LINCOLN AND SLAVERY, PP. 1-95

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Lincoln and Slavery, pp. 1-95 by Albert E. Pillsbury

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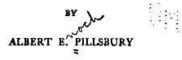
ALBERT E. PILLSBURY

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Published September 1913

SECOND IMPRESSION

author) 4-28-1923 THIS brief review of Abraham Lincoln's real attitude toward Slavery and Emancipation originated in an address delivered at Howard University on the fiftieth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It is now extended by the introduction of historical evidence, principally from Lincoln himself, which that occasion did not permit. Apart from his conduct, which speaks for itself to those who look beneath the surface of it, nothing can contribute so much as his own words to a true understanding of "the first American" in the supreme act of his life and one of the monumental events in the world's history.

BOSTON, September 1, 1913.

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NOTE TO SECOND EDITION

THE writer of this short study, acknowledging the unexpected favor which it has received, avails himself of the call for another edition to correct the misunderstanding of an occasional friendly critic who has taken it as maintaining that Lincoln held the destruction of slavery paramount to the saving of the Union. It is not so intended, as it was not written in this belief. To the logical mind of Lincoln, who clearly saw that slavery and the Union could not permanently survive together, the preservation of the Union and the extinction of slavery were inseparable parts of the same problem. There is no historical reason to believe that he ever subordinated either to the other, or that the question whether he could save the Union with slavery-to one of his known convictions an impossible conception --- was ever seriously in his mind. He moved steadily to the extinction of the national evil as indispensable to the continuance of the Union, though obliged, as an acute and discerning writer has said, " to stoop to the complex, peculiar and inferior character of the contemporary mind" by dissembling his

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NOTE TO SECOND EDITION

purpose until the last moment. Out of this same "contemporary mind" arose the empty delusion of Lincoln's willingness to save the Union with slavery, which the historical perspective long ago put out of countenance, a fact which has escaped some writers of history and is designedly suppressed by others.

BOSTON, February 1, 1915.

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