

LINCOLN AND SLAVERY

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Lincoln and slavery by Albert E. Pillsbury

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1913

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 this great 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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WHEN the conflict between Freedom and Slavery in this nation was approaching its crisis, in the struggle for possession of the Nebraska territory, a new and singular figure appeared at the front of political battle in the West, moved to the head of events, passed across the world's stage, and in the short space of seven years had vanished from the sight of man.

Within such narrow bounds of time lies a career the like of which is not to be found in history. In the elements of wonder and marvel, the story of Abraham Lincoln's life and death is without parallel or example. From the

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mean cabin in the Kentucky woods to the final peak of transfiguration, it moves in the successive acts of a great tragic drama, reaching the high-water mark of human achievement and sounding every note in the gamut of human emotion.

In the scant half-century since his death, Abraham Lincoln has engrossed more of the world's attention than any other historic personage. Untiring research has tracked him from the cradle to the tomb. The remotest spot trodden by his foot is explored, the last relative, friend, or acquaintance examined for any word or look of the great man, every act of his life is studied, every line of his written or spoken words put under review, the last fragment of his correspondence or memoranda is drawn