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 the 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 rights, till overwhelmed by opposition & defeat, they rose in rebellion against the Constitution & laws, with the full purpose to overturn our free institutions & accomplish by force, the bloody reign of ten years, what they could not do by argument or ballot, 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 the instrument to humble pride, overthrow their power, reduce them to submission, & that other man, who is to be the appointed instrument, (to use his own language,) in 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 barely

miserable poverty that our late President was born Feb. 12, 1809. His father, the ignorant, unable either to read or write, was yet a man of strong natural power. He felt most keenly his own deficiencies & determined of something better for his son, & gave him such opportuni-

ty to learn to read as his wretched surroundings would allow. When Abraham was 8 yrs. of age, his father de-
termined to flee from the degrading influence of slavery,
removed with his family to Spencer Co. Indiana, cutting his way to his new home three miles of dense forest. He lived in a "log house consisting of a room below and a room above furnished by his 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 and instruct him in the love of truth and religion.

While she lived, she aided him in learning to read, before her death which occurred when he was ten years of age. He had the satisfaction of seeing him read the 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 more that were presented and he failed to take advantage. Books were rare, obtained by borrowing of distant neighbors; those with which he chiefly became acquainted were Benjamin Pilgrim's Progress, Esop's Fables, a Life of Henry Clay, and Life of Washington.

In 1830 his father removed again to western Illinois and 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 abode, and set out in the world for himself. It would be interesting to trace minutely the history of his subsequent as a day laborer, a clerk, etc.
in the Black Hawk war, a merchant, a member of the state legislature, a student at law, an active attorney, a member of Congress, a political leader, a most able debater in the great conflict that preceded his own nomination for the presidency; and now in all, providence was fitting him for the great duties and responsibilities of tomorrow to be assumed, but this is not the work we propose to attempt on this occasion. Today is Mr. Lincoln, as President of the U.S., of whom we speak, the man upon whom the gaze of the nation and 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 greatest empire were held, as we may refer to his previous history, and as it will illustrate his principles and acts, to comprehend his purposes. During the past 2 years, no man on this earth, has occupied a position, nor given to mankind an influence to those causes which are to affect for all the interests of this people and the race.

It is the theory of many able thinkers respecting the remarkable characters who have held places in the different crises of a world's history, that
The times have made the men, not the men the times. This is undeniably correct, yet it is not perhaps the whole truth. Men great events have occurred, and the demand has been made for leaders, sooner or later the men have come forward and have naturally risen to their place, but it is equally certain that the inherent character and genius of those men have imposed most important modifications to the events in which they have taken an important part. Had many different character or principles occupied their positions, 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 believe God calls men for emergencies in nations now, as really as He called Moses or David or Paul, that He woulds them by events, and moulds events by them. That He makes them representatives of ideas struggling into form in the minds of the masses, and impresses those ideas, modifies, makes more clear, deciding them upon the people again. And A. Lincoln was called
He was a man of providence, and he clearly recognized himself as such. He was made a representative of popular ideas and had in turn left an impress of his own convictions of truth upon the nation's mind and heart.

Was he a great man? Not great, in brilliancy of intellect like A. Hamilton, or in profoundness of intellect like Webster, or in metaphysical acumen like Calhoun, or in soaring eloquence and tremendous power of influence like Clay, but in the noble qualities of a perfect manhood like Washington, he was great. In understanding and accepting his mission and responsibilities — in clear comprehension of the principles of true statesmanship — in love of justice and the truth — in honest of purpose and fixed determination to do right — in purity of character, selflessness, and love of the people — in sincere trust in God and His leading for the guidance of divine wisdom — in the
faithful conscientious discharge of his high duties he was unsupassed by any of those distinguished men who have filled the chief magistrate before him.

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

A. Lincoln did this. Eleventh 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 it felt the real importance of the crisis. He entered upon the work committed to him not boastingly, with presumptuous temerity, nor timidly, with pusillanimous fear, but with a true manly consciousness both of his weakness and his strength.

