

**THE PRAISE OF
LINCOLN;
AN ANTHOLOGY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649304028

The praise of Lincoln; an anthology by A. Dallas Williams

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A. DALLAS WILLIAMS

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COLLECTED AND ARRANGED BY

A. DALLAS WILLIAMS

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

INDIANAPOLIS
THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

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THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY

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1915

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

PRINTED BY
BRAUNWORTH & CO.
BOOKBINDERS AND PRINTERS
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Acknowledgment

The editor of this Anthology desires to express his sincere thanks to many publishers and authors for their courtesy in granting permission to use selections from their various volumes. His thanks are due the following publishers: The Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, for the use of poems by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Edmund Clarence Stedman, Bayard Taylor, Richard Watson Gilder, James Russell Lowell, Alice Cary, Phœbe Cary, Christopher Pearce Cranch, Lucy Larcom, Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Greenleaf Whittier, John Townsend Trowbridge, Edna Dean Proctor, Julia Ward Howe, Rose Terry Cooke, Edward Rowland Sill, Jones Very, Wendell Phillips Garrison, Maurice Thompson, John Vance Cheney, Nora Perry, Henry Howard Brownell; The Macmillan company, New York, the poem by Percy Mackaye; D. Appleton and Company, New York, for the use of poems by William Cullen Bryant; The Saalfield Publishing Company, Akron, Ohio, poem by Phœbe A. Hanaford; Silver Burdett and Company, New York, poem by Samuel Francis Smith; Longmans, Green and Company, New York, poems by John James Piatt; The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, poem by George Henry Boker; G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, poems from *Abraham Lincoln*, by Lyman Whitney Allen, and from *Survivals*, by Lewis V. Randolph; The Funk and Wagnalls Company, New York, poem by Richard Realf; David McKay, Philadelphia, poems by Walt Whitman; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, poems by Richard

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Henry Stoddard; The New England Publishing Company, Boston, poem by Hezekiah Butterworth; The Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company, Boston, poem by Robert Henry Newell; Thomas Y. Crowell and Company, New York, poem by Frank B. Sanborn; Little, Brown and Company, Boston, poem by Edith Colby Banfield; Harper and Brothers, New York, poem by Herman Melville, from his *Battle Pieces and Aspects of the War*, and poems from *The Poetical Works of Charles Graham Halpine*.

Acknowledgments are due the following periodicals and magazines for permission to include poems that appeared originally in their pages: The American Magazine, The Independent, Youth's Companion, The Atlantic Monthly, Success Magazine, Hampton's Magazine and The Century.

Thanks are also due the American Press Association, for permission to use *An Appreciation of Lincoln*, by Robertus Love.

The authors named below have graciously added their consent to that of their publishers: John E. Barrett, Virginia Frazer Boyle, Edna Dean Proctor, Robertus Love, Julia Ward Howe, Phœbe A. Hanaford, Joel Benton, Eugene J. Hall, Lyman Whitney Allen, Robert Mackay, Horace Spencer Fiske, James Nicoll Johnston, William Henry Venable, Percy Mackaye, John Townsend Trowbridge, Florence Evelyn Pratt, Margaret E. Sangster, Edwin Markham, James Oppenheim, Frank B. Sanborn, John Vance Cheney, Samuel E. Kiser, William Wilberforce Newton, the Reverend Doctor P. C. Croll, Wilbur D. Nesbit, the Reverend Levi Lewis Hager, Lewis V. F.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Randolph, Doctor S. Weir Mitchell, Benjamin S. Parker, General John James Piatt, Nathan Haskell Dole, and Laura Redden Searing; while Mr. and Mrs. P. McK. Garrison have given permission to include the poem by their father, Wendell Phillips Garrison.

By special arrangement with Edward William Thomson we include in the volume his poems entitled: *We Talked of Lincoln*, *When Lincoln Died*, and *Father Abraham Lincoln*, from his volume *When Lincoln Died and other Poems*, published by the Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

A. D. W.

INTRODUCTION

The poetic faculty is the one divine gift which has no limitations in time or space. It sings in every note of love, from passion to sacrifice. It tunes its lyre to the primrose pitch; and its music is heard in the diapason of the spheres. It records with equal fervor the glories of war and the beauties of peace, the white man's burden and the black man's care, the thrill of liberty and the sullen silence of the slave, the peace of home and the pleasures of the harem, the pomp of power and the pride of place. It weaves Jacob's coat of poverty and Solomon's royal robe. It paints with equal touch the passion of a Madonna and a Salome. It carries to Paradise the warrior's cry, the lover's sigh and the penitential tear. With love and patriotism it forms the human trinity. It ascends to heaven, and, Lucifer-like, drops swiftly to hell again. It has flattered Nero on his throne and consoled Milton in his blindness. It has cajoled, caressed, rebuked, uplifted, dismayed mankind. It dispenses the honey of Hymettus and the poison of asps. It has recorded the agony of Mary and the anguish of Cleopatra. It is good and evil, bitterness and sweetness, light and darkness, help and hindrance. From its mouth have come both blessings and cursings. Happy the man who is worthy of its glorifications.

America stands for something or for nothing. I am one of those who believe it stands for something. It is the one land where the mystery of manhood may be fully revealed; where, at the last, not race nor creed nor station, but character shall win and purposes shall