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This Civil War should be studied again and again, for, from it can be gained much knowledge of men, of women, of free institutions, of great characters and of love, heroism and self sacrifice.

I notice in the Lecompton's constitution for Kansas these words, "The right of property is before and higher than any constitutional sanction and the right of the owner of a slave is as inviolable as the right of the owner of any property whatsoever/"

This is hardly believeable, that our Countrymen could have put property rights above our constitution and even above a human soul. The Country was aroused and our fathers went forth and freed our nation from this belief, placed all men free and equal before the law, and in so doing preserved the Union of the States founded by our liberty loving ancestors. This great war brought out new military accomplishments on a large scale, and in a comparatively new and primitive Country. Old forms and methods were changed. Iron-clads and breach loading guns and rifles were introduced. Cavalry was put to a different use and the Gallant Sheriden utilized them for quick transport and fighting on foot. This produced great commanders on both sides. Grant the imperturbable, Sherman the brilliant stratigist, Sheriden the swift cavalryman, and their lieutenants, Thomas, Meade, Howard, Scofield, Hancock, Sykes, Sedgwick, Sickles, Hooker and the martyred Reynolds and Macpherson on the one side; with the aggressive Lee, Longstreet, Jackson, Ewell, Hill, Early, Stuart, Joe Wheeler, Fitz Hugh Lee, Johnston, the lamented A. S. Johnson,

Bragg and Hood on the other; were the brilliant minds that gave immortal glory to the arms of this young republic. Older nations are now studying the campaigns of these men. Yet these brilliant men could not have succeeded without the loyalty and sacrifice of the boys in blue and in gray that made up the clashing hosts striving for the life of the nation. But above all Lincoln, the subject of this address to night and at that time the President and Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States, (with all that that means;) trusting implicitly in his armies loyalty and strength has well said that for final success he put his dependence upon, "The God of our fathers, who raised up this Country to be the refuge and the asylum of the oppressed and downtrodden of all nations and will not let it perish now."

Nations have come and gone, some mere incidents, in the series of the progress of the world. Once they thought they were complete, for the ancient Hebrews attained unto their promised land and the Greek and Roman ruled the world, but all have gone leaving some patterns worth using, but succeeding generations. Each epoch seems to have had its leader in this game of progress, who used his talents according to the lights of his time, until we come to the sudden awakening of the people of the earth, that they have a right in, and to all that pertains to, that part in which they dwell. That if they are to bear the expense of keeping law and order, they must have a voice in their own affairs.

Thus did Americans break from the mother Country, and establish in blood and sacrifice a new, free and independent nation.

This flame of justice to the masses set fire to continental Europe and out of the horrors of the French Revolution came a new and freer epoch for all civilized nations.

The man of the hour there raised up, to force this change, was Napoleon. He too, thought he had a destiny, and would give complete constitutional government that would endure, but owing to his overreaching ambition, he fell before he should, and his great work was but another step forward.

Our Country had its man for its earliest hours; Washington, who though of the privileged class, with aristocratic ancestry, wealth and even human slaves, took the side of the people and unselfishly lead them to build the foundations of a new and untried democracy. Would it stand? Could it exist, "Half slave and half free", with the older Monarchical and undemocratic nations pounding it on the outside and selfish greed of a privileged slave owning class, getting more and more the control of it from the inside?

There was a man of the hour! Ready at hand, raised up by God, to save his Country as a further example to all nations and to be the man to lead it through a titanic struggle to victory, in order that this world might take another step forward towards ideal human rights, and this man was Abraham Lincoln.

The first important thing that Lincoln did was to be born and that is a very important factor, for in it is involved the potential, mental, moral and physical characteristics of the future man.

He himself has said that he attributed his success to his mother, and I heard only yesterday, a public speaker who knew, say, "Give me a boy for the first nine years of his life and you can have him the rest." You can't change the knowledge and training he gains in those nine years. Lincoln's mother died when he was nine years old.

He was born in the mountains of Kentucky in Hardin County, among a simple humble rugged people. A wild forest land contributed to his physical strength and his earliest days were spent here, in a little log cabin home, which has now been replaced by a beautiful memorial building, annually visited by hundreds, who come to see his birthplace.

The family soon moved to Indiana where Lincoln grew to young manhood among a hardy, pioneer people. During these days his great strength was always in demand to split rails and do other hard work, yet he loved to read, though all the books he had were the Bible, Esops Fables, Pilgrims Progress, Ribinson Crusoe, The Life of Washington and of Henry Clay. In the Black Hawk Indian War he was made captain of a militia Company and it is said that on reaching a fence, and not knowing the proper order to give to get through the gate, he told his men to break ranks and form on the other side. His military service was short, but on one occasion, another officer having a grievance challenged Lincoln to a duel and Lincoln chose sabres for the weapons, but the duel was declared off when it was seen he was fleeking oak leaves from a high branch with his sabre. He was six feet four and had an arm to match.

But our hero was not to live the simple life of a back woodsman for the seed sown by the mother and the cravings of an active mind soon lead him to wider reading and the practice of law and he became famous before long in Springfield as a lawyer. As a boy he practiced public speaking on such subjects as temperance and politics and in after life became a greater politician than a lawyer.

