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Eulogy on Abraham Lincoln.

Among the many striking providences of God toward this nation, none seem to me more marked than the elevation to the Chief Magistracy, at this great crisis of our history, of the two men, Abraham Lincoln & Andrew Johnson. Both have their origin from that despised race of the South, known as 'poor whites', a race depressed & held in ignorance & degradation by the inevitable influence of slavery. And when the haughty lords of this most accursed system, seeking to spread the evils of human bondage over all our land, & to extend & perpetuate those influences that must increase the degradation of the more humble classes, were met with determined resistance, in the name of liberty & human right, till maddened by opposition & defeat, they rose in rebellion against the Constitution & laws, with the fell purpose to overthrow our free institutions & accomplish by fire & refine bloodshed & a reign of terror, what they could not do by arguments or ballots, was it not a most

retribution that from that race they had so depressed trodden upon & despised, should arise the man appointed of God as ^{a chief} the instrument to humble their pride, overthrow their power, & reduce them to subjection, & that other man, who is to be the appointed instrument, (to use his own language,) is visiting "most condign punishment upon the traitors"? Can we fail to see the hand of a God of justice in this?

Thomas Lincoln was a poor farmer of Hardin Co. Ky, barely able to provide for his family a scanty support by the labor of his hands. It was in that lowly hut of poverty that our late President was born Feb. 12. 1809. His father tho' ignorant, unable either to read or write, was yet a man of strong natural power. He felt most keenly his own deficiencies & determined upon something better for his son, & gave him such opportunity to learn to read as his wretched surroundings would allow. When Abraham was 8 yrs. of age, his father determined to flee from the degrading influence of slavery, &

removed with his family to Spencer Co. Indiana, cutting his way to his new home thro' miles of dense forest. Here in a "log house consisting of a room below & a room above furnished by G. Lincoln & his son's own hands, Abraham passed the next twelve years of his life." His mother was a pious woman, who from his earliest childhood, sought to train & instruct him in the love of truth & religion.

While she lived she aided him in learning to read, & before her death which occurred when he was ten yrs. of age she had the satisfaction of seeing him read that book which she taught him not in vain to love. His opportunities for intellectual improvement during these 12 years were very limited, for his was a life of toil, but of none that were presented did he fail to take advantage. Books were rare, obtained by borrowing ^{or buying} of distant neighbours. Those with which he chiefly became acquainted were Bunyan's Pilgrims Progress, Esops Fables, a life of Henry Clay & ^{and} ^{the} ^{Life} of Washington. In 1830 his father removed again to ~~Indiana~~ ^{Decatur} Illinois, & after assisting to establish the family in their new home, splitting with his own hands the rails for a fence around the farm, he bid adieu to the paternal fireside & set out in the world for himself. It would be interesting to trace minutely the history of his subsequent ^{life} as a day laborer, a clerk, a cop.

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in the Black Hawk war, a merchant, a member of the
state legislature, a student at law, an active attor-
ney, a member of Congress, a political leader &
most able debater in the great conflicts that
preceded his own nomination for the Presidency,
& note how in all, providence was fitting him
for the great duties & high responsibilities of
thatward to be assumed, but this is not the work we
propose to attempt on this occasion. Today it
is A. Lincoln, as President of the U. S. of whom
we speak; the man upon whom the gaze
of the nation & the world has been turned, whose
career we have watched day by day with eager
interest, & in whose hand we have felt that the
destinies of this great empire were held, & we
may refer to his previous history only so far
as it will illustrate his principles & acts, & help
to comprehend his purposes. During the past
4 years, no man on this earth, has occupied so
prominent a position, ^{as he} nor given so mighty an im-
pulse to those causes which are to affect for all time
the interests of this people & the race. It is
the theory of many able thinkers respecting those
remarkable characters who have ^{filled} high places
in the different crises of the world's history, that

