

PUBLIC EXERCISES

BY THE CITIZENS OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

**IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE-HUNDRETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF**

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**FEBRUARY TWELFTH,
NINETEEN HUNDRED NINE**

To

Judge Daniel Fish

with the Compliments of

Orra L. Stone

Clinton Mass., Dec 22. 1909

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

PUBLIC EXERCISES
BY THE CITIZENS OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
HELD IN
MECHANICS HALL
FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY TWELFTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINE



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Worcester, Massachusetts
MCMIX

Order of the City Council of Worcester, Massachusetts,
for Public Exercises by the Citizens in Commemoration of
the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham
Lincoln:

CITY OF WORCESTER.

In City Council, November 23, 1908.

ORDERED: That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, em-
powered and requested to appoint a committee of fifteen
citizens to arrange for a suitable public observance of the
one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lin-
coln, which occurs on the twelfth day of February, A. D.,
1909.

Received November 25, 1908.

JAMES LOGAN, Mayor.

Approved November 27, 1908.

A Copy, Attest: W. HENRY TOWNE, City Clerk.

INTRODUCTORY.

The twelfth day of February, 1909, marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the typical American man of genius, and, perhaps the greatest of all Americans. Its celebration throughout the land with fitting memorial services and other observations of a more or less public character testifies to the almost universal recognition of the greatness of his life and the significance of his service to the Republic. In a unique way he sums up and humanizes the deeds and achievements, the hopes and ideals, that have given birth to and continue to sustain the great American experiment in democracy. Massachusetts, the cradle of American liberty, celebrated this anniversary with her old-time zeal and enthusiasm; and the Heart of the Commonwealth added its tribute in the form of appropriate public exercises held under the auspices of the City Council and carried out as arranged for by a Committee of Citizens appointed by the Mayor for that purpose.

On petition of Alexander F. Chamberlain and others, the City Council of Worcester passed, on November 23, 1908, the following resolution:

“Ordered: That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, empowered and requested to appoint a committee of fifteen citizens to arrange for a suitable public observance of the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, which occurs on the twelfth day of February, A. D., 1909.”

In conformity with the vote of the City Council, Hon. James Logan, Mayor, appointed the following citizens to serve as such committee, and to make arrangements for such celebration, and they were duly confirmed, Dec. 14, 1908:

Alexander F. Chamberlain,
Charles T. Tatman,

Louis E. Feingold,
Alexander H. Bullock,

John F. McGrath,
Edward J. McMahon,
W. Levi Bousquet,
Emil Zaeder,
John J. Power,

Thomas J. Cronin,
Francis Bergstrom,
Mark N. Skerrett,
George T. Dominis,
Reginald Washburn,

Victor E. Runo.

This Committee, as may be seen from the names of the gentlemen composing it, was thoroughly representative of that newer America made possible by the genius and the sacrifices of Lincoln and his co-laborers in the task of saving the Union and extending the bounds of human liberty.

The Committee met, for purposes of organization, December 18, 1908, when the following officers were chosen:

Chairman: Alexander F. Chamberlain.

Secretary: Charles T. Tatman.

It was also voted that His Honor, the Mayor, be requested to be present at all meetings of the Committee.

The following Sub-Committees were appointed:

On Speakers: Messrs. Bergstrom, Tatman and Chamberlain.

On Exercises: Messrs. McMahon, Bousquet, Washburn, Tatman and Chamberlain.

On Coöperation with the Public Schools, etc.: Messrs. Bullock, Skerrett and Feingold.

On Lincolniana: Messrs. McGrath, Dominis, Runo.

On Decorations: Messrs. Power, Zaeder, Cronin.

The General Committee and these Sub-Committees, with the efficient coöperation of the Mayor and City Messenger William H. Pratt, made all arrangements for the celebration on behalf of the City of Worcester.

The Committee was very fortunate in securing as the orator of the occasion Hon. Arthur P. Rugg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, a distinguished citizen of the Heart of the Commonwealth, whose eloquent and patriotic address was thoroughly worthy the anniversary it so fittingly commemorated.

As the clergyman to offer prayer at this great meeting of the citizens of Worcester, the Committee unanimously selected the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Thomas Griffin, D. D., senior in length of service of all priests and ministers in the City,

INTRODUCTORY.

whose noble Christian utterance added much to the dignity and the solemnity of the exercises.

Through the generous coöperation of Mr. Charles I. Rice, head of the Department of Music in the Public Schools of the City, who acted as conductor, Mr. Walter W. Farmer, who acted as organist, and Miss Mabelle G. Beals, who acted as accompanist, with the assistance of a Chorus, composed of Worcester singers, the large audience was enabled to enjoy several appropriate and well-executed musical numbers on the programme.

The Sub-Committee on coöperation with the Public Schools had the happy thought of selecting by competition among the pupils of the Public and Parochial Schools a boy to declaim at the public meeting Lincoln's Address at the Dedication of the Gettysburg Cemetery. The choice fell upon William J. Heffren, Jr., who completely justified his selection by his effective recital of this master-piece of English.

The meeting was presided over by the Hon. James Logan, Mayor of Worcester, whose address, in brief but eloquent words, did equal justice to the dead and to the living, to hero and to nation, to the America of Lincoln's day and the newer America of our own time.

From all points of view the Commemoration Services in Worcester were a success, and the great audience showed again and again their recognition of the significance of the occasion and their appreciation of those who took part in the services. A touching incident of the meeting occurred when, as the members of Post 10 of the Grand Army of the Republic began to retire from the hall, the entire audience arose and, as a marked tribute to those who had been associated with Lincoln in saving the Union, remained standing until the last veteran had passed out.

Besides the great public meeting in Mechanics Hall, the Superintendent of Public Schools in coöperation with the Committee arranged for commemoration meetings for pupils of the High and Grammar Schools throughout the City, at which suitable programmes were carried out, including addresses by members of the Lincoln Committee, members of the School Committee, veterans of the G. A. R., and other

citizens. In all of these the boys and girls of the various schools took their part.

