

**MEMORIAL RECORD OF
THE NATION'S TRIBUTE
TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

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Memorial Record of the Nation's Tribute to Abraham Lincoln by B. F. Morris

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B. F. MORRIS

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Abraham Lincoln

MEMORIAL RECORD
OF THE
NATION'S TRIBUTE.
TO
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"THE ECHOES OF HIS FUNERAL KNELL VIBRATE THROUGH THE
WORLD, AND THE FRIENDS OF FREEDOM OF EVERY TONGUE AND
IN EVERY CLIME ARE HIS MOURNERS."—*Bancroft on Pres. Lincoln.*

COMPILED BY B. F. MORRIS.

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THIS
MEMORIAL TRIBUTE
TO
ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
IS
DEDICATED
TO THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE,
AND TO THE
FRIENDS OF OUR COUNTRY,
AND OF FREEDOM
IN
EVERY CLIME.

INTRODUCTION.

The scenes recorded in this memorial volume form the most wonderful and instructive chapter in human history. They vibrated mournfully through the sensibilities of every American heart, and through all the civilized and Christian nations of the world. It is, therefore, of the highest importance that their permanent record should possess the dignity and value of historic truth and accuracy. Such is this volume.

In its preparation the design was to reproduce, in a condensed and connected form, from the public journals of Washington and of the cities through which the illustrious dead was conveyed to his burial place, the graphic pen-pictures painted by the accomplished reporters of the public press. Those who may recognize their special part in the scenes of the solemn drama will feel a grateful pleasure that they have assisted to weave a perennial wreath to lay upon the tomb of the honored dead, which will live forever in fragrant freshness, to bless the memory and exalt the virtues of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the martyred President of the United States.

The record of the official action of the National Government, civil and military, and the tributes of the States, civic bodies, and foreign nations, form an interesting part of the volume.

The labor of the compiler has been performed with much care, and it is a gratification to him to insert the following from eminent gentlemen, intimate friends of the late President, who examined the advance sheets:

"Your work is accurate and complete. You have given to the American people a souvenir which, I am sure, they will fondly cherish. Your beautiful rarrure will no doubt be highly appreciated by the national authorities, and especially by the Secretary of War, under whose immediate direction the funeral honors were paid to the illustrious deceased, and by whom nothing was omitted that could add to the dignity and solemnity of the memorable pageant." Another adds: "I regard the record as valuable and interesting for present and future ages." One of the private secretaries of the late President, who examined its pages in the Executive Mansion, wrote: "I am glad that this compilation has been made, and doubt not the above commendations are well deserved."

The compiler has been a resident at the capital of the nation for more than three years past, witnessed the public acts and scenes of President Lincoln's administration, had several interesting interviews with him, and mingled in the solemn ceremonies of his funeral.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June, 1865.

MEMORABLE DAYS AND EVENTS PRECEDING THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN closed and crowned his illustrious life by a martyr's death, on the morning of the 15th of April, 1865. Preceding the tragical scene in which he passed from the highest seat of human power and grandeur to the grave, memorable events had transpired in the history of the country. The national Government, after four years of stern and fearful conflict, was triumphant over a gigantic rebellion, and the nation was in the midst of scenes of universal rejoicings, when the sudden and startling death of President Lincoln spread like appalling darkness over all the land. The nation was bowed into the profoundest grief, and tears, like showers of rain, were the symbols of its sorrow. The Republic loved him as its father, and honored and revered him as its preserver and saviour.

His integrity, sagacity, unselfish patriotism, love of universal liberty, impartial justice, his honesty and fidelity, his magnanimity and prudence, his moderation and sublime perseverance, his private virtues and eminent public services, his lofty courage and loftier faith in God and in the final triumph of right, and his wise and successful administration of the government, in the most critical and eventful period of its history, had secured to him the abiding confidence and affection of the American people. He was re-elected to the Presidency in November, 1864, by a popular vote, and in the Electoral College by majorities unprecedented in the political history of the country, since the days of Washington. No man imagined what a hold

he had upon the national heart until that election. The revelation of popular feeling was sublime and wonderful. It was a grand and spontaneous tribute to character, without a parallel in human history.

HIS SECOND INAUGURATION

Transpired on the Fourth of March, 1865. He stood on the eastern portico of the Capitol, and in the presence of many thousands of his fellow-citizens took the oath of office. At the request of Chief Justice Chase, who administered the oath, D. W. Middleton, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States, handed an open Bible to the President, who laid both his hands upon it, and slowly and solemnly repeated the words of the oath, first pronounced by the Chief Justice, viz: "I, Abraham Lincoln, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." "So help me God."

The President then reverently pressed his lips upon the sacred pages, and handed the Bible back to Mr. Middleton, who instantly marked the verses touched by the President's lips. On examination, he found them to be the 26th and 27th verses of the fifth chapter of Isaiah, commencing "And he will lift up an ensign to the nations," &c. The chapter has a peculiar fitness to the times, and contains in many of its declarations a prophetic description and doom of the leaders of the great rebellion, who have, verily, "called evil good and good evil," and "put darkness for light, and light for darkness."

The Bible thus opened and used for the inauguration was handed to the wife of the President, who will doubtless preserve it as a sacred family memorial of that most solemn and impressive scene.

The morning of the day on which he was inaugurated was overcast with leaden clouds, and nature wore a sombre hue. But at the moment the President began to pronounce his address the clouds dispersed, and the sun came brightly out, as if to symbolize a peaceful and prosperous future to the President and the Republic.