The times have made the men & not the men
 the times. This is undoubtedly correct, & yet
 it is not perhaps the whole truth. When great
 events have occurred & the demand has been made
 for leaders, sooner or later the men have come for-
 ward & have naturally risen to their place, but
 it is equally certain that the inherent character
 & genius of those men have imparted most im-
 portant modifications to the events in which
 they have taken important part. Had men of
 different character or principles occupied their posi-
 tions, events would have been different. So had
 a different man, a Jackson or a Fremont, occupied
 the place of A. Lincoln, the whole history of this
 great contest would have been changed. But
 it was not thus ordered. God chose him. I be-
 lieve God calls men for emergencies in nations
 now, as really as he called Moses or David or Paul,
 that he moulds them by events, & moulds events
 by them, - that he makes them representations
 of ideas struggling into form in the minds of
 the masses, & reimpreses those ideas, modified,
 made more clear, & decisive, thro' them upon the
 people again. And A. Lincoln was called

He was a man of providence, & he clearly recognized himself as such. He was made a representative of popular ideas & had in turn left the impress of his own convictions of truth & right upon the nation's mind & heart.

Was he a great man? Not great, in brilliancy of intellect like A. Hamilton, or in deep profundity of intellect like Webster, or in metaphysical acumen like Calhoun, or in soaring eloquence & transcendent power of influence like Clay, but in the noble qualities of a perfect manhood like Washington, he was great.

In understanding & accepting his mission & responsibilities - in clear comprehension of the principles of true statesmanship - in love of justice & truth - in honesty of purpose & fixed determination to do right - in purity of character, unselfishness & love of the people - in sincere trust in God & His looking for the guidance of divine wisdom - in the

faithful conscientious discharge of his high duties he was unsurpassed by any of those distinguished men who have filled the chief magistracy before him.

No man can be regarded in the highest sense great who does not comprehend his mission in life, & unshrinkingly look his duties & responsibilities full in the face.

A. Lincoln did this. Elevated to the highest place in the nation, at a time when the foundations themselves seemed shaking, & the great principles of popular government were sure to pass a most fearful ordeal, he saw & felt the real importance of the crisis. He entered upon the work committed to him not boastfully, with presumptuous temerity, nor timidly, with pusillanimous fear, but with a true manly consciousness both of his weakness & his strength. We see clearly his mind & heart, ^{for he was a transparent man} in those numerous pitthy speeches which he made at the several points on his triumphal progress from his home to the Capital. On one of those occasions he says "It is true that while ~~that~~ while I hold myself, without mock modesty, the humblest of all individuals, that have ever

have ever been elevated ⁽⁸⁾ to the Presidency, I have a more difficult task to perform than any one of them." Again, "I am deeply sensible of that mighty responsibility. I cannot but know what you all know, that without a name, perhaps without a reason why I should have a name, there has fallen upon me a task such as did not rest even upon the Father of his Country, & so feeling I cannot but turn & look for the support without which it will be impossible for me to perform that great task.

I turn then & look to the great American people, & to that God who has never forsaken them." Again, "In accepting the great trust committed to me, which I do with a determination to endeavor to prove worthy of it, I must rely upon you, upon the people of the whole Country, for support; & with their sustaining aid, even I, humble as I am, cannot fail to carry the ship of state safely thro' the storm."

Still once more, "I am ⁽¹⁹⁾sure I bring a heart true to the work. For the ability to perform it, I must trust in that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land, thro' the instrumentality of this great & intelligent people. Without that assistance, I shall surely fail; with it I cannot fail." Here in these simple & honest expressions we see the working of his mind.

We see him looking calmly & intelligently upon the work appointed him, fairly estimating its difficulties, measuring his ability to meet them, & counting his resources & his supports. And so he went to his mission.

