ABRAHAM LINCOLN

For he, to whom we had applied
Our shopman's test of age and worth,
Sentimental when he died,
As he was ancient at his birth;

The oddest among kings of earth,
Bowed with a galling crown, this man
Met manor with a cryptic mirth,
Laconic—and Olympian.

—*E. A. Robinson.*

LINCOLN, MAN OF THE PEOPLE

Many Reasons Why He Has Justly Been Given the Title of Typical American.

Firm Believer Always in the Conception of Democracy Which is the Foundation of Our Nation—His Many High Qualities Worthy of Emulation.

TO save Abraham Lincoln from deadly apotheosis of the steel engraving has been a laudable effort of recent years. Of course it will not prevent the process of legend making which works upon the earthly reality of every great man, and in due time leaves him a desiccated abstraction, existing for the heavy boredom of childhood. Even Lincoln, with his vital, homely outlines, his intimate, endearing faults, and strong flavor of his day, must come to this turn. But the process may be retarded and ought to be as long as we can contrive.

One hundred and seven years ago Lincoln was born. Thirty-one years ago he was shot by John Wilkes Booth, and on the next day he died, the first "martyred president." A great wave of passionate sorrow, gratitude and affection swept the North. The process of apotheosis began. Today it may be observed in the sanctified generalities of Lincoln orations, editorials, poems and articles.

Moved by Flattery.

The central idea of the overwhelming majority of these tributes is Lincoln, the man of the people, the typical American. Year after year on February 12 and frequently throughout the year we hear this confident summary and without examining it. Is this mental inertia or are we unconsciously moved by the flattery implicit in this idea? An editorial in the New Republic suggests the latter. The final purpose of Lincoln-day speakers is not so much to eulogize Lincoln, this journal declares, as to flatter the audience. "If Mr. Lincoln was so stiffly a man of the people, the people must be very like to Lincoln."

New View of Great Patriot.

The reproach has more of justice than we like to think. The orator in the courtier of democracy flattering the sovereign citizen as grossly as ever an emperor was flattered. The flattery of indirect praise is scarcely less delicate and insidious, and it is well for us to examine it coolly. The New Republic puts it sharply away. "In point of fact Mr. Lincoln was superficially a man of the people, and fundamentally a unique, distinguished and wholly exceptional individual. In certain salient respects he was the least typical of Americans. Americans, particularly those of Lincoln's own generation and neighborhood, were essentially active, aggressive and objective men, whose lives were given over to practical external affairs, who subordinated everything else to the demands of practical achievement, and whose individuality consisted in living ordinary lives in an extraordinarily energetic manner. They were superficial, discursive, easy-going, quarrelsome, and wholly incapable of preparing in advance for any task or responsibility. In all these respects Lincoln differed from his fellow countrymen, and upon these differences his eminence depends. He was not particularly ambitious, aggressive or practical. In spite of his lively social feelings, he lived a contemplative life, in which the intellectual interest obtained full expression and which attained a high degree of internal concentration. He fought hard and well, but he never quarreled. During his formative years he quietly but unostentatiously prepared himself for great enterprises. He trained his mind because he enjoyed hard intellectual exertion. His style shaped itself under the influence of the Bible and Shakespeare. Thus at a period and in a country favorable to the cheap performance and the easy victory, Mr. Lincoln tempered his reason and his spirit for a great performance and a costly victory. Was there anything typically American about that?"

Ideas Worth Consideration.

This is interesting variation from the "canned eloquence" of the Lincoln day utterance, and it will repay consideration and emphasis, since we are [illegible] listeners as to just the defects the New Republic here pungently outlines. If we thought most of Lincoln's extraordinary disinterestedness, of his secret patience, of his deeply brooding spirit, and key of these qualities with which we establish all too readily a ready resemblance to our daily selves, we might get a wholesome and much needed reaction from our rattling, self-satisfied and shallow life without losing our sense of his reality as a human being having human weaknesses. Especially keen is the thrust delivered at our tendency to "the cheap performance and the easy victory" and its contrast with Lincoln's tempting reason and spirit "for a great performance and a costly victory."

No great victory was ever purchased cheaply. It has always been paid for in long and costly, though often unconscious preparation. Our national optimism, our impatience and superficiality obscure that truth.

As Typical American.

But, after all, in the legend we are making of Lincoln as typical American there is an instinct and a truth that are not superficial. All legend making is a profound process of national self-realization, an intuition of the temperament of national ideals; and as the case of Lincoln it is based upon the sincere, the religious democracy of this great man. The high distinction of mind, as shown, for example, in the prose of the Gettysburg oration, the moral nobility, the introspective aloofness which were an essential part of him, only accentuate for us the warm sparness of his nature to the common man and the common life. Lincoln himself, held to the mystical conception of democracy which Whitman expressed in his poetry and which is the cream in the heart of Transcendentalism.

The essential brotherhood of man was an intimate and glowing reality to Lincoln, not a lofty abstraction, and though we betray it and misread it we must cling to it if we are to save the national soul.

Idealizing ourselves through Lincoln is more than a pastime. It is a vital but not ignoble effort to express the deepest and most pervasive element of American idealism.

Lincoln's Place in History.

Abraham Lincoln was one of the supremely great men of all time. He grows bigger and bigger all the time, and a thousand years from now his fame will be immensely vaster than it is at the present time. No man in all the tide of time has had a more difficult or trying place than he held for four years, and the record of history is that he measured squarely up to his tremendous responsibilities. It is doubtful if any other man in the country could have saved the day.

LINCOLN

Out of the shadows we see him rise—
Face that is haunting and sorrowful eyes.