The coöperation of Samuel S. Green (Librarian Emeritus) and Robert K. Shaw, Librarian of the Worcester Free Public Library, with the Lincoln Committee brought about an interesting and extensive exhibit of Lincolniana of all kinds (many things being altogether rare and valuable) in the Art Rooms of the Library, which was visited by a large number of people of every class in the community.

The decorations of the City Hall and of Mechanics Hall were simple but effective and the decorations all over the City showed a significant appreciation of the simplicity of the great genius whom the day commemorated, as well as a widespread evidence of genuine American patriotism.

PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC EXERCISES.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

- 1 The Soldier's Chorus Gounod
- 2 Prayer
Rt. Rev. Mgr. Thomas Griffin, D. D.
- 3 Address
Hon. James Logan, Mayor of Worcester
- 4 O Captain, My Captain . . . Edgar Stillman Kelley
- 5 Declamation: Lincoln's Address at the Dedication of the
Gettysburg Cemetery
William J. Heffren, Jr.
- 6 Lincoln's Message: Final Chorus, "Caractacus"—Elgar
(Words Adapted)
- 7 Oration
Hon. Arthur P. Rugg,
Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court
of Massachusetts
- 8 America Carey
(The audience is requested to join with the chorus
in singing America)

The chorus is composed of Worcester singers. Miss Mabelle G. Beals, Accompanist; Walter W. Farmer, Organist; Charles I. Rice, Conductor.

PRAYER BY RT. REV. MGR. THOMAS GRIFFIN, D. D.

Almighty God, Our Father, we humbly and reverently bow before Thee, to pay our homages of love and duty. We assemble here to-night to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the birthday of the great man, that Thou didst raise up in our country's peril, to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution given to us by the Fathers as a precious heritage.

We thank Thee with all our hearts, for the blessings which Thou didst bestow on the country, when as a Nation, the Colonies formed that Union of States, which strengthened and prospered the government of the people, and made the United States a power for good in the world.

To the valiant Captain, successful organizer, wise and most prudent administrator, who stood sponsor at the birth of our nation upon its career of political independence, we render sincere thanks and are grateful that his memory is enshrined in the hearts of the people in the endearing term, Father of His Country.

We are mindful of the great favors, which Thou didst confer upon the pioneers of the early time, in inspiring them to plant a nation in the sound and underlying principles of liberty. Under Thy direction, they brought forth the model of safe and orderly government, challenging the admiration of the world, and providing a shelter land for the oppressed and homeless of the nations of the earth. But, oh, how great and unbounded our joy, our love, our gratitude and thanksgiving for having preserved to us and to generations yet to follow the precious heritage of liberty, which was won and fostered and cherished by those sturdy and brave men of that day.

In our subsequent development, in the days of dissension and strife, in the days that tried men's souls, the

days when the strong man and seer was needed, Thou, O Merciful God, camest to our assistance. Thou didst send that man, first having prepared him by causing him to pass through all the phases of hard and rugged life, strengthening his body and making him capable of great endurance. To mental power of ever growing brightness, Thou didst unite a heart that throbbed in its every beat for the welfare of his countrymen, reaching in his paternal solicitude to the remotest hamlet in the land. To Washington and his compeers, we are indebted for the creation under God of the Republic of the United States. To Lincoln, above all men, are we indebted for the redemption of the nation, its return to the enjoyment of its normal liberty.

All great things are achieved by sacrifice, and he, the chosen of God, elected and endorsed by the people, became the willing victim. Strong in the consciousness of right doing, he was potent before the people and their representatives. He leaned upon the principle and acted upon it, that right always makes might. He valued his life only in so far as he could carry out his oath to preserve, protect and defend the government of the nation. He stands to-day before the world, the Redeemer of the land.

If we call Washington the Father of his country, we lovingly look upon the face of Abraham Lincoln and salute him as the Saviour of the Republic. Millions of treasure and hecatombs of human lives have been sacrificed to preserve the Union, but the culmination is reached in the awful tragedy, which cuts off without warning the loved President of the people. Had he then a moment of consciousness, we might hear the whisper: "It is finished, for you, my country, for you, my people."

We listen to his words on the battlefield of Gettysburg. It is the voice of his inmost soul; it is a prayer; it is a prophecy. This nation shall have a new birth of freedom, its star of destiny shall not be extinguished, and government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

To Thee, O God, in whose hands are the destinies of nations, we lift up our hearts and humbly pray that our Nation may live on forever.

Amen.

ADDRESS BY HON. JAMES LOGAN, MAYOR OF WORCESTER.

We have met tonight to pay our tribute of love and respect to the memory of a man who fills a large place in history.

A man who was the product of republican institutions, without a titled ancestry, without the learning of the schools, poor in purse and with no claims to greatness but his own God-given qualities of mind and heart and soul.

But true greatness after all, in spite of its name, is not so much a certain size, as a certain quality in human lives, and, measured by that standard, Abraham Lincoln was a great man.

It is fitting and proper that such a gathering as this should be held in this hall, filled as it is with the fragrant memories of the past.

Here we have listened to the strains of the sublime symphony which has lifted us upward toward heaven, and standing on this platform, some of the noblest and brightest minds of earth have delivered their message.

In this hall, in the years which preceded the mighty struggle that ended on the field of Appomattox, we listened to the trumpet tones of Wendell Phillips and William Lloyd Garrison, as they eloquently pleaded for the cause of liberty.

Here was the rallying point of patriotism in those awful years when this man did his mighty work, while the life of the nation seemed to hang trembling in the balance.

Those years when his Excellency, Hon. John A. Andrew, the great war governor of Massachusetts the friend of Lincoln, was the incarnation of the highest type of patriotism.

Those years when Lincoln stood as the great High Priest of freedom and made decisions which wrung his sad

heart and which he knew would drench the altar of liberty with the best blood of the nation.

In those awful years from '61 to '65 when the nation needed defenders, sons of Massachusetts standing on the platform in this hall looking down into the faces of Worcester men, stretched out their arms and made their appeal for men to make this man's work effective, saying not "go", but "come", and nobly did the men of Worcester join in that mighty chorus which went up from school and store, office, farm and factory,

"We are coming father Abraham,
three hundred thousand strong."

Then came that day in '65 when the war was over and at last there was peace.

