the Republican National Convention, held at Chicago, for the Presidency of the United States, and was duly elected at the subsequent Fall elections.

It has been thought—and the opinion is not easy to controvert—that the pro-slavery party at the South endeavored to favor his election by dividing the Democratic party at the Charleston Convention, so as to take advantage of his

promotion, and secure a pretext for an attempt to divide the Union.

On March 4, 1861, Mr. Lincoln was sworn into office. Never before had an American statesman to confront such difficulties and dangers as he had. A plot had been laid for his assassination. The life of General Scott was threatened also, if he should attempt to defend his inauguration. The tempest of sedition was already blowing. Most of the arms and munitions for defense had been purposely transferred to the South, by a Southern Secretary of War. The army had been scattered to the four winds, and the navy to the ends of the earth. Six of the slaveholding States had declared themselves out of the Federal Union, and had set up for themselves, under the name of the "Southern Confederacy," and had placed Mr. Davis at its head. But Mr. Lincoln did not falter. In his inaugural address he placed himself squarely in the gap, and proclaimed, "On earth peace, and good-will toward men." "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen," said he, "and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect, and defend it. I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Thus the great and good man thought, and thus he spoke. And when it was announced that the inauguration was over, the great General Scott, wiping the tears from his furrowed cheeks, exclaimed, "Thank God! we have a country and a President!"

But the President soon found that the angry clouds were sweeping up toward the zenith; and on the 12th day of April they culminated into a storm, when Sumter shook under the lightning shock and thundering roar of open and defiant rebellion. Meanwhile the President had made up his mind, in accordance with the oath he had taken to preserve the Union, and so called out seventy-five thousand troops for that purpose. This movement was seconded by a host of compatriots, who rallied nobly around him from all political parties in the country. Mr. Douglas, the world-renowned champion of the Democratic party, though one of the unsuccessful competitors in the late Presidential campaign, had, up to the time of the unprovoked assault upon Fort Sumter, hoped for peace, but was now one of the first to stand up in the great national awakening. He came forward, in the spirit of patriotism and enthusiasm, to the support of the Administration and the Government; and, hurrying home to Illinois, he gave the people the reflections of his gigantic mind and the best advices of his glowing heart. "That the present danger is imminent," said he, "no man can conceal. If war must come, if the bayonet must be used to maintain the Constitution, I can say, before God, that my conscience is clear." "What cause, what excuse do disunionists give us for breaking up the best government on which the sun of heaven ever shed its rays? They are dissatisfied with the result of a Presidential election. Did they never get beaten before? Are we to resort to the sword when we get defeated at the ballot-box? I understand it that the voice of the people, expressed in the mode appointed by the Constitution, must command the obedience of every citizen. They assume, on the election of a particular candidate, that their rights are not safe in the Union. What evidence do they present of this? I defy any man to show any act on which it is based. What act has been omitted to be done? I appeal to these assembled thousands that, so far as the constitutional rights of the Southern States—I will say the

constitutional rights of slaveholders—are concerned, nothing has been done and nothing omitted of which they can complain.” “There has never been a time, from the day that Washington was inaugurated first President of these United States, when the rights of the Southern States stood firmer under the laws of the land than they do now; there never was a time when they had not as good a cause for disunion as they have to-day.”

“The slavery question is a mere excuse; the election of Lincoln is a mere pretext. The present secession movement is the result of an enormous conspiracy, formed more than a year since—formed by leaders in the Southern Confederacy more than twelve months ago.” “But this is no time for a detail of causes. The conspiracy is now known. Armies have been raised; war has been levied to accomplish it. There are only two sides to the question. Every man must be for the United States or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war—*only patriots and traitors.*”

But before Mr. Douglas had uttered these glowing truths at Chicago, he had thundered them into the ears of the Legislature at Springfield, in which he rose to the very climax of majestic statesmanship and eloquence. “Whenever,” said he, “our Government is assailed, when hostile armies are marching under new and odious banners against the Government of our country, the shortest way to peace is the most stupendous and unanimous preparation for war. The greater the unanimity the less blood will be shed. The more prompt and energetic the movement, and the more imposing in numbers, the shorter will be the struggle.”

I need not stop to give you in detail the stupendous and unprecedented difficulties which still surrounded the President. The whole machinery of the civil Government required his prompt and indefatigable attention. Appointments to the various offices at home were yet to be made by thousands. Ministers and consuls were to be dispatched to foreign governments. The army was still to be increased

beyond all precedent, and to be furnished with commissary stores, arms, and transportation. The numbers in the navy were to be doubled, or perhaps quadrupled, and vessels fitted out in numbers and magnitude equal to the occasion. The mind staggers under the contemplation of his countless duties and obligations. But you all remember how nobly he stood up for his country.

