# SELECTIONS FROM THE LETTERS, SPEECHES, AND STATE PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

#### ISBN 9780649749850

Selections from the letters, speeches, and state papers of Abraham Lincoln by Abraham Lincoln & Ida M. Tarbell

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

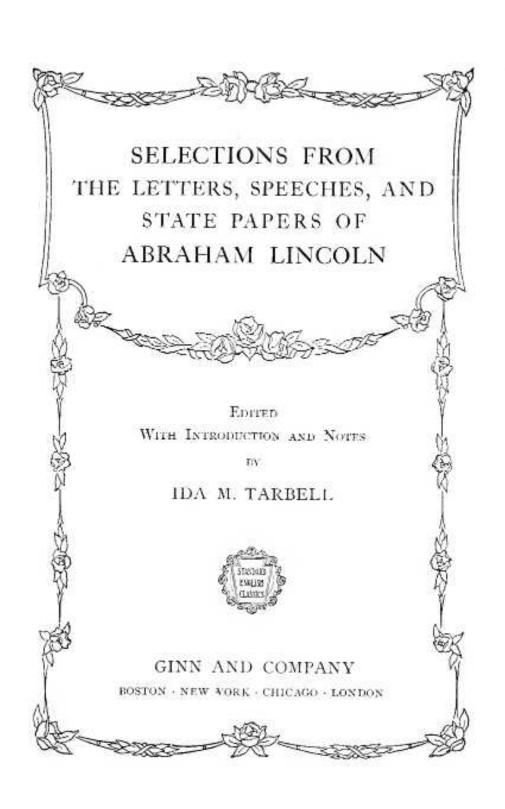
## ABRAHAM LINCOLN & IDA M. TARBELL

# SELECTIONS FROM THE LETTERS, SPEECHES, AND STATE PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN





A. Lincoln



COPYRIGHT, 1911, BY
THA M. TARBELL
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
A 9:1.12

GINN AND COMPANY - PRO-PRIETORS - BOSTON - U.S.A. 973.7L63 K1911e

# Livery to a

## PREFACE

#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN

This little book is founded on the compiler's conviction that the most practical and inspiring guide our history offers for developing genuinely democratic Americans is the life of Abraham Lincoln. Coupled with this conviction is a second equally strong, that the best place to study Lincoln is in his own writings.

The selections here given have been chosen with three different but closely related ideas in mind:

- Abraham Lincoln's understanding of democracy, and the way he worked it out in his own life, in his relations with his fellows and with the American people.
- His intellectual and moral development, particularly as we see it in his handling of the slavery question.
  - 3. His English prose and the method by which it was perfected.

The selections should be read with the facts of his life in mind. The pupil should be helped to put himself in Lincoln's place by such concrete questions as:

- 1. How old was Lincoln at this time?
- 2. In what town was he living?
- 3. How was he earning his living?
- 4. Who were his friends? What was his family?
- 5. What books was he reading?
- 6. What was his political party and what was its platform?
- 7. Was he seeking an office, and if so, what was it? Who was his opponent?

These questions well answered will help the pupil to see Lincoln much as he sees other men. Biographics which will be useful are: "A Short Life of Abraham Lincoln," by John George Nicolay; "The Life of Abraham Lincoln," by J. G. Holland; "Abraham Lincoln, A Biography for Young People," by Noah Brooks; "Abraham Lincoln, the Man of the People," by Norman Hapgood; "Abraham Lincoln," by John Torrey Morse, Jr.; "The Every-Day Life of Abraham Lincoln," by Francis F. Browne, and the compiler's "Life of Abraham Lincoln."

#### MATERIALS

The selections are arranged chronologically. They begin with the first public address, written when Lincoln was twenty-three years old, and end with his last public words spoken in Washington three days before his assassination. They consist of letters to friends and to political allies and opponents, of public papers, of addresses on a great variety of occasions, and of extracts from the debates and speeches in which he expounded his ideas on slavery. If fuller material is wished, or a complete copy of a document from which only a fragment is here quoted, the best source in which to seek it is Nicolay and Hay's "Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln."

