

SOUVENIR

presented at the
Lecture on Abraham Lincoln,
given by



Rev. Robert Orville Matthews,
Sunday, February 13, 1916,
Y. M. C. A.,
TOLEDO, - OHIO.

Greatest Speech in American History.

Speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, on November 19, 1863, four months after the greatest battle on American soil. Greatest address in magnanimity of spirit, simplicity, brevity and historical import in American annals.

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Lincoln Day Poem.

(Written by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe in her 90th year, and read by her at the Symphony Hall (Boston) celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, Feb. 12, 1909.)

Through the dim pageant of the years
A wondrous tracery appears;
A cabin of the Western wild
Shelters in sleep a new-born child.

Nor nurse, nor parent dear can know
The way those infant feet must go;
And yet a nation's help and hope
Are sealed within that horoscope.

Beyond is toil for daily bread,
And thought, to noble issues led,
And courage, arming for the morn
For whose behest this man was born.

A man of homely, rustic ways,
Yet he achieves the forum's praise,
And soon earth's highest meed has won,
The seat and sway of Washington.

No throne of honors and delights;
Distrustful days and sleepless nights
To struggle, suffer and aspire,
Like Israel, led by cloud and fire.

A treacherous shot, a sob of rest,
A martyr's palm upon his breast,
A welcome from the glorious seat
Where blameless souls of heroes meet;

And, thrilling through unmeasured days,
A song of gratitude and praise;
A cry that all the earth shall heed,
To God, who gave him for our need.

A Few of Lincoln's Sayings.

"With malice toward none—with charity for all."

"Let us dare to do our duty as we understand it."

"That some are rich shows that others may become rich."

"Faith in God is indispensable to successful statesmanship."

"There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law."

"Keep that (temperance) pledge and it will be the best act of your life."

"No man is good enough to govern another man without that other man's consent."

"The Lord must love the common people—that's why he made so many of them."

"Meet face to face and converse together—the best way to efface unpleasant feeling."

"Familiarize yourself with the chains of bondage and you prepare your own limbs to wear them."

"A man has no time to spend in quarrels. If any man ceases to attack me I never remember the past against him."

"Let not him who is homeless pull down the house of another, but let him labor diligently to build one for himself."

"You may fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

"In regard to the Great Book, I have only to say that it is the best gift which God has given man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this Book. But for this Book we could not know right from wrong. All those things to man are contained in it."

"The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred right of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiments of a Christian people, and a due regard for the divine will, demand that Sunday labor be reduced to the measure of strict necessity."