Still his great heart ever yearned for his deluded enemies, and while he pressed on heroically to meet the mighty struggle which their vaunting ambition had inaugurated, he always held out to them the olive-branch of peace.

It is a historical fact that nearly four years of unprecedented war, pressed on with vigor, but with that clemency which is the characteristic of a great and unsullied mind, brought the country around to another Presidential campaign. Mr. Lincoln's course had been marked with calmness, moderation, fortitude, and patriotism, which amounted to moral heroism. Under his administration our country had prospered, notwithstanding the general embarrassments of a gigantic civil war. Our army and navy were crowned with unprecedented triumphs and universal glory. The wily foes of our country, both North and South, were being fast subdued. Our relation with foreign powers had been marked with friendship and cordiality, and our commerce still commanded the attention of the world. All these things made a powerful appeal to the hearts of his countrymen, and richly did they repay him with the honor of a second election to office by overwhelming majorities, before unknown in the annals of American history.

But before the President had taken his seat in his second term of office, another deep, diabolical, and deadly plot was laid by conspirators for his assassination. And in less than six weeks from the time of his late inauguration he was shot down in cold blood by the fiendish assassin, in the very heart of the nation's capital. My God! has it come to this? Have we sunk so prematurely to the level of the heathen?

Is there no security for human life among us? Must the infamous crime of the most unprovoked and fiendish murder of our President be added to the insults and injuries imposed upon our country's yeomanry? Must the very pillars of our General Government be hewn down by the foul hand of traitors and assassins, and the joy of an exultant people at the very dawn of returning peace, and the peans of victory over a conquered and scattered enemy, be so suddenly exchanged for the wail of unspeakable anguish and the funeral dirge of their martyred President and friend? "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph."

God, have mercy upon us! May the disconsolate widow and orphans of his family receive His sovereign smiles and blessings! and may He ever comfort the crushed and sorrowful hearts of all who have been called to mourn the loss of husbands, brothers, and friends in this patriotic struggle for the preservation of the Union and the protection of our homes!

We come now to notice the characteristics of the great American statesman, from several interesting stand-points.

Mr. Lincoln was emphatically a national man and a patriot. The constant devotion of his energies for preserving the life of the nation throughout this sanguinary struggle appears to have been the one great purpose of his Administration. His heart was too large to love a General Government less comprehensive than his whole country. We can confidently say that to no man of any age was there ever intrusted greater interests and responsibilities, and that no man was ever better calculated to dispose of them in a manner every way creditable to himself, honorable to his country, and agreeable to the general sense of mankind. No man elected to the Presidency since the days of Washington ever had such a hold upon the hearts and affections of the people, or was able to gather around him a brighter

constellation of civil and military officers. When standing at the helm of state, his party feelings, if any he had, melted away into a noble patriotism, as quenchless and refulgent as the light of yonder sun. At his call the masses rose, in their majesty and might, to crush the hydra of rebellion, which was breathing out fire and death. And, by watchful days of anxious toil and wakeful nights of reflection and care, he taught the people a lesson which should have been learned before, that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Mr. Lincoln was a moral man. As to his character, built upon the moral sentiments, he stands confessedly, in the eyes of all parties, unimpeachable. He was free from all those weak and vicious traits which go to make a bad man. He was as proverbial for his honesty as Aristides, the celebrated Athenian statesman, was for his justice. His sayings, like the axioms of mathematics, needed no proof, but gained at once the assent of the public mind. And his whole life was marked with temperance, industry, and hospitality. In many acts of his Administration he may have erred, yet he was doubtless as honest and sincere in his convictions of duty as he was firm and unyielding in the execution of them. If he erred at all, it was on the side of mercy. It seemed to us sometimes that we were infinitely more endangered by the characteristic kindness of his loving heart than we were by any weakness or error of his head.