He had also a full, clear comprehension of the great principles involved in the right administration of the nation's affairs. Was he a statesman? If a clear comprehension of the fundamental principles of human rights, of the sphere, the design & the claims of law; if an intellectual ability profoundly to discuss these principles & lucidly to set forth these principles to the common mind; if a wise judgment as to the measures most fit to be adopted for establishing & maintaining) administering the government & a skillful use of the means for carrying these

measures into execution constitute a Statesman
 there was A. Lincoln deserving of high rank in
 that honored list. His discussions in speech
 letters & state papers, of these matters will most
 certainly take rank with the productions of
 the best minds. His famous debate with Judge
 Douglas in the Senatorial contest of 1858, which it
 well known procured for him the nomination
 to the presidency at Chicago, & defeated, as Mr Lin-
 coln predicted, the nomination of Douglas at Char-
 loton, is every where conceded to one of the ablest if
 not the ablest ^{political} discussions in any country at any
 time. Mr. Lincoln was a man of great common
 sense. He always went directly to the heart of a
 subject. He indulged in no circumlocution, made
 no effort at display, but seizing with a master's
 confidence, the salient points of an argument
 he gave expression to what he wished to say in
 the simplest most fitting words, in a terse, ever-

getic, dignified style, well adapted to reach, ^{with effect} the common mind, & commanding the respect of all.

It has been well said "No one can read Mr. L's State papers without perceiving in them a most remarkable faculty of "putting things", so as to command the attention & assent of the common people. His style of thought, as well as of expression is thoroughly in harmony with their habitual modes of thinking & speaking. His intellect is keen, emphatically logical in its action, & capable of the closest & most subtle analysis; & he uses language for the sole purpose of stating, in the clearest & simplest form the precise idea he wishes to convey. He has no pride of intellect - not the slightest desire for display - no thought or purpose but that of making every body understand precisely what he believes & means to utter. And while this sacrifices the graces of style, it gains immeasurably in practical force & effect. It gives to his public papers a weight & influence with the mass of the people, which no public man of this country has ever before attained."

But there is no feature in the character of our late president which has so endeared him to the

people as his manifest ⁽¹²⁾ honesty of purpose. This was a characteristic of the man from early life & before his elevation to the presidency had procured for him the familiar cognomen of "Honest Abe", a title more honorable than the highest honors or ranks of earth have ever conferred. On his way to Washington, he said to the people of N. Y. city "I have said several times on this journey, & now I repeat it to you, that when the time does come, I shall then take the ground that I think is right - the ground that I think is right - right for the North the S., for the E., for the West, for the whole country", & most nobly has he redeemed that pledge. Who doubts it? Is there one heart so base in all this vast thing as to doubt it, after the history of the four years past? What another has said appears to me so true, so thoroughly deserved, & withal so fitting for this occasion that I cannot forbear to repeat it. "He has maintained, thro' the terrible trials of his administration, a reputation, with the great body of the people, for unswerving integrity, of purpose & of conduct, which even Washington did not surpass."

& which no president ⁽¹³⁾ since Washington has equalled.
He has had command of an army greater than that
of any living monarch; he has wielded authority less
restricted than that conferred by any other con-
stitutional government; he has disbursed sums
of money equal to the exchequer of any nation
in the world; yet no man, of any party, believes
him in any instance to have aimed at his own ap-
prandizement, to have been actuated by personal
ambition, or to have consulted any other inter-
est than the welfare of his country, & the per-
petuity of its constitutional form of govern-
ment. This of itself is a success which may
well challenge universal admiration, for it is one
which is the indispensable condition of all
other forms of success. No man whose pub-
lic integrity was open to suspicion, no matter
what might have been his abilities or his ex-
perience, could possibly have retained enough
of public confidence to carry the country thro'
such a contest as that in which we are now in-
volved. No President suspected of seeking
his own apprandizement at the expense of his
country's liberties could ever have received such
enormous grants of power as were essential

to the successful prosecution of this war. They were lavishly & eagerly conferred on Mr. Lincoln because it was known & felt everywhere that he would not abuse them. Faction has had in him no mark for its assaults. The weapons of party spirit have recoiled harmlessly from the shield of his unspotted character. It was this unanimous confidence in the disinterested purity of his character, & in the perfect integrity of his public purposes, far more than any commanding intellectual ability, that enabled Washington to hold the faith of the American people steadfast for seven years, while they waged the unequal war required to achieve their independence. And it certainly is something more than a casual coincidence that this same element, as rare in experience as it is transcendent in importance, should have characterized the President upon whom had devolved the duty of carrying the country thro' this second

& far more important & sanguinary struggle."

