

**GREAT EPOCHS IN AMERICAN HISTORY,  
DESCRIBED BY FAMOUS WRITERS FROM  
COLUMBUS TO ROOSEVELT; EDITED WITH  
INTRODUCTIONS AND EXPLANATORY  
NOTES, VOL. VIII, THE ELECTION OF  
LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR: 1860-1865**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649375745

Great epochs in American history, described by famous writers from Columbus to Roosevelt; edited with introductions and explanatory notes, Vol. VIII, The election of Lincoln and the civil war: 1860-1865 by Francis W. Halsey

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**FRANCIS W. HALSEY**

**GREAT EPOCHS IN AMERICAN HISTORY,  
DESCRIBED BY FAMOUS WRITERS FROM  
COLUMBUS TO ROOSEVELT; EDITED WITH  
INTRODUCTIONS AND EXPLANATORY  
NOTES, VOL. VIII, THE ELECTION OF  
LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR: 1860-1865**





JEFFERSON DAVIS



ADMIRAL FARRAGUT



GEN. ROBERT E. LEE



GEN. WILLIAM T. SHERMAN

# GREAT EPOCHS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

DESCRIBED BY FAMOUS WRITERS  
FROM COLUMBUS TO ROOSEVELT

Edited, with Introductions and Explanatory Notes

By **FRANCIS W. HALSEY**

*Associate Editor of "The World's Famous Orations"; Associate Editor of "The Best of the World's Classics"; author of "The Old New York Frontier," etc.*

---

PATRONS' EDITION. IN TEN VOLUMES  
ILLUSTRATED

---

Vol. VIII  
**THE ELECTION OF LINCOLN AND THE  
CIVIL WAR: 1860—1865**

**FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY**  
NEW YORK AND LONDON

HUS, C  
H 1964 gr  
600059  
21.1.55

COPYRIGHT, 1912, BY  
FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY  
[Printed in the United States of America]

## INTRODUCTION

---

*(The Election of Lincoln and the Civil War)*

The election of Lincoln was a triumph for many political elements which, before his ascendancy, had been groping blindly toward similar ends—some of these old-time Whigs, others new-time Abolitionists, some Free Soil men, others Union Democrats, still others Anti-Nebraska men; but all eager for the salvation of the Union and now marching under a common banner as Republicans. For the Union cause there was a great majority in the Electoral College; it marked a general uprising, for that cause, and was tempered only by Lincoln's failure to secure a popular majority. He was nearly a million short of a majority over all.

To the Southern States Lincoln's election came with the force of an appalling calamity. No longer did their leaders see any peaceable legislative way out of the country's wearisome intestinal strife. All the forces with which they had ever contended were now united against them, and victorious in their unity. They honestly believed



---

## INTRODUCTION

---

Lincoln's election meant the overthrow, if not the final and complete ruin, of their chief institution, without which they could not longer prosper or perhaps exist. Southern leaders could not know how far-sighted was the vision of Lincoln, how passionate his longing for the preservation of the Union, how abhorrent to every impulse of his heart was war. A month before he was inaugurated six States had seceded and set up a government of their own.

When the South denied the power of the general government to coerce a State, it believed itself holding fast to a principle in the Constitution several times invoked by Northern States during the years immediately following its adoption. Moreover, they held that the same spirit of rebellion which South Carolina had shown thirty years before in attempting to nullify a tariff law of Congress had in quite recent years been shown by a dozen Northern States in attempting to nullify another act of Congress—the Fugitive Slave Law. It was in vain that Lincoln insisted that he had no intention to destroy slavery, or interfere with it as it existed, his prime purpose being to save the Union, and that so far

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

as slavery was concerned, his only wish was to prevent its extension.

Since the Revolution, territory comprizing twenty new States, mostly Northern, had been added to the Union. These lands had been peopled by immigrants from Europe and from the older States of the East, to whom abhorrence of slavery was a common sentiment. In other ways this Western population constituted a compact body, devotedly loyal to the Federal Government. To the Federal Government, indeed, they maintained allegiance first, and to the State afterward. State pride scarcely existed among them until after years of achievement. The dominant note in their patriotism was nationality—"the Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

Once the war began, industrial conditions operated powerfully to the disadvantage of the South. No enterprises in all that fair and fruitful domain could supply an army with guns, powder and balls, with clothing, surgical instruments and medicine. All these indispensable things the South ever since it was settled had imported from the North or from Europe. When the North, early in the war, blockaded Southern ports

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

from the Chesapeake to the mouth of the Mississippi, supplies had to be brought in by running the blockade or entering the country by way of Texas, but this was a slow and costly process, and made supplies always uncertain. Many a soldier went to the war with his private fowling-piece, or with musket or sword that had survived in his family from earlier wars. After two years something had been done in the South to manufacture munitions of war, but Gettysburg, the turning-point of the war, was then not far off.

The South also lacked money. Her great planters were rich in land, cotton, tobacco and slaves, but, until their crops had been sold, they were always in debt for borrowed money, and now, with ports blockaded, their market for sales of crops was cut off. Before the war their exports of cotton had amounted to \$202,000,000 annually; in 1862 they fell to \$4,000,000. The resources of the South constantly diminished, not only in arms, ammunition and clothing, but in the supply of men who could fight. In population the seceding States did not number in 1860 much more than one-third as many men as the North, and of these much more than a quarter were slaves. In such