These men who fought the battles for the Union had nobly done their part, they had seen the standard that represented rebellion go down in eternal defeat.

They had suffered, they had endured, but they had been spared to see the end. That noble army closing up on its tattered colors which had been, through four long bloody years, the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, marching up Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, passed in review and said good-bye to the great leaders who had led them and who had written their names into the history of the nation.

Then, having finished their work, that line of blue faded out of sight in the distance as soldiers, once more to take their places in the ranks of industry as humble citizens of the nation they had helped to save, and with a joy that men of the present generation can never know, these veterans turned their faces toward their northern and western homes, once more to clasp in a warm and loving embrace those mothers, wives, sisters and sweethearts who, out of their bitter experience, could bear testimony to the truth of that saying of Milton's

"They also serve who only stand and wait."

While we have met tonight to do honor to the memory of our great war president, great honor should also be given to the soldier by whose aid Lincoln was enabled to write his name high on the roll of fame.

And, when in imagination we see the picture of the victorious army, we need to be reminded that there were other actors in the great drama who must not be forgotten to-night.

The noble wife and mother with her family of little ones about her, dependent for daily bread on the strong right arm that was now needed by the nation, and yet, and yet, knowing that want and privation was to be the portion for herself and helpless little ones, could say to the husband and father "Go" and after he had gone, and the music of the fife and drum had died away in the distance, she turned to her hard task, solitary and alone, facing the hard battle of life with no strains of martial music to cheer and inspire her to fight a battle which in many cases required more courage, more real heroism than to face the shotted guns which thundered in the wilderness.

It was not woman's part in that great conflict to storm Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, where the gallant Plunkett, whose face looks down upon us tonight from yonder wall, baptized the colors of the 21st Mass. with his life blood, nor yet to stand, a living wall of blue, to hold in check and finally beat back that tidal wave of gray that broke upon the slopes of Gettysburg; but she had done her part, she had been no stranger to sorrow and privation.

And, while at the end she may not wear the badge of the Grand Army upon her breast, nor the service chevron on her sleeve, that agonizing heart, which through four long years had throbbled as though it would surely break, and those bitter tears of anguish that had coursed down her cheeks, had set the lines of a diviner service chevron in the fair and beautiful face.

So tonight our thought is turned backward to Lincoln, let us remember the sacrifices of the women who also helped to make Lincoln's work effective.

There is still another picture which ought not to be forgotten. The war is over and that other army in gray which faced the north is also to fade away in the distance, but in the opposite direction, but this one goes to wasted fields and ruined homes. Men brought up in luxury and unused to work are to take up the burdens of life anew, but they go

from Appomattox with the most kindly and magnanimous message that victor ever gave to vanquished.

When, on the field of Appomattox, Gen. Grant gave orders to issue food to Gen. Lee's starving soldiers and told the men to return to their homes and take with them their horses to plow the fields laid waste by war thus to provide bread and shelter for loved ones in the southland, he was as truly inspired of God as was Isaiah of old, and on the field of Appomattox the first step was taken which made possible a united nation today.

INTRODUCING JUSTICE ARTHUR P. RUGG

We do well to observe these memorial days, these milestones which mark the great highway of human progress, and so we have met here tonight to listen to one of our most honored citizens who, looking through the perspective of years, will bring to our view a clearer vision of this sad-faced kindly man, whose homely face was an index to a great and beautiful soul.

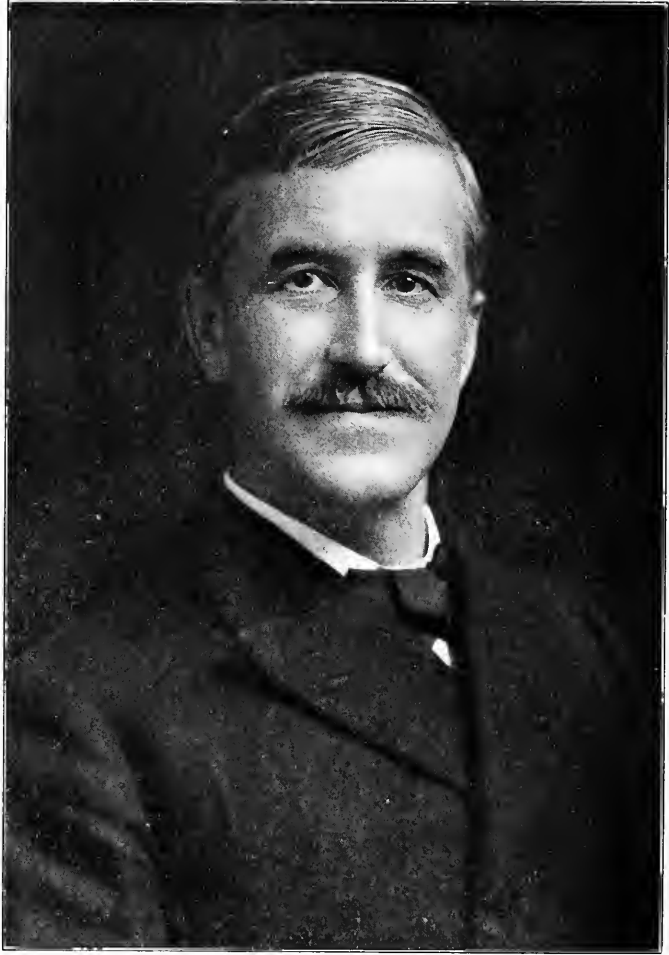
This man criticized, abused, maligned and ridiculed, who felt, as few men have been called upon to feel, the isolation, the utter loneliness of high official position, while bearing for you and me and for generations yet unborn, a burden which God alone could correctly estimate.

But such a gathering as this will have little value unless we are inspired by the record of his noble life of service, unless we incorporate into our lives the noble sentiment to which he gave expression in that immortal address at Gettysburg, to which we have just listened, that unless we too

“highly resolve that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom”,
and that we of the present generation dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work to which he gave

“the last full measure of devotion”.

It is usual at a gathering of this character to introduce the speaker, but the orator tonight needs no introduction to a Worcester audience and I shall take the liberty to change the usual order, and so, Justice Rugg, it comes to be my happy privilege to present to you this splendid audience.