Scarred by his burden and bowed 'neath his weight:
Slave to a question and shackled by fate.

Poor was the soil where his schooling began:
Rugged the boyhood that molded the man.

Prone with his book by the fireplace's blaze,
What saw he there in the hearth's ruddy haze?

Slowly he rose while the Fates gave no sign,
Fitting himself for that labor divine.

Deep in the shadows we see him again—
Darker and sadder and brother of men!

—W. R. Rose in Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE FORESTERS

HIGH OFFICERS HERE TONIGHT FOR INSTALLATION IN CONDLEY'S HALL

Tonight will be a big night for the Foresters. There will be a class initiation and dance in Condley's academy and several the highest officers in the organization will be present. The initiation will be in charge of Supreme Chaplain McGillivray of Toronto, assisted by Supreme Secretary Fred J. Darsh, who is also of Toronto. The High Standing committee consisting of George E. Bailey and Robert Kinney of Antwerp, Robert Higgins, J. C. Price and B. G. Shindel of Syracuse; William Thomas, Supreme Treasurer, Auburn; John Conway, Malone, and Thomas B. Gates, Oswego, will also assist.

After the initiation there will be a social session. Mayor Hennessey will deliver an address of welcome and vocal selections will be rendered by Frederick Neophe and Albert Marody. Phillips' orchestra will play for dancing.

In connection with the meeting the high standing committee will decide upon the exact date for the State convention, which is to be held in this city in June. It is estimated that the convention will bring nearly one thousand Foresters to this city.

Preparing School Savings Scheme

Superintendent of Schools Richards is preparing a plan for school savings which he will present to the banks for approval before establishing the system in the Oswego schools.

GOOD COFFEE
20c per pound.
Phone, 1581.
T. HEAGERTY, Jr.

Oswego, N. Y., Feb. 10, 1916.

Sealed proposals for printing 250 copies of the Mayor's Annual Report for 1915 will be received at the City Clerk's office, Oswego, N. Y., until 2 o'clock p. m., February 15, 1916, subject to the following specifications and conditions.

STOCK—20 No. super, cal., first quality book paper.

COVER—225 copies, 20x25 advertising cover, double thick, color to be selected.

COVER—15 copies bound in full leather.

PRINTING—Substantially the same form as 1914 report, but subject to any changes that may be requested by the City Clerk. Copy of 1914 report will be furnished individual upon request.

DELIVERY—April 15, 1916.

The Finance Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Bidders will be furnished additional information upon request from the undersigned.

THOS. H. McGINNIS,
City Clerk.

THE WEATHER REPORT

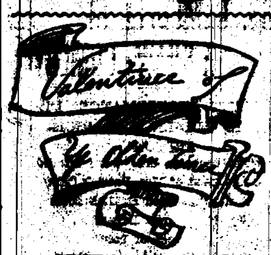
Stations	Temp.	Wind Dir.	Wind Vel.	Weather
Albany	32	NE	[illegible]	Clear
Atlantic City	36	[illegible]	[illegible]	Clear
Battleford	22	E	[illegible]	Cloudy
Binghamton	34	[illegible]	[illegible]	Snow
Bismarck	14	NE	[illegible]	Clear
Boston	38	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cloudy
Buffalo	32	[illegible]	[illegible]	Snow
Calgary	34	SW	[illegible]	Clear
Chicago	32	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cloudy
Corpus Christi	56	NE	[illegible]	Clear
Denver	30	W	[illegible]	Clear
Des Moines	18	SW	[illegible]	Clear
Detroit	34	NE	[illegible]	Cloudy
Dodge City	38	SW	[illegible]	Snow
Duluth	4	SW	22	Snow
Eastport	34	SW	12	Clear
Escanaba	34	SW	[illegible]	Clear
Hatteras	54	NW	20	Clear
Havre	2	SW	[illegible]	Clear
Jacksonville	62	[illegible]	[illegible]	Clear
Kansas City	22	W	[illegible]	Clear
Louisville	34	[illegible]	24	Cloudy
Memphis	40	N	12	Clear
Montreal	24	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cloudy
New Orleans	56	E	18	Cloudy
New York	38	[illegible]	10	Cloudy
North Platte	22	SW	[illegible]	Cloudy
Oklahoma	32	[illegible]	[illegible]	Clear
Parry Sound	18	Calm	[illegible]	Snow
Pierre	8	[illegible]	[illegible]	Snow
Pittsburgh	34	NE	[illegible]	Cloudy
Portland, Oreg.	48	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rain
Q'Appelle	14	SW	[illegible]	Clear
Rapid City	18	W	[illegible]	Clear
Roseburg	48	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cloudy
San Francisco	50	[illegible]	[illegible]	Clear
St. Louis	34	[illegible]	[illegible]	Clear
St. Paul	8	SW	[illegible]	Clear
Swift Current	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	Snow
Seattle	46	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cloudy
Toronto	32	[illegible]	[illegible]	Snow
Washington	36	[illegible]	[illegible]	Clear
Winnipeg	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	Clear

[illegible]

DR. [illegible]
[illegible]
44 West Bridge St.
Oswego, N. Y.

DR. [illegible] BRETON
Optometrist
[illegible]

Dr. H. M. Walker
EAR, NOSE AND THROAT
[illegible]



A REVIVAL of the time-honored custom of saint's day greetings is here. With the gay ribbons, the brocades and lace and the silken flowers of the Fashion that are prevalent in our modern shops depicting the chime of romance and sentiment. For the modern maid—whose latest nickname, "the little creature," smacks of the [illegible] for her of the ruffled [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the