He saw clearly his mind of heart, in those numerous fiery 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 to the Presidency, I have a more difficult task to perform than any one of them." Again, "I am deeply sensible of that
weighty responsibility. I cannot but know what
you all know, that without a name, perhaps with
due reason why I should have a name, this has fallen upon me a task such as did
not rest even upon the leaders of his coun-
try, so feeling, I cannot but turn to look for
the support without which it will be im-
possible for me to perform that great task.
I turn then to look to the great American
people, to that God who has never forsook
them." Again, "In accepting this great trust
committed to me, which I do with a determi-
nation 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
the ship of state safely to navigate in storm."
Still once more, "I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. For it ability to perform it, I must trust in that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land, the instrumentality of this poor intelligent people. With our aid assistance, I shall surely fail; with it I cannot fail." Here in these simple homely expressions we see the working of his mind. He saw him looking calmly and intelligently upon the work appointed him, fairly estimating its difficulties, measuring his ability to meet them, counting his resources and 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? By a clear comprehension of the fundamental principles of human rights, of the design and claims of law, as an intellectual ability professedly to discuss these principles, and lucidly to defend these principles to the common mind; by a wise judgment as to the measures most fit to be adopted for (establishing and maintaining) administering the government; and a skilful use of the means for carrying these
measures into execution constitute a Statesman.

Men were A. Lincoln deserving of high rank in
that honored list. His discussions in speeches,
letters, & state papers, of these matters will most
certainly take rank with the productions of
the best minds. His famous debates with Judge
Douglas in the Senatorial contest of 1858, which it
is well known procured for him the nomination
to the presidency at Chicago, & defeated, as Mr Lin-
coln predicted, the nomination of Douglas at Chica-
ton, is every where conceded to one of the ablest of
not the ablest 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 masterly
confidence the salient point, of an argument,
he gave expression to what he wished to say in
the simplest, most fitting words, in a tone, ever-
felic, dignified style, well adapted to reach the com-
mon mind, & command its respect of all.

It has been well said "No one can read Mr. Li's
State papers without perceiving in them a most re-
markable faculty of "putting things", so as to command
its 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 log-
ic in its action, & capable of the clearest & 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—nor the slightest desire for dis-
play—no thought or purpose but that of making
everybody understand precisely what he believes &
means to utter. And while this sacrifices the
graces of style, it gains immeasurably in prac-
tical 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 this is no feature in the character of our
late president which has to instill and him with...
people as his manifest honesty of purpose. This was a characteristic of the man from early life to before his elevation to the presidency. And now for him the familiar epithet of "Honest Abe," a title more honorable than the highest among names 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, for the South, for N. E., for the West, for the whole country." And nothing has he redeemed that pledge. Who doubts it? Is there one man so base as to doubt it, after the history of these four years past? Never has a man said or ever done the truth, so thoroughly deserved, with al se fitting for this occasion. But I cannot forbear to repeat it. "He has maintained, in the terrible trials of his administration, a reputation with the great body of the people, for unsullied integrity, for purpose, for conduct, which even Washington did not despise.
to which no president 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 constitutional government. He has disbursed sums of money equal to the estimated annual nation in the world; yet no man, of any party, believes him in any instance to have aimed at his own aggrandizement, to have been actuated by personal ambition, or to have consulted any other interest than the welfare of his country, or the perpetuity of its constitutional form of government. This in itself is a success which may well challenge universal admiration, for it is in which is the indispensable condition of all other forms of success. No man whose public integrity was open to suspicion, no matter what may have been his abilities or his experience, could possibly have retained enough of public confidence to carry the country through such a contest as that in which we are now involved. No President is subject to seeking his own aggrandizement 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 honestly and safely conferred on Mr. Lincoln, because it was known and 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 common intellect, that enabled Washington to hold the faith of the American people steadfast for seven years, while they were an unequal race 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 devolved the duty of carrying the country through this storm.
Far more important and primary struggle.

The source of this honest and profound which we thus unqualifiedly elevate in our lamented Chief magis-
trate, is most apparent. It springs from his
real, unfeigned love for the truth of the right,
his confident belief in the ultimate triumph
of principles based upon them.