Mr. Lincoln was a benevolent man. What Chief Executive of the nation had ever distributed so lavishly the public and lucrative offices of the Government among his political opponents before? What rebel prisoner, condemned to death by the inexorable laws of war, ever failed to reach his sympathy and secure his pardon, who appealed to his clemency? What heart of wife or mother was not gladdened by his smiles and beneficence when he had heard its tale of sorrow? Even the reckless deserter from his post in the army was melted to tears by his tenderness, and at his appeals went

back like a man to win glory for himself and an honorable name for his posterity

Aside from these noble traits of character, there were three things for which President Lincoln was deservedly noticeable, and will render him renowned throughout the civilized world. The first was the sanctity of his proclamations, in the appointment of public days for national humiliation and thanksgiving. His proclamations were always orthodox in sentiment and profoundly religious. The second was the wisdom, benevolence, and statesmanship he manifested in issuing his great proclamation of freedom. There are still some opposers of this policy, even in the Church of God. But, we must say, by this one act he has accomplished more good than thousands and tens of thousands of such persons will accomplish in all their lives. And eternity alone can tell the glorious results of this truly-beneficent and morally-sublime act. The third great thing of which we wish to speak was the giving his heart to God. In early life he is said to have been skeptical, but not so in his after years. We have not had a President since the days of Washington who, in his public walks, seemed to have a better appreciation of this particular Scripture than himself: "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Upon leaving Springfield for the City of Washington, he said to those who accompanied him to the cars:

"My friends, no one not in my position can appreciate the sadness I feel at this parting. To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century; here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. A duty devolves upon me which is perhaps greater than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He never would have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I can not succeed without the same Divine aid which sustained him, and on the same Almighty Being I

place my reliance for support; and I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance without which I can not succeed, but with which success is certain."

It is said, upon the authority of the best public prints, that the President confessed that, after the loss of his son at Washington, his mind underwent a great change on the subject of religion; that upon visiting the battle-field of Gettysburg he gave himself up to God, and that with tearful eyes he professed to love the blessed and ever-adorable Jesus. The previous acknowledgments of the existence and providence of the Divine Being, the subsequent exhibition of a noble Christian spirit, and his settled habits of daily communion with his God in prayer of late, establish the above statements beyond doubt or controversy.

Standing like some venerable patriarch among the Christian denominations of the country, he once said, "Blessed be God, who, in this our great trial, giveth us the Churches!" And at another time, "God is my witness that it has been my constant anxiety and prayer that both myself and this nation should be on the Lord's side."

An extract from his late inaugural address will also throw light upon this pleasing subject, and strengthen our confidence in his Christian integrity:

"Woe unto the world," says he, quoting from the Great Teacher, "because of offenses, for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe unto that man by whom the offense cometh."

"If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through his appointed time, he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense comes, shall we discern that there is any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him? Fondly do we

hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue till all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and till every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword: as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, that 'the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.' With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in. We are to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow, and for his orphans—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" Certainly you do, and feel it, too—O, how keenly! At this sad calamity our old men stand appalled and stupefied, matrons wring their hands for very anguish, and the dear little children stop their gambols upon our streets to weep. The bullet that entered the head of our noble President has settled in the people's heart, and we are not the only nation that will feel the wound. Henceforth the downtrodden and oppressed in these and other lands will put on weeds of mourning for him as for a departed brother and friend. His name will pass into history, not merely as the "honest" Abraham Lincoln, but as the divine statesman of America, the second Father of his Country, and the great moral hero of the nineteenth century. Future generations will build their monuments to grace and perpetuate his memory. It is quite unnecessary for us to do it; for his name is already sacredly embalmed in the hearts of his countrymen.

In conclusion, let us pause a moment and contemplate the great moral results of this mysterious event. Mysterious, we say; for no man can give a proper solution to the cause of this foul assassination. Whether it was to mortify the

pride of the nation, by prematurely removing its Chief Executive, or to distract public attention so as to gain time in the desperate struggle to continue the rebellion, or to secure for the rebels themselves better and more advantageous terms of peace, none can tell. We have attributed it, in the main, to a diabolical determination on the part of the conspirators not to conform to wholesome rule any longer, or perhaps to the more wicked purpose not to submit at all to any terms of peace till after the President had been violently disposed of. If he had been removed by accidental or natural causes, the violent opposers of his Administration might feel gratified with the results of such a providence without incurring the charge of criminality. But if any man can rejoice over his removal, or even approve of it, under the circumstances which attended his death, he is, in his heart, *particeps criminis* with his assassination, and is justly chargeable with murder in the sight of Almighty God. We are not of that class who shrink from the responsibility of speaking fully the convictions of their mind on this subject. The condemnation due to treason, assassination, and all their concomitant vices should be thundered into the ears of the people from the bar, the pulpit, and the press, till the whole continent shall shake with horror at the blackness and infamy of such detestable crimes.