HON. ARTHUR P. RUGG

ORATION BY ARTHUR P. RUGG, ASSO-
CIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME JUDI-
CIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Mr. Mayor, Members of the City Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Twice before have the people of Worcester assembled in honor of Abraham Lincoln.

The first time it was to listen to him. That was on September 12, 1848. Before an audience which overflowed the old City Hall, whose site is now marked by the statue of our great Senator, he discussed the political issues of that day. It was his first address in New England. But his striking appearance, the novelty and freshness of his style, his apt anecdote and his persuasive eloquence awakened warm enthusiasm. In this speech is found the promise of the clear statement, lucid thought and convincing logic, which distinguish his later utterances.

Again, when the nation was overwhelmed in the fresh grief and darkening gloom of his tragic death, in this hall the city council and the people gathered to hear the eulogy pronounced by Alexander H. Bullock. The profound and universal lamentation for the wicked assassination which took him from earth, and the dawning appreciation of the surpassing grandeur of his service and preeminent place in history were spoken in words of solemn beauty and power, by one of the first orators of that day and generation.

And now, two score and four years after the dust of the martyred president has mingled with the prairie he loved, we join with a reunited nation, north and south, east and west, to celebrate the centenary of his birth, in a reverential but triumphal chorus of thanksgiving and praise that

this man has lived and has written his message of wisdom and sacrifice where it shall be read by all men in all time to come.

There is nothing startling or miraculous about the details of his life. On the eve of the presidency, he himself said that it was summed up in the single line, "The short and simple annals of the poor". Kentucky has become distinguished for his birth. He first breathed in a log cabin of a single room with no floor but the ground. His father, a man of integrity though not of enterprise, was unable to read, and could barely write his name. His mother taught him the Bible, but her life went out when the child was only ten years old. No woman was ever paid nobler tribute than this from her son long after her death: "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother—Blessings on her memory". Removed first to Indiana and then to Illinois, the lad lived under the hard conditions which surrounded the home of the frontiersman. Felling the forest, building the cabin, breaking the soil, splitting the rails with which to fence the new field, spending at school "by littles" not more than a year all told, gaining experience in a flat boat voyage to New Orleans, always pitifully poor—these were the circumstances under which he came to manhood. The books he read were few, but the best—the Bible, Aesop's Fables, Pilgrim's Progress, a Life of Washington, Robinson Crusoe. He studied composition by the light of the fire, and practiced writing on a wooden shovel, whose surface from time to time he made fresh with a knife. There was another river trip to New Orleans, where his soul was burned with the sight of a negro girl in a slave market. He was silent, "said nothing much", but he there took before God the oath, which lasted through life, that if he ever got a chance he would hit hard the institution of slavery. He worked in a store and was postmaster, grew in strength and stature of body, and meeting the customs of his neighborhood defeated the champion fighters in hand to hand contests. Elected captain of a militia company of his townsmen, he served in the Black Hawk War. Returning he engaged in store business, with a partner who drank whiskey while Lincoln read, and in a short time the inevitable failure

and load of debt overtook him. Scorning to take advantage of insolvency or bankruptcy, it was after he was in congress that the last of these store obligations was discharged. He established the reputation for honesty which was so important an element of his strength. Discovering one morning that by mistake a four ounce balance had been used to measure the last sale of a half pound of tea on the day before, he weighed out the rest of the purchase, closed the store and walked a long distance to deliver it to the customer. For a time he was deputy under a democratic land surveyor, but declined the appointment until assured that its acceptance involved no sacrifice of his political principles. This education, rude and harsh as it was, lacking in all the elements now commonly regarded as essential, was, nevertheless, for the nature rugged enough to survive it, an admirable training for leadership. It taught love of learning, without which there would be blighting ignorance; temperance, without which amid universal invitation to excess there could be no respect from others; honesty, without it no self respect; resourcefulness in speech and thought, without it no progress; kindness and sympathy, without these no knowledge of human nature; self reliance, without it no confidence to undertake new responsibility; and, finally, will power, without which there could be no perseverance to endure to the end. With all these faculties awakened, Abraham Lincoln stood on the threshold of his life work. At the age of twenty-seven he was admitted to the bar, and removed to Springfield, the capitol of his state, which remained his home.

The twenty-four years intervening until his nomination to the presidency covered Lincoln's professional career. It is not all a mystery that this child of the West came to the helm of state at the age of fifty-two clothed in the full panoply of intellectual power. It is only in the imagination that giants are born full armored for the ordeals of life. The elemental forces of a human being grow by exercise, harden by experience, and become strong through trial, to endure the stress of storm. Men do not "gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles". The overshadowing capacity of the great president during our national crisis was not built in a moment nor founded upon the sands. It was nurtured, trained

and nerved through these four and twenty years of labor in the law. He became fitted by attainment as well as by endowment for the tremendous task which awaited him. Fortunately he left memoranda for a law lecture, where may be found the standard by which the lawyer should be measured, and the canons by which he was himself guided. He said: "The leading rule for the lawyer, as for the man of every other calling, is diligence. Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today. . . . Extemporaneous speaking should be practiced and cultivated. . . . And yet there is not a more fatal error to young lawyers than relying too much on speech-making. Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. . . . As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. . . . Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than one who does this. . . . There is a vague, popular belief that lawyers are dishonest. I say vague, because when we consider to what extent confidence and honors are reposed in and conferred upon lawyers by the people, it appears improbable that their impression of dishonesty is very distinct and vivid. . . . Let no young man choosing the law for a calling for a moment yield to the popular belief." In the light of these principles he practiced his chosen profession. He was in a new country. Law books were few. The implements in his work shop were meagre in comparison with the abundance now at the command of everybody. The inevitable result of these conditions was that the characteristics of a successful lawyer were of a high order. He was obliged to reason. He could not depend upon authorities; they were too few. He was compelled to think. Logic of necessity became his everyday companion. In such a forum, the man of strong mind, broad comprehension, clear discernment, whose intellectual processes were accurate and whose conclusions were sound, could alone maintain a position of preeminence. In his life upon the circuit he mingled daily with men of action, of the restless energy, diversified habits and clashing opinions of frontiersmen, who were converting a wilderness into a state. A matchless school this for education in clear thought, plain speech and human nature. Four terms in the state legislature and one in congress did not

seriously interrupt his practice in the law. They were incidents in his career. The variety, character and extent of his professional work demonstrate that he was a lawyer with few equals in his state. He never blunted his moral perceptions for the sake of temporary gain. In his early practice a client came to him with a technically legal land title, the enforcement of which would impoverish a widow and orphans. He refused the case saying, "You must remember some things, legally right, are not morally right". His life at the bar demonstrates that there is acquirement worth more than money, attainment greater than victory, achievement loftier than success; that integrity is above riches, wisdom more than gold, and character higher than all wealth.

I dwell upon this aspect of Lincoln's life because it seems to me to account for some of the marvelous attributes which shone so brilliantly in him as president. The close reasoning, the flawless logic, the sound constitutional law, the unanswerable argument, of his state papers grew out of the stern combats waged in the courts. These weapons had been tempered in the fierce heats of forensic contest, and forged under the heavy blows of able antagonists. The self restraint and calmness, so characteristic of him as president, are inevitably developed in the wise man who practices in the courts.

But there is another epoch in his life before 1860 to be considered. Interest in politics was as much a part of the lawyer's life in Illinois before the war as the air he breathed. Lincoln adopted the principles of the Whig party, which was in the minority in his state, and he supported her candidates upon the stump in all campaigns of consequence. Negro slavery had always been a tender question in American politics. Introduced into Virginia the year before the landing at Plymouth Rock, it had spread so that at the adoption of the Constitution it existed to a greater or less extent in most of the 13 states. The fathers of the Republic recognized it as an evil. But the succeeding generation in the South, believing the institution necessary for their prosperity, sought its extension. The fight raged until, in 1820, the Missouri Compromise was enacted by Congress, which, admitting Missouri as a slave state, excluded slavery forever from a

line north of the southern boundary of Kansas. In 1850 another compromise was enacted, not touching however the line or principle established by the Missouri compromise. But Kansas, from which slavery was excluded by that act, was coveted by the South as new ground for slavery. In 1854 under the leadership of Senator Douglas the Missouri compromise was repealed. This was like a fire bell in the night. Throughout the North it awakened those before indifferent to the inordinate demands of the slave holder. It roused Abraham Lincoln to the danger which threatened the very existence of free institutions. In 1858 he was nominated by the new born Republican party to compete with Douglas for election as senator of the United States. Let us pause a moment to contrast these champions. Stephen A. Douglas, a Vermonter by birth, four years younger than his antagonist, came to Illinois penniless, when barely of age. First a school teacher, then a lawyer, states attorney, member of the legislature, Justice of the State Supreme Court at twenty-nine, three times elected representative in congress, a senator of the United States at 34, twice a formidable candidate for his party nomination for the presidency, now at the age of forty-five he looked confidently forward not only to an immediate re-election to the Senate but two years later to nomination and election to the highest office in the gift of the people. His career had been almost meteoric. Attractive in appearance, of great ability, an accomplished speaker and ready debater, versatile, adroit, skilful, popular, he was easily the most prominent man in his party. Lincoln lacked the personal charm of his opponent, had held no public office of distinction save the single term in congress, and was almost unknown outside his own state. Yet he met his rival without bravado and without fear. He knew he was now in an arena different from any in which he had before engaged. The national setting of this historic debate invited a style of oratory on his part which would stir the passions, blind the judgments and sweep away the reasoning of voters. Border ruffianism striving to secure for slavery by violence the territory that the sober intelligence of her citizens denied it, had bathed in blood the virgin soil of Kansas. Our own Sumner at his post of duty in the Senate had been murderously

assaulted by a representative of the slave power. The occasion would appear to the ordinary stump speaker to invoke vituperation and to urge the swish of the scorpion lash in an attack upon slavery and upon all who did not array themselves against its extension. The bugle call seemed to sound to a fray in which words of fury alone could fitly characterize the treachery of Douglas to the truths of the Declaration of Independence and to one of the historic compromises of our legislation.

But there is nothing of violence in the debates of Lincoln, no appeal to passion, no attempt to fire the blood. He spurned those petty tools of the agitator. He even dropped the small arms of wit and anecdote, with which he had been wont to hold his audiences. Rising above the region in which they can be employed, he lifted the whole discussion to the platform of reason. He addressed the intelligence and not the prejudice of his hearers. He argued in plain words the vital question so clearly that none could fail to understand. The live coal from off the altar had touched his lips as truly as those of the Hebrew prophet of old. The froth of the hustings was burned away. His first speech opened with the memorable words, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other." He planted himself squarely upon the proposition that slavery was "a moral, social and political wrong". The contest was the eternal conflict between right and wrong. It was no longer a question of more political expediency. His whole moral nature was aroused. But he was no idealist; he was a practical, hard-headed man of affairs. He knew through and through the principles of the three great charters of our liberties, the Declaration of Independence, the Ordinance of 1787, which prohibited slavery forever from the northwest territory, and the Constitution. This combination of conscience, common sense and knowledge of the subject made him invincible. But he entered upon no arraignment of the slaveholder. He cheerfully acknowledged that the North was as responsible as the South for the pres-