In reading, it should be remembered that the ideas which have controlled the selections run through practically all of them and are not illustrated simply by a few extracts.

### LINCOLN'S IDEAS OF DEMOCRACY

It is important that Lincoln's ideas of democracy be disentangled from theory and oratory in the pupil's mind and be presented clearly as a series of practical rules of life, as they certainly were to their author.

- 1. Let the pupil work out, from the selections and with what help he can get from biographies, Lincoln's notions of what a man should be in a democracy.
- Self-Respecting. Study his relations to other men to show this: to his law partner Herndon; to Stephen H. Douglas; to William H. Seward; to his generals.

- Self-Reliant. At critical points in his career Lincoln always followed his own conclusion as to what was wise. Illustrate this by his choice of studies, political policies, and choice of men for his administration and for the army.
  - 3. Self-Developing. Trace his struggles for education.
- 4. Holding Public Good above Self-Interest. How he took his defeat in 1858, sacrificing his ambition to be a United States senator in order to make the issue clear to the people. How he offered to resign from the presidency if it would help the situation. How he insisted in 1864 on making a draft of men needed for the war, although the action threatened to defeat his reflection to the presidency.
- 11. What was Lincoln's idea of the relation of one man to unother in a democracy!

This theme can be studied best by taking up Lincoln's treatment of certain persons with whom he was thrown into close relationship.

- 1. His Stepbrother. See letters of advice to him.
- Stephen II. Douglas. See Lincoln's treatment of him in the debates of 1858.
  - 3. General George B. McClellan.
  - Horace Greeley.
- III. What was Lincoln's idea of a public man's relation to the people in a democracy?
- 1. Did he believe the people capable of thinking out public questions and coming to their own conclusions, or did he believe they followed the views of the leader of their political party?
  - 2. What did Lincoln mean by "fooling" the people?
- 3. What did Lincoln believe to be the right and true way to lead the people?

Ample material for answering and illustrating these questions is contained in a study of his debates with Douglas, in his efforts for compensated emancipation, and in his insisting that the Civil War be continued until the South laid down arms.

Helpful reading on the democracy of Lincoln is to be found in Carl Schurz's Essay on Abraham Lincoln; in Herbert Croly's comments on Lincoln in his "Promise of American Life"; in James Russell Lowell's Essays.

#### LINCOLN'S TREATMENT OF THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY

Lincoln's treatment of the question of slavery gives an admirable opportunity to study his mental and moral development. The selections here given are sufficient to enable the pupil to trace the way in which he solved each successive step in the problem from 1837, the time of his first public protest against the institution, to the days just before his death, when he was considering a policy of merciful reconstruction.

The following questions will serve as suggestions for working out this important study:

- r. What was the general opinion on slavery in Illinois in 1837 when Lincoln made his first public protest against it? Did he run any risk of losing his place in the State Assembly by his action? What experience had he had with the institution before this?
- 2. What was the political situation in 1845 which called out the letter to Williamson Durley? What were Lincoln's political ambitions at the time?
- 3. What was Lincoln doing when the Missouri Compromise was repealed, and what effect did that repeal have upon him?
- 4. Why did Lincoln leave the Whig party in 1856? What were the views of the new Republican Party?
- 5. What was Douglas's main argument in the debates of 1858? How did Lincoln answer that argument? What were the arguments by which Lincoln sustained his position that slavery must be stopped or it would spread over the entire nation?
  - 6. Was the Civil War fought to free the black man?
- 7. How did Lincoln show that slavery was inconsistent with democracy?
  - 8. Why did Lincoln want to free the slaves by buying them?
  - 9. Was emancipation a wise war measure?
  - 10. What was Lincoln's idea of reconstruction?