

ness, which enters so largely into the composition of human nature, and incites mankind to love or hate, relinquishes its hold, and allows a calm and deliberate judgment to be formed of one whom it is no longer necessary to like or dislike, to confide in or to fear.

Yet few men have been less misunderstood whilst living than Abraham Lincoln, and therefore but few will be obliged to reverse their opinions of him. The qualities of his mind were so strongly marked, there was so much natural frankness in his disposition, and so little of what is called courtliness, that those who came in even casual contact with him felt that they had obtained a deeper insight into his character than could be acquired of most individuals by long-continued intercourse.

That he was honest in his opinions, sincere in his convictions, merciful in his impulses, acting in all things for the best, according to the light he had, no one can doubt who knew him and judged him fairly, no man should judge his fellow mortal. If, during his administration, acts were done in his name not in themselves right; if others were omitted which should have been performed; if wrongs were inflicted upon individuals for which full amendment can never be made, the responsibility cannot with justice be fastened upon him. It rests with those who were appointed to advise and assist him in the multitudinous duties of his great office, and in whom he trusted with the child-like confidence which formed so prominent a feature of his open and ingenuous disposition.

Perfection is not an attribute of human nature. If it were, we should be gods, not men. But it will be well for us all, when we receive our summons to another world, we can enter with as much confidence into the presence of our Father as might have filled the heart of him who for four long and weary years of war has held the destinies of this nation in his keeping, and who, when his task was nearly ended, passed into eternity without a moment's warning.

But all great afflictions have their lessons—lessons more profound and more enduring than those which are to be learned from the unvarying prosperity of many years. It is our duty to take this sorrow to ourselves, and to derive from it those teachings which we require to make us wiser and better men. If we do this; if as a people we are lifted up to a higher sense of our relations to the other nations of the earth, and if as individuals we open our hearts to the reception of larger views and more exalting ideas, the blood which has been spilt will not have been shed in vain. The sacrifice has been made; it is for us to accept it in a proper spirit.