The source of this honesty of purpose which we thus unqualifiedly eulogize, in our lamented Chief Magistrate, is most apparent. It sprang from his real, unfeigned love for the truth & the right & his confident belief in the ultimate triumph of principles based upon them. In regard to the great ^{matter} question of slavery the most important of any in respect to which the President has been called to take decided action, I know some have inclined, in time past, to suspect him of being governed by motives of expediency rather than ^{sincerely} love of justice. But I ^{am} most thoroughly convinced that such have mistaken. That he may have erred in judgment in respect to times & seasons, or even in respect to measures proposed, might be admitted, consistently with the maintained opinion that love of right actuated him in all, but I firmly believe that impartial history will not only award to him the praise of seeking ~~only~~ the path of right, but of having found & walked in it throughout. President Lincoln was always antislavery in feeling & action. Previous to his election he always took ground against the system

& opposed all measures⁽¹⁶⁾ which had for their object its extension & perpetuation. He closed his first speech in his discussion with Douglas in these words. "Henry Clay my beau ideal of a statesman - the man for whom I fought all my humble life once said of a class of men who would repress all tendencies to liberty & ultimate emancipation that they must if they would do this, go back to the era of our Independence & muzzle the cannon which thunders its annual joyous returns; they must blow out the moral lights around us; they must penetrate the human soul & eradicate there the love of liberty; & then & not till then, could they perpetuate slavery in this country."

So my thinking Judge Douglas is, by his example & vast influence doing that very thing in this community, when he says that the negro has nothing in the Declaration of Independence. Henry Clay plainly understood the contrary. Judge Douglas is going back to the era of our Revolution & to the vast extent of his ability muzzling the cannon which thunders its annual joyous return.

When he invites any ^{right} people, willing to have slavery to establish it, he is blowing out the moral light around us, when he says he cares not whether slavery is voted up or down - that it is a sacred right of self government, he is, in my judgment, penetrating the human soul & eradicating the light of reason & the love of liberty in this American people.

These words would evidently prove him at that time to be looking forward to an ultimate emancipation of the bondmen. But he spoke plainer words than these. (Before ^{the} ~~Seward~~ ^{Lincoln} proclaimed the "irrepressible conflict") A. Lincoln had declared "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot permanently endure half slave & 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." Little did he then anticipate that he would himself so soon (4 yrs) become the instrument in accomplishing this prediction. When ~~two~~ ^{one} half year after uttering these words, he assumed the helm of state, he knew that slavery would be the cause of agitation & conflict, but he knew not to what action it would com

help him. But he did know what was his duty & his wisdom in dealing with it & this he sought honestly to do. In his inaugural he declared, "I have no purpose directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of Slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, & I have no inclination to do so." But events proceeded, a mighty rebellion was inaugurated in the interest of Slavery, & one half million of loyal men were called to arms to subvert it. Yet no one thought of assailing Slavery & with but two dissenting votes Congress so declared by resolution.

One year passed & progress toward the inevitable result was made. Slavery was abolished in the Dist. of Columbia & forbidden in the territories & an act proposed by the President was passed by Congress inviting emancipation with compensation from the National Treasury. Meanwhile the President revoked the orders of Gen. Fremont in Sept 51

& Hunter in May '62 declaring the slaves & rebels free reserving to himself as Commander in Chief the right to issue such orders. Still the President urged the scheme of compensated emancipation, but with little or no effect upon the Slave States.

In July of '62 the Confiscation act was passed under which the President was authorized to proclaim emancipation & arm the blacks. And now the demand for immediate emancipation became more clamorous on one part, while it was demanded on the other. The President was seeking for the path of duty & wisdom. He clearly recognized his authority for the measure as one of military necessity under the Constitution, whenever that necessity should fully appear to him, & he could be assured that the cause he was set to defend would be thereby advanced. And tho' personally he greatly desired that all men might be free & fully recognized the guilt & enormity of the system of human bondage, yet he did not regard himself on any such ground to have authority to pronounce emancipation. This appears in his letter to H. Greeley. Who does not see that in such a decision he was right? His heart was for the measure, but he must see the necessity to give him the right

to adopt it: To the ⁽²⁰⁾ Committee of the religious de-
nominations of Chicago, ^{urging its adoption,} he replied, "The subject
presented in the memorial is one upon which I
have thought much for weeks past, & I may
even say for months. I am approached with
the most opposite opinions & advice, & that
by religious men, who are equally certain that
they represent the divine will. I am sure
that either one or the other class is mistaken
in that belief & perhaps in some respects both.

