



Abraham Lincoln



*The Middlesex Club, True to the Faith of Washington,
Holds fast the Principles of Lincoln, Grant, and Roosevelt*

Middlesex Club

LINCOLN NIGHT

HOTEL SOMERSET - BOSTON

Saturday, February 11, 1922

LOUIS A. COOLIDGE, Presiding

Speakers of the Evening

Hon. JAMES W. WADSWORTH

Hon. GEORGE H. MOSES

Rev. Dr. JOSEPH FORT NEWTON

I HAVE just finished reading your letter dated December 21, 1860, in answer to a letter of mine asking you to give me your opinion of the President just elected. In this letter to me you say of Mr. Lincoln what more than four years of observation confirmed. After stating that you had been his law partner for over eighteen years and his most intimate and bosom friend all that time you say:

“I know him better than he does himself. I know this seems a little strong, but I risk the assertion. Lincoln is a man of heart — aye, as gentle as a woman’s and as tender — but he has a will strong as iron. He therefore loves all mankind, hates slavