

1863 — Fifty-one years of Freedom. — 1914



A Service for
Lincoln
Memorial Sunday

February 15th, 1914

"With freedom did Christ set us free."



A Service for
Sunday Schools in Observance of
Lincoln Sunday

February 15, 1914

Supt: The twelfth day of February is the anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest men this world has ever seen—Abraham Lincoln. It is fitting that there should also be Lincoln Sunday and that our school should give it recognition.

Singing: "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Supt: Tell something about this hero of the nation.

School: Abraham Lincoln first learned to write his name on the soft earth between the rows of corn in the field where he was hoeing. He wrote it later upon all the earth by lifting into freedom a race that was bowed in slavery. He wrote "Peace" upon the sea by an act of unpopular justice which saved our land from war with England. He carried the nation's burden on his heart and died a martyr to the saving of the Union.

(Here may follow the reading or recitation of Lincoln's
Gettysburg Address)

Supt: Whole companies of people are often moved by the same idea and swayed by the same feeling. What one of our missionary societies comes nearest the spirit of Lincoln?

School: Long before Lincoln was President, the American Missionary Association had begun its work. As our country was born in the spirit of national independence, so this Association was cradled in the spirit of personal liberty. It looks upon the races, as it believes that God looks upon them, to see the color only of their souls.

Supt: When one of the greatest of the prophets was taken away he left his mantle for his successor. What did Lincoln leave?

School: The largest legacy the American Missionary Association ever received came directly from Abraham Lincoln—not into its treasury, but into its churches, schools and colleges—a great legacy of opportunity, a chance to help and lift and save.

Supt: This is only one of the kinds of work in which the American Missionary Association is engaged. What are the others?

School: Other opportunities we also have, all human and all under the stars and stripes. There were Americans before Columbus steered his little fleet into the unknown west. Some of them fished clad in furs, along the Arctic shores of far Alaska. Some have come from the crowded Orient to earn the yellow gold of our Pacific coast. Some are the legacy of what was once a foreign mission on the islands of Hawaii, where Captain Cook was killed. One island of our work was left to the United States by the receding tide of Spanish power in the western world. And one great opportunity is where the Southern Highlanders have been waiting for our schools while the progress of the continent surged across the plains. It is from such stock that Abraham Lincoln came.

Supt: What does the American Missionary Association do for all these people?

School: It maintains churches, schools and colleges, shops and farms among them. It recognizes that they are not simply "races" but men and women, boys and girls, who need a better chance for this world and the next. It fits them for safe and useful citizenship. The teaching in our schools is warm with Christian faith. The faith in our churches shines with intelligence.

Supt: What can *we* do?

School: We can remember that the American Missionary Association is simply our agency for doing all this good. We line up with Lincoln when we carry forward the work to which he gave his life. And in doing this grand Christian service we line up also under one greater than Lincoln, even the Son of God who gave His life for all humanity. The work is worthy of the complete dedication of our lives. The dedication of a part of our money to it is a very little thing. Who would refuse to do that?

Offerings and Receipt of Pledges, Envelopes or Boxes.

(This offering may count on your church apportionment.)

Prayer by the Pastor.

Hymn. "America."

My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty.
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring.

Our father's God to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by thy might,
Great God! our King.

Benediction.

American Missionary Association

287 Fourth Avenue, New York.

Eastern District:
615 Congregational House,
Boston, Mass.

Western District:
19 South La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Pacific District:
21 Brenham Place,
San Francisco, Cal.