But whatever might have been the causes which led to this assassination, let us not despond. There is a just and holy God that rules, and, under his divine providence, there is no public calamity which befalls a nation but brings with it some blessing in disguise. To-day the cause of our country is stronger than it ever was before. The Government will rise from this baptism of affliction regenerated; it will go on though its President has fallen. His blood has cemented afresh the noble arch of our Union, and his name will kindle sweet and unfading memories in the minds of all future generations. This very act of assassination, if none other, has sealed the fate of the Southern Confederacy forever. It has

crowned the leading abettors of the rebellion with eternal infamy in the sight of the world. It has given the death-blow to slavery and tyranny in all North America, if not on the whole Western Continent. It has rendered treason more execrable than ever. It will inaugurate a more wise and stringent policy in treating with rebels. It will fire the soul of the patriot and strengthen the nerves of the soldier. It will quicken the march of universal freedom, and thrill the hearts of future generations with the imperishable sentiment of Union and liberty, for which the President became a martyr. Noble martyr! While the eye of the nation shall weep over thee, and the hand of affection shall plant *immortelles* around thy grave, we will still look aloft, and comfort our hearts with the pleasing assurance that, crowned with immortality and peace, thy soul still marches on.

By this great national affliction we are again reminded of our dependence on God. "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers." In the infinitude of his works, "the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing." He it was who first planted us; it is by him that we have been preserved, and our destiny is still in his hands. If we acknowledge him in all our ways, he will direct our path to prosperity, virtue, and national honor. Let us seek his face evermore, and secure his divine favor; for "blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his inheritance."

By this sad calamity we have received another admonition of the uncertainty and brevity of human life. We are all moving on with ceaseless tread to meet our great common enemy. The fiat has gone forth, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." A few more evolutions of time, and the great drama of life will be over. Warned by the judgments of God which are abroad in the land, let me say to you all, my friends, "Be ye also ready; for in such an

hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." May God grant us a full preparation, through the blood of the Cross, for our solemn change, and then admit us into the regions of bliss and immortality, beyond the havoc of political revolution, the tramp of hostile armies, and the thunders of cruel war!

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COMMUNICATIONS

AND EXTRACTS FROM RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED.

MOUNT CARMEL, ILL., April 25, 1865.

REV. HIRAM SEARS: *Dear Sir*,—Believing that your sermon on the death of the late President, delivered on the 23d inst., in the Methodist Episcopal Church in this city, would be read with deep interest by the public, we take the liberty to ask a copy of the same for publication in the Mount Carmel Register.

Yours, truly,

E. B. GREEN,
ROBERT BELL,
J. S. STEWART,

M. J. HABBERTON,
ROBT. PARKINSON,
C. O. B. GOFORTH.

REPLY.

MOUNT CARMEL, ILL., April 25, 1865.

GENTLEMEN,—If the address you have done me the honor to refer to will be of any service in mitigating the general grief which has seized the public mind, or strengthen the hope of our country's cause in the least, you will be welcome to a copy of it for publication, as soon as I can prepare it.

Yours, respectfully,

HIRAM SEARS.

MOUNT CARMEL, ILL., May 15, 1865.

REV. HIRAM SEARS, A. M.: *Dear Sir*,—Your Funeral Address on the death of our late lamented President, published in the Register, of this city, is the *most comprehensive and eloquent* address, and the *most appropriate* tribute of respect to the great American statesman that we have read any where, and should be published in pamphlet form and read by the million. It is *invaluable* as a literary and biographical production, and will be cheap at any price. Please accept our congratulations.

Yours, respectfully,

E. B. GREEN,
ROBERT BELL,
M. J. HABBERTON,
J. J. LESCHER, M. D.,

R. PARKINSON,
C. O. B. GOFORTH,
R. K. STEES.

It has received the commendation of the following persons also: Bishop SIMPSON, of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev. ROBERT ALLYN, President of McKendree College; Professors JONES and SWAHLEN, of the same institution; Professor J. F. BELLAMY, Principal of the Mount Carmel City High School.

Governor OGLESBY, of Illinois, says: "It pays a just tribute to the high qualities of Abraham Lincoln, is a faithful narration of the leading events of his life, and will be read, I hope, by many citizens."

Governor MORTON, of Indiana, says: "It is eloquent, truthful, and patriotic, and is well worthy of publication in a more enduring form than a newspaper affords."

Rev. J. MORRISON REID, D. D., editor of the Western Christian Advocate, says: "I am glad to know that it is called for in pamphlet form. Its extensive circulation and perusal can not but tend to create the right public sentiment at this hour, love for our lacerated nation, and hatred of all that could wound or destroy it."

Rev. B. F. CRARY, editor of the Central Christian Advocate, says: "It is brief, plain, and just. The great man fallen deserves such words; and I think they will do good wherever they may be read. You can not circulate too widely such sentiments as are contained in your sermon."

Bishop SIMPSON, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, says: "I have had time only to glance hastily over your sermon. So far as I could read I was much pleased."