The stirring days that soon brought emmigration from the eastern states into the new territories, brought with them the desire for the extension of human slavery into Kansas and Nebraska, and farther west unless checked. Lincoln became the spokesman for the non-extension party in Illinois and was pitted against the great democratic leader Stephen A. Douglas, who was supposed to be a little giant in Statesmanship and oratory. Even joint debates were held, but Lincoln drove him from the field. When Douglas accused Lincoln of selling liquor as a clerk in a grocery store, Lincoln would retort that it made no difference to Douglas if slavery existed or not, for if slavery went down, Douglas could sell his thousand acres and if slavery was up, Mrs Douglas could sell her slaves for high prices. Lincoln was soon a member of Congress, declined to be governor of Illinois and received some votes for President at the first Republican Convention that nominated Fremont for President in 1856.

One of Douglas' remarks in his argument for squatter sovereignty, was that the immigrants in a new territory ought to be allowed and were able to govern themselves. "Yes" said Lincoln, "But not govern any other person without that persons consent."

Early, Lincoln acquired a wonderful ability which began to be of great value to him. He could take the remarks of others which were often unintelligibly expressed and restate them in clear concise form that gave him the power of afterwards making his own statements perfectly clear to his hearers.

Now he was prime and fit at the age of fifty one years to be chosen to the great office of President, of the United States. It was different with him than with any other President, for his elevation precipitated a great conflict. A free republic could no longer conscientiously hold men and women in bondage, and the republic's own principle that we are ruled only by the consent of the governed, must be vindicated.

Lincoln, physically strong, courageous, able, fearless was the only leader to try and hold the nation together. The slave states feeling their government, that sustained property rights above human souls, was being undermined and usurped, had become threatening and dissatisfied. Lincoln spoke to them in his inaugural address, "You can have no conflict without being yourself the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to 'preserve', protect, and defend it."

This he did with all his might relying upon "The God of his Fathers," until he bowed and saddened under the great burden thrust upon him.

The storm burst, and yet he held men to him as with cords of steel. He united under him men of different political faiths with one purpose, that the "Union must and shall be preserved."

He handled his civil affairs with wonderful tact and skill, like the solution of the Trent affair, that prevented war with England. He kept abreast of his generals and ahead of some of them in military plans and questions, so that the campaigns were conducted in a scientific manner. He had great confidence that the right would prevail and feeling that he was acting in a righteous cause, he established a precedent and by the stroke of his pen arbitrarily freed the slaves, the chattels, the property of his fellow countrymen, and we have this year celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his great emancipation proclamation.

In all this public career Lincoln's beautiful character shines forth. He was a patient and dutiful husband, a loving father, and his love for the common people was unbounded. No appeal to him for clemency ever went unheeded, and Vermont is grateful to him to this day for pardoning her soldier boy, who had slept on post, because he had done double duty, in order to relieve a sick comrade. I do not know that he could better express the one great characteristic of Lincoln's life than to say that he was the exponent of great Loving Kindness.

In the zenith of his power, with his work fairly done, having seen the rebel capitol restored, Good took him, and this ended another incident in human progress.

The work, new work for this country was taken up by others, and while Lincoln accomplished a blotting out of a great human wrong he relaid the proper foundations that Washington began, so that the last fifty years has seen a material prosperity given to this country, never even dreamed of by the

great Lincoln himself. Is it finished? No! We Americans have reached a new era and must work out for our time the problem of how to lift our nation another step forward and upward as a still better example for the nations of the world.

We must sever our connections with the traditions of the past wherever they hold us back to a narrow, selfish individualistic course, but take Lincoln as our example and his words as our guide, change our political faith if need be in order that justice be done, and again property rights be still further subordinated to human rights. Strange as it may seem there are laws which must be enacted to free our people from bondage today. Industrial bondage that is anomalous to a republic of free and liberty loving people. Little children should not work at a tender age. Young women should not be driven into immorality and sin through social conditions that can be righted. And men, our proud American manhood, should not be allowed to lose the honest and pure American home, which has been the bulwark of our civilization.

I appeal to you Vermonters to awake and claim the riches at your doors. Do not leave these mountain valleys which offer you so much that is real and true in life, in hope that you can do better in a City. The signs of the times point to an upheaval and over-turning, and a readjustment of governmental policies, the improvement of industrial conditions and toward a social justice.

Women are to share more publicly with us men in all these problems of the day. Vermont with its increasing industries, with its splendid water powers, and with its agricultural resources, and the markets close at hand, can contribute largely by example and influence in this new upbuilding of this nation.

You young men and women of Vermont must together choose your right leaders and send them forth as teachers, preachers and legislators. Study the problems hard and fight for the right, that oppression and greed may be done away, and that fair and equal rights in this world's goods be given to all, even to the humblest. "God must have loved the common people for he made so many of them", said Lincoln. We can do no better in our day, in fighting the battle of life, our series in the progress of the world, than to use for our motto the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Let us have faith that right makes might and dare to do our duty as we understand it."