ence in the Constitution of the compromises touching slavery, and that Northerners under similar conditions would support it with as much vigor as the Southerners. But, as it was wrong from every point of view, its further extension should be restricted, and the country must be satisfied that the institution was on the road to ultimate extinction. Douglas had justified his repeal of the Missouri compromise by a doctrine which he called "popular sovereignty", that is, letting each territory decide for itself, free from congressional interference, whether it should have slaves within its borders or not. But then came the Dred Scott decision, holding unconstitutional a national law excluding slaves from the territories. Lincoln saw clearly that this decision was wholly incompatible with Douglas's theory of popular sovereignty. Brushing aside the advice of his party advisers, he put to Douglas the famous question whether the people of any territory could in any lawful way against the wish of any citizen of the United States exclude slavery from its limits? Douglas knew that to answer no meant the defeat in his senatorial campaign. Lincoln saw with equal clearness that an affirmative answer would alienate the slave states, probably divide his party, and insure his defeat two years later in the race for the White House. Douglas answered yes and tried to harmonize his theory with the decision of the courts. Lincoln's relentless logic laid bare the fallacy of his Douglas' sophisms, and left his election to the Senate a victory which turned to dust and ashes in the larger contest for the presidency. Lincoln entered upon these debates little known outside his own state. He emerged a figure of national importance. He had met the foremost democratic statesman in the country on his chosen ground. He had driven his adversary to a position, which insured a split in his party. He had demonstrated that in keenness of intellect, power of analysis, lucidity of convincing language, he was no whit inferior to him, who had been heralded as the "little giant". He had done this with such calmness of speech, self poise, breadth and depth of comprehension of the fundamental principles of our government and the national issues then depending, as to stamp him a statesman of the first order. The crowds which listened to him, their

confidence in his character, their understanding of his arguments, their enthusiasm for his personality, established his deep hold upon the hearts of the people. In February, 1860, came the Cooper Institute address. The leaders of the party in New York were present. The strength, culture and intelligence of the metropolis gathered to hear this stranger from the West. William Cullen Bryant presided. It is safe to say that no political speech in our history has created such an impression. Those who came expecting to laugh were disappointed. But all were captivated by the simplicity and clearness of statement and the unanswerable reasoning of his argument. The closing sentence, like many another of Lincoln's, is an eternal truth, which has become one of the rich phrases of our tongue:

“Let us have faith that right makes right, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it.”

The nomination of Lincoln for the presidency was the result of no blind chance or factional intrigue. It was the action of hard-headed, far seeing patriots. Probably no political assembly ever gathered actuated by higher ideals, less under the control of party leaders or more closely in touch with the people than that which met at Chicago in May of 1860. They were the representatives of a new party which owed its origin to the awakening of the national conscience. They were bent not on the spoils of office, but upon the salvation of free institutions and popular government from the ruin which they saw at hand. Intelligently, deliberately and practically they set about their task. They nominated the man whose record gave greatest promise, both as a vote getter and administrator. His chief opponents, Seward and Chase, strong though they were, nevertheless had elements of weakness which rendered doubtful their success at the polls. Lincoln had seen more clearly than anyone all aspects of slavery, and both by what he had said and had left unsaid, had shown himself not only a thinker and debater, but a political strategist of a high order. He had given practical political direction to the moral sentiment of the North which Uncle Tom's Cabin had aroused. Garrison, Phillips and Harriet Beecher Stowe had awakened the conscience of the

country. Lincoln became the incarnation of that conscience.

Between the election and inauguration of Lincoln a situation arose unprecedented in history. The slave states undertook to withdraw from the Union, and, forming a confederation of their own, elected a president and established the machinery of an independent government. President Buchanan, advised by his Attorney General, an eminent jurist, took the position that our nation had no power to protect itself from such dismemberment, and supinely suffered important departments of government to be in the control of secession sympathizers and to be plundered in their interests. No one appreciated more keenly than the president-elect the condition which confronted him. History has confirmed the truth of his farewell, uttered on that chilly February morn in 1861, to his neighbors at Springfield:

“I now leave, not knowing when or whether I may return, with a task upon me greater than that which rested upon Washington.”

His stature as a statesman began to appear in his first inaugural. Nominated and elected as an opponent of the extension of slavery, he leaves this question to one side. Slavery had been overshadowed for the moment by secession. He was confronted with armed rebellion. He shows by logic irrefutable and language so plain that he who ran might read and understand, that the integrity of the nation could not lawfully be broken, and that the Union must be preserved; that under the Constitution slavery was entitled to protection where it already existed and should receive it, and if there was to be aggression it must be begun by others. Then he closed with that marvellous appeal to the patriotism of the wavering:

“I am loth to close. We are not enemies but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break, our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield 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.”

He had an intuitive comprehension of the work before him. It has been fitly said:

“Here was place for no holiday magistrate, no fairweather sailor; the new pilot was hurried to the helm in a tornado.”

He prepared his inaugural, and announced his policy, alone. No one was consulted until it was completed, and then only a few insignificant changes were made. Action in emergencies tests men's power. Here was the foretaste of wisdom and self reliance, which carried him through the four years of battle strain. No ruler was ever in more desperate plight. The army was insignificant and widely scattered. In conspicuous instances its officers were traitors. Arms and equipments were in the hands of the rebellious states. The Treasury was empty. Credit was low. Office holders were faithless. Army, money, faithful public servants must be created anew. It was upon the president of a constitutional republic, and not upon the unhampered monarch of a despotism, that this burden rested. The support of an intelligent and free people must be ungrudgingly given or it could not be borne. It was of last importance, therefore, that the plain people should believe in the government and in its chosen head. No step could be taken in advance of their conviction or failure would follow. First Lincoln called to cabinet positions those who had been his rivals. Of those, Seward, Chase and Stanton were men of strong will, self confident and at first almost contemptuous of the capacity of their unschooled, unpolished chief. But they learned his sovereignty. The fierce buffetings of contending factions, the vicious attacks of enemies, the covert thrusts of traitorous allies, the ferocious hatred of Southern sympathizers, the inconceivable difficulties of the main problem of conducting the war—all these would have swept a less masterful man off his feet. But he was patient. He listened to all suggestions. He weighed all arguments. He took no step until he was sure. And he never had to retrace.

We cannot now follow his course as president in detail. Its history is familiar. But there are three phases of his work as president, in the examination of which we may gain an insight into his overshadowing greatness.

1. The instant and continuing necessity of his position was the conduct of war. In this respect the South had unquestionably the better start. Jefferson Davis, himself a graduate of West Point, had been in intimate touch with military leaders as Secretary of War. His acquaintance and experience enabled him at the outset to select the best material within reach. Lee, Jackson, Johnston, Early, Stewart and others attest his acuteness upon this point. Lincoln, an entire stranger to arms and unacquainted with military men, was compelled to grope. His painful search for a general was doomed to failure for three years. He tried first McClellan, next Burnside, and then Hooker, giving to them each in turn fatherly help and magnanimous encouragement. But each in turn was found wanting. Yet in that disheartening period of vexatious disappointments he developed on his own part a sagacity and skill as a military strategist, which has since won the commendation of the highest authorities on war. Finally when Grant was found and Meade and Sherman, he gave to them constant, unstinted and cordial support. But at least equal in importance to finding the right leaders was keeping full the ranks of the army. His thorough knowledge of people and power to state arguments so that everybody could understand what they meant enabled him to depend constantly on the plain citizen. He was one of the common people and they knew it. By public letter, by message and in conversation he stated the Union cause so convincingly that in the country stores, on the streets, wherever men gathered, it was said, "Lincoln is right about that". The people believed in his judgment and trusted his wisdom. Above all, there radiated from his presence an atmosphere of sympathy. His reluctance to approve the capital verdicts of courts martial and his numerous pardons made the very air vocal with his mercy. His visits to the hospitals and the camps convinced the soldiers of his interest in them. There was nothing of what in modern phrase is called magnetism or mixing. He maintained the dignity of the presidency, but the pulse in his hand shake and the "God bless you" of his voice spoke his brotherhood to the humblest soldier. His countenance furrowed with the deep lines of care showed not only that he bore the heavy responsibilities

of the state but also that he shared the sorrows of the widow, the fatherless and the childless. The heart of a father and the wisdom of the statesman went into the composition of this letter to Mrs. Bixby of Boston :

“DEAR MADAM :

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

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.”

No funeral oration could be more pathetic, no paternal comfort more tender, no elegiac poem more beautiful. Small wonder that the war song, “We are coming, Father Abraham”, was on the tongues of hundreds of thousands of our soldiers.

2. Second only to prosecution of the war was the conduct of our diplomatic relations. This was largely in the hands of Secretary Seward. But it appears from recently published documents that the president exercised a dominant oversight in this department. It was his guiding hand that maintained peace and respect abroad and prevented any country from recognizing the independence of the Confederacy. In vital instances he overruled his secretary when recommendation of the latter would have certainly involved us in war with Great Britain, a calamity the extent of which cannot be estimated. The capture of the Confederate emissaries from the English steamer, known as the Trent affair, was managed with such ability and discretion as to avoid war with England, and establish a high place for American diplomacy, and at the same time satisfy public sentiment at

home. The foundations were firmly laid, as occasion arose, for the claim against Great Britain for the destruction of American shipping by the Confederate privateers fitted out in English shipyards. The Award of the Geneva Arbitration was the fruit of the diplomatic foresight of the administration of this man of the people.

3. But the chief interest in Lincoln's presidency centers about slavery. Slavery was the cause of the war. It was Lincoln's attitude respecting it which had made him a national figure. It was the subject of his constant thought. He had scarcely taken the oath of office when the violent anti-slavery advocates urged immediate action toward freeing the slaves. But Lincoln took no one into his council. He studied colonization for the negroes and vainly tried to secure support for it. Failure along this avenue eliminated it as a ground of criticism later. Then he urged compensated emancipation, and pleaded that the slaveholders might see their way to accept it. But their blindness prevented its adoption. Early in the war he successively cancelled orders of emancipation issued by two generals in the field. He waited for public opinion in the border States and through the North to develop until it understood that slavery was the cause of the terrible scourge of war, and that the removal of the cause would hasten its end. He listened patiently to all suggestions. He bore without retort violent abuse, derisive taunts, stinging scorn, pitying condemnation of those who deplored what they called his delay, cowardice, ignorance, timidity or inability. But, in his own good time, when public sentiment was ripe, he wrote without consultation and advice, and issued to the world the Proclamation of Emancipation. This immortal document was to the nation in truth "a new birth of freedom". It has taken its place with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution among the great charters of our liberties. It enfranchised a race. It struck the shackles from 4,000,000 slaves. This was the crowning triumph of his life. No public man was ever so maligned, ridiculed, or vilified. Unmoved he pursued his way. His hatred of slavery was deepseated. His method to extinguish it was distinguished by lofty humanity and good sense. Never wavering, never hurrying, when the way

opened for the final blow, he was prepared to strike. The will power gloved in the velvet of good humor, sympathy, kindness of heart, moved to the accomplishment of its ends as irresistibly as the sweep of nature's forces.

“O well for him whose will is strong!
He suffers, but he will not suffer long;
He suffers, but he cannot suffer wrong:
For him nor moves the loud world's random mock,
Nor all Calamity's hugest waves confound,
Who seems a promontory of rock,
That, compass'd round with turbulent sound,
In middle ocean meets the surging shock,
Tempest-buffeted, citadel-crown'd.”

What manner of man was Abraham Lincoln? He was a giant in figure, six feet, four inches in height. He has been described by those who knew him in all the varying degrees of characterization, from uncouth homeliness to impressive beauty of manly strength. His temperament was tinged with melancholy, but his never failing humor lightened the dark places and lifted the cares of state. His aptness of anecdote baffled the curious and convinced the wavering. Although unlearned in books, he knew men and things and principles. He illumined every political question he touched. The motions of his intellect were slow. He said his mind was like a piece of steel, “very hard to scratch anything on it, and almost impossible when you got it there to rub it out”. His belief in woman suffrage was early declared. No language of modern or ancient times has more scathingly denounced violation of law, whether by rich or poor, by the violence of the mob or by the plunder of the corruptionist, than these words of Lincoln:

“Let every American, every lover of liberty, every wellwisher to his posterity swear . . . never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation in others. Let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his fathers, 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 schools. In short, let it become the political religion of the nation. Among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet."

He compressed the relative rights of labor and capital into a single paragraph:

"Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed, if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration. Capital has its rights, which are as worthy of protection as any other rights."

His religious convictions were deep, and his reliance upon Divine support was abiding. He accepted as his belief the Saviour's "condensed statement of both law and gospel, Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself." No president ever appointed so many days for national fasting and prayer.