I hope it will not be inconsiderate for me to say
that if it is probable that God would reveal his
will to others, on a point so connected with my
duty, it might be supposed he would reveal it
directly to me; for unless I am more deceived
in myself than I often am, it is my earnest
desire to know the will of Providence in this mat-
ter. And if I can learn what it is I will do
it. These are not, however the days of mira-
cles, & I suppose it will be granted that I am
not to expect a direct revelation. I must study
the plain physical facts of the case, ascertain what
is possible & learn what appears to be wise & right."

In the exercise of such ⁽²¹⁾ a spirit, he sought for light
at length became convinced of his duty to speak
the word of freedom to the slave. On the 22 of Sept. he
issued his proclamation warning all rebel masters
that freedom would be pronounced to their slaves
if ^{they were} found in rebellion at the beginning of coming
year. Immediately & thro the three months fol-
lowing great effort was made to induce him to
reconsider his determination but it appeared that
if he was slow in deciding the question of duty
he was equally firm in adhering to his convictions
of right when clearly settled. He never hesitated in
pursuing his chosen path. If any think that
an earlier proclamation of emancipation
would have been wiser, surely none can doubt
the desire & purpose of A. Lincoln to pursue
the right, & few, I believe, are there who will not
at length if they do not now acknowledge that
God in his providence timed this great act
aright.

Closely associated with this honesty of purpose
which so endears to us our late president, will
ever be tenderly cherished the remembrance of his
purity of character. There was no spot of
vice upon him. The early lessons of a pious mother

never ceased to exert their blessed influence upon
 him & the constant perusal of that holy book
 she taught him to read confirmed him in habits
 of virtue. He was a pattern after which, we
 would be glad that all our public men were fash-
 ioned. His unselfishness, & real love for
 the people were prominent traits fully & constantly
 exhibited. His patience was almost inexhaust-
 ible & his kindness of heart toward all who approach-
 ed him officially or in private was most mark-
 ed. He was ever unwilling to give offence, &
 tho' keenly sensible to injustice, was never in-
 clined to retaliation. Perhaps as a Magistrate
 he was too much inclined to mercy, where justice
 & public safety demanded the infliction of penal-
 ties, & it is possible that had he continued to
 administer this government after the reduction
 of the rebellion his merciful & benevolent disposition
 might have been exercised to the injury of great

public interests. We know he would have done what he believed to be right.

His reliance on God & acknowledgment of responsibility to him in his public position is truly grateful to a Christian heart to observe.

In his brief adieu to his friends & neighbors at Springfield, he says, "A duty devolves upon me, which is perhaps greater than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington.

He would never have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine aid which sustained him, & on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support, & I hope you, my friends will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance without which I cannot succeed but with which success is certain." Repeatedly in his public career has he recognized this same obligation & trust with which he set out from his home, & we cannot doubt that he has sincerely sought & obtained this divine help. The prayers of the Church have ever gone up with his & God has been with him. Tho' the eminent

perils & amazing difficulties ⁽⁹⁴⁾ of a four years of
most desperate & bloody conflicts he has guided
him & allowed him to look at last upon the attainment
of his great desire. On his journey to Washington
the people of Philadelphia, as part of the ceremony
had arranged for the raising of a flag over Independ-
dence Hall, where the declaration was adopted by the
American Congress (amid the salutes of artillery.) In
alluding to this at Harrisburg Mr. Lincoln said
"Besides this, our friends there had provided a mag-
nificent flag of the country. They had arranged
it so that I was to ~~have~~ ^{give} the honor of raising it
to the head of its staff. And when it went up
I was pleased that it went to its place by the
strength of my own feeble arm, when according
to the arrangement the cord was pulled, & it
floated gloriously to the wind, without an acci-
dent in the light flowing sunshine of the morn-
ing. I could not help hoping, ^{that there was} in the entire suc-
cess of that beautiful ceremony, at least some-
thing of an omen of what is to come."