In regard to the great question of slavery, the mass important
of any in respect to which the president has been
called to take decided action, I know some have in-
clined in time past, to suspect him of being govern-
ed by motives of expediency rather than love
of justice. But I must thoroughly convinced
that such have mistaken. That he may have
err'd in judgment in respect to times & seasons,
or seen in respect to measures proposed, might be
admitted, consistently with the maintained opinion
that love of right actuates him in all. But I firm
ly believe that impartial history will not only
award to him the praise of seeking and the fall
of right, but of having found it walked in it
throughout. President Lincoln was always
antislavery in feeling & action. Previous to his elec-
tion he always took pound against the system.
opposed all measures which had for their object its extension and perpetuation. He closed his first speech in his discussion with Douglas in these words: "Henry Clay, my dear ideal of a statesman—A man for whom I forget all my humble life once said of a class of men who would repress all tendencies to liberty and ultimate emancipation that they must if they would do this, go back to the era of our Independence, muzzle the cannon which thundered its annual joyous return; they must blow out the moral light around us; they must penetrate the human soul and gradual, here the love of liberty; and men will not till then, could any perpetuate slavery in this country." So my friend, Judge Douglas is, by his example and vast influence, doing that very thing in this community; when he says that no 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 muzzle the cannon which thunders its annual joyous return.
When he invites any people, will you have slavery to establish it; he is betraying our moral rights around us. When he says he cares not whether slavery is voted up or down — that it is a freed of self-government, he is, in my judgment, perverting the human soul and radically the spirit of reason; the loss of liberty in this American life.

These words would evidently move him at that time to look forward to an ultimate emancipation of the bondmen. But he spoke plainer words than these. Before he had proclaimed the insuperable conflict, A. Lincoln had declared a house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot permanently 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. Little did he then anticipate that he would himself be soon to become the instrument in accomplishing this prediction. When he was one half years after uttering these words, he assumed the helm of state, he knew that slavery would be the cause of agitation and conflict, but he knew not to what action it would com
Fell him. But he did know what was his duty and 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, and I have no inclination to do so." But events proceeded, a mighty rebellion was inaugurated in the interest of slavery, and one half million of loyal men were called to arms to subdue it. After no one thought of assailing slavery with but two dissenting votes Congress so declared by resolution.

One year passed toward the inevitable result was made. Slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia and forbidden in the territories by 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. 1861.
4. Hunter in Dec. 52 declaring all slaves & rebels free, reserving to himself as Commander in Chief the right to issue such orders. Still the President urged the scheme of compensatory emancipation, but with little or no effect upon N. Slave States.

In July of 52 a Confiscation Act was passed under which the President was authorized to freely emancipate slaves of rebels. 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 best advice. He clearly recognized his authority for the measure as one of military necessity. Under the Constitution, whenever that necessity should fully appear to him, or he could be assured that it was due to defend would be morally advanced. And the personally he greatly desired that all men might be free. He 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 Mr. 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. As the committee of the religious denominations of Chicago the subject presented in the memorial is one upon which I have thought much for weeks past, so I may even say for months. I am approached with the most opposite opinions and advice, that by religious men, who are equally certain that they represent the divine will. I am sure that neither one or the other class is mistaken in that belief or perhaps in some respects both.

I hope it will not be inequitable 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 decided in myself than I often am, it is my earnest desire to know the will of Providence in this matter. And if I can learn what it is I will do it. These are not, however, the days of miracles, so I suppose it will be prudent that I am not to expect a direct revelation. I must study the plain physical facts of the case, ascertain what is possible to learn what appears to be wise and right.
In a spirit of such a spirit he sought for and 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 found in rebellion at the beginning of coming year. Immediately after three months following 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 clear settle. He never hesitated in pursuing his chosen path. If any think not an earlier proclamation of emancipation would have been wiser, surely none can doubt the desire and purpose of A. Lincoln to pursue the right. A few I believe are there who will not at length if they do not now acknowledge that God in his providence times this great act provident.

Closely associated with this honest purpose which do endears to us our late president, will ever be tended cherished remembrance of his purity of character. There was no spot of vice upon him. The early lessons of a brain mother
Never ceased to exert their blessed influence upon his habits of virtue. He was a pattern after which we would be glad that all our public men were fashioned.