He established a new standard of literary excellence. No one of the thousands of addresses this day given in his memory will approach that standard in dignity, clearness and strength. His state papers and his speeches are models by which to take the literary measure of the statesman of the future. His last inaugural breathes the spirit of Hebrew prophecy, and his Gettysburg address will be read as long as English literature endures. The funeral oration of Pericles, the climax of Grecian eloquence, is no longer without an equal. The stately periods of Burke and the rhetorical magnificence of Macaulay must give place to the crystal clearness and the living power of the speech of this man of the common people. It is the crowning distinction of Lincoln to have excelled both in literature and statecraft, and to have made permanent contributions to both.

He had infinite tact in dealing with men. The sorrowing heart of his great War Secretary, standing by the bedside of the murdered president, uttered the grand eulogy:

“There lies the most perfect ruler of men the world has ever seen”. Lack of support, opposition or abuse never blinded Lincoln to the true merit of any man or prevented him from doing him justice. He was the wisest man of that trying period. He stood on the lonely summit of human attainment. Seeming by his kindly word, his homely humor and native modesty to be a brother to all, yet “his soul was like a star and dwelt apart”. Others saw one side of a question. Its lights and shadows obscured to them a comprehensive vision. He alone towered high enough to see all sides and understand all bearings.

His life is the inspiration of mankind. It brings hope to every American child, no matter how lowly his birth, how slender his opportunities or how oppressive the poverty of his surroundings. From the steps of the White House he once said :

“I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father’s child has. It is in order that each one of you may have, through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise and intelligence that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life with all its desirable human aspirations—it is for this that the struggle should be maintained, that we may not lose our birthright.”

This word to soldiers in the midst of a great war was perfectly adapted to the occasion, yet so burns with eternal truth that it is lifted out of place and time and becomes the appropriate watchword for every political and social movement for the uplift of mankind under free institutions.

He was ambitious. He desired preferment, and appreciated deeply the confidence of the people. But there were none of the common political methods about him. He believed in the sober intelligence of the mass of the people. It was that to which he addressed himself. But his deep desire was for service, not for attainment. “Die when I may”, he said, “I want it said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow”. The world does not mind that he

wrestled with the bullies of his neighborhood, that he umpired the rude sports of his youth, that in his young manhood his political judgment was once warped by popular clamor, that he lacked the graces of a dancing master and the manners of a Chesterfield, or that his wit could pierce the husk of coarseness. These traits mark him as human. But he was without a vice. No indiscretion stained the purity of his life. No dissipation blurred his sensibilities. No bursts of temper marred the calmness of his self-control. No cunning corrupted his honesty. No inhumanity sullied the justice of his power. No favoritism or prejudice clouded his judgment of men. No pride of opinion dulled his perceptions. No memory of personal wrong tarnished the magnanimity of his treatment of others. No haughtiness scarred his humility. No passion or weakness darkened his wisdom. No spirit of revenge soiled the whiteness of his mercy.

Four dreadful years of civil war, founded on the hideous wrong of human slavery, brought no thought of vengeance, no trace of hatred. He banished from the wish of the people all expectation of retaliation by the immortal words of his last inaugural :

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in: to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

It took the American people almost a generation to reach to the level of brotherly love and forgiveness of political mistakes upon which he stood even in the midst of the fiery trial of war. Washington was the father of his country. But Lincoln was the defender of her liberty, the liberator of the slave, the preserver of the Union.

Do you say his character is painted without a shadow? Harken to the judgment of the heart of mankind. Listen to the verdict of history. The people of France by a penny collection struck a massive gold medal, on which was inscribed: “Lincoln—the Honest man: abolished slavery:”

reestablished the Union: Saved the Republic without veiling the statue of Liberty." Disraeli spoke for the English aristocracy when he said: "There is in the character of the victim, and even in the accessories of his last moments, something so homely and innocent, that it takes the question . . . out of all pomp of history and the ceremonial of diplomacy; it touches the heart of nations and appeals to the domestic sentiment of mankind." The feeling of the British people was voiced by Tom Taylor, editor of *Punch* and author of the play which Lincoln was witnessing at the time of his assassination:

"Yes, he had lived to shame me from my sneer,
To lame my pencil and confute my pen—
To make me own this hind of princes peer,
This rail-splitter a true born king of men."

Henri Martin, the historian of France, said: "This man will stand out in the traditions of his country and of the world as an incarnation of the people and of modern democracy itself." The Spanish Castelar called him "the humblest of the humble before his conscience, the greatest of the great before history." Emerson said: "In four years—four years of battle days—his endurance, his fertility of resources, his magnanimity were sorely tried and never found wanting. He is the true history of the American people in this time:—the true representative of this continent; the pulse of twenty millions throbbing in his heart, the thought of their minds articulated by his tongue."

He sounded the deepest depths, he swept the loftiest summit of human experience. His colossal figure looms on the horizon of time, unchallenged, matchless in purity, peerless in service to humanity. He will distinguish the nineteenth century in the annals of earth when all its other monuments and idols shall have crumbled to dust.

"Faith, Hope, Love, these three, but the greatest of these is Love". These elements unite to make the ideal life. Faith in the righteousness of an overruling Providence was Lincoln's. No word of despair escaped his lips, his action never faltered, but the hope that "right makes might" was the atmosphere in which he moved. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends".

On Good Friday, the day revered as the anniversary of the great sorrow of Christianity, he sealed his life of devotion to mankind with the last supreme sacrifice.

Blessed above all nations is this United States, in the possession of the priceless legacy of his example and the incomparable inspiration of his service. God grant that as a people we may live worthy of the memory of Abraham Lincoln!

CITY OF WORCESTER.

In City Council, March 1, 1909.

RESOLVED: That the thanks of the City of Worcester be and are hereby tendered to the Honorable Arthur P. Rugg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, for his wise, patriotic and inspiring oration on the life and services of Abraham Lincoln, delivered at the meeting of the citizens of Worcester, held in Mechanics Hall on the evening of February 12, 1909.

And that the City Clerk be instructed to transmit to him a copy of this resolution.

Further, resolved:

That it is desirable that the proceedings at the meeting of citizens in commemoration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln be placed permanently on record by being printed at the expense of the City of Worcester.

Received March 2, 1909.

Approved March 2, 1909.

JAMES LOGAN, Mayor.

A Copy, Attest: W. HENRY TOWNE, City Clerk.

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