And indeed so it was ⁽²⁵⁾ an ~~other~~ man of a much greater & nobler work completed than he could then have imagined. Did he not think again of that flag raising when after four years of fierce warfare the foe was conquered, & his eyes beheld the stars & stripes floating in that same "light flowing sunshine" over the dome of the Rebel Capital, an emblem of that freedom which his great heart had long desired, for all the people in the land? I praise God, here today that he was permitted to see this sight, & to rejoice with the great multitude of the land over the substantial termination of the great struggle for liberty, & the brilliant dawning of the day of peace.

But alas how brief ^{our} the joy! The lights of our illumination are still brightly gleaming in our memory; the roar of our welcoming cannon is just dying away in its distant echoes; our joyous shouts of victory & of congratulation are hardly ^{from our mouths} ceasing, when ~~an~~ ~~un~~ ~~waiting~~ sound comes trembling over the wire, deepening to a groan, bursting forth to a piercing cry of terror & answered to by one universal breaking forth of vehement lamentation throughout the land. The assassin has reached the life of our beloved Lincoln.

The second Father of our Country is dead. The monster iniquity of the land, dying from the mortal blow given by his righteous hand, in the fearful throes of its last agony, like the savage alligator of its native South, pierced by the hunter, turns with malignant hatred, in the moment of its death, & rushes to inflict its fatal blow upon its destroyer, that they may die together.

The murderous tragedy was delayed till this hour only since the desperation of malice had not found its fit opportunity before. Hearts were not wanting to commit the crime, nor was the purpose ^{even before he left his Western home} unperformed, but the shield of divine protection was around him till his work should be accomplished.

But the end drew nigh, ^{reigned} the end of that power of hell which had thro' the system of human bondage, its cities had been captured, its strong holds reduced, its armies defeated, & its generals compelled to surrender. Yet one more victim, one more noble victim must be sacrificed.

to its rape. It must go upon the record of history that A. Lincoln too died a martyr to liberty - not worn out & exhausted by his labors, peacefully laying down to die in his bed, - but by the hand of the assassin the tool of conspirators - that the world may read in this conspicuous ~~dead~~ crime the madness & villainy of that ^{power} system which had struck at the life of the nation & brutally murdered & stained the thousands of its defenders.

And that noble martyr was ready. He willingly accepted this peril & held himself as a prepared victim. In his address to the citizens of Philadelphia, as he journeyed to the Capital he spoke of the declaration of Independence declaring that he "never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in that document." "Now he adds, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say, I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it." In his message to the Congress at its extra session, he says "As a private citizen the Executive could not have con-

sent to that these institutions shall perish; much less could he, in betrayal of so vast & so sacred a trust as these free people have confided to him. He felt that he had no moral right to shrink, or even to count the chances of his own life, in what might follow."

He did not count the chances, & that life he has given to his country. We weep for him today, the nation weeps, in sympathy with the widows & orphan's grief. Years will water all the way, as with these sacred remains, they take their sad journey to that Western home from which in such triumph they came. Shouts of exultation & joy then welcomed them as they passed; lamentation & words of sympathetic sorrow will follow them as they return. Yes the nation will weep - lovers of mankind over the world will weep - posterity to our latest history will weep, but weeping, we, & they will resolve, the principles for which he died shall be maintained, the liberties of universal man for which he gave his life shall be established & preserved. If we have not hated the vile system of human bondage enough, we will hate it more, if we have not dealt out impartial justice to its satanic agents before, asking God to temper our hearts to his will, we will now begin the work. Holding in view this crowning act of its concentrated guilt & baseness, with more vigorous blows will we strike home to the heart of the monster's iniquity with the watchword Remember the blood of a Lincoln!

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