His unselfishness, real love for the people, were prominent traits fully and constantly exhibited. His patience was almost unendurable, and his kindness of heart toward all who approached him officially or in private was most marked. He was ever unwilling to give offence, and his keen sensibility to injustice, was never inclined to retaliation. Perhaps as a magistrate, he was too much inclined to mercy, where justice and public safety demanded the infliction of penalties; or it is possible that had he continued to administer this government after the reduction of the rebellion this merciful and 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 and acknowledgment of responsibility to Him in his public position is truly grateful to a Christian heart to observe. In his brief address to his friends and neighbors at Springfield, he says, "A duty devolves upon me, which is perhaps greater than that which has devolved upon any other Statesman 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 sustains him, and in the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support, and I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance without which I cannot succeed but with which success is certain." Repeating in his public career has he recognized this same obligation, trust in which he set out from his home, and we cannot doubt that He has since been a source of Divine help. The prayers of this Christian have been none of all with His God has been with Him. The eminent
Perils & amazing difficulties of the four years of mass-despair & bloody conflicts he has faced in his war, 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 Independence Hall, where the declaration was adopted by the American Congress (amidst salutes of artillery) in alluding to this at Harrisburg Mr. Lincoln said, besides this, our friends there had provided a magnificent flag of the country, they had arranged it so that I was to have 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 flesh and blood, according to the arrangement it and was pulled, as it floated gloriously to the wind, without an accident in the light glowing sunshine of the morning. I could not help being in an entire success of that beautiful ceremony, at least something of an omen of what is to come.
And indeed so it was an event of a much greater and nobler work completed than he could have been imagined. Did he not think again of that flag raising when after four years of fierce warfare the foe was conquered, his eyes held the Star and 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, and the brilliant dawning of the day of peace.

But alas how brief that joy! The lights our illuminations are still brightly gleaming in our memory, the roar of our welcoming cannon is just dying away in its distant echoes, our joyful shouts of victory and congratulation are hardly ceasing, when the deafening sound comes trembling over the wire, deepening to a roar, bursting forth to a piercing cry of terror and answer to 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, teems with malignant hatred, in the moment of its death, 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 uniformed, but the shield of divine protection was around him till his work should be accomplished. But the end has come, reign the end of that power of hell which had this the system of human bondage. Its armies had been captured, its strongholds reduced, its enemies defeated, its generals compelled to surrender. Again one more victim, one more noble victim, must be sacrificed.
to its rage. It must go upon the record of history, that A. Lincoln too died a martyr to liberty; not worn out and exhausted by his labors, peacefully lying down to die in his bed, but by the hand of the assassin the tool of co-conspirators—for the words may read in this confederacy's deed crime, the madness and villany of that system which had struck at the life of the nation a brutally murdered thousands of its defenders.

And that noble martyr was ready. He will highly accept this peril as a prepared victim. In his address to the citizens of Philadelphia, as he journeyed to the Capitol 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, 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 Congress at its extra session, he says: "As a private citizen the Executive could not have con-
Seniors that these institutions shall perish; much less could he, in betrayal of so vast and so sacred a trust as those 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, or that life he has given to his country. The nation weeps, in sympathy with the widows, orphans, and grief. Years will wash all the way, as well their sordid remains, to take this sad journey to that western home from which in such triumph they came. shouts of acclamation and joy, then welcomed them as they passed, lamentation and words of sympathetic sorrow will follow them as they return. Yes, the nation will weep, the loses of mankind over the world will weep, the years born but history will weep. But weeping, we, they will resolve, the principles for which he died shall be maintained. The liberties of universal manhood for which he gave his life, shall be established and preserved. If we have not hate the evil system of human bondage enough, we will hate it more. If we have not dealt our impartial justice to its satanic agents before, asking God to temper our hearts to his will, we will now begin this work. Held in view this crowning act of its concentration, too guiltlessness, with more vigorous blows will we strike home to the heart of its master men with the watchword: Remember the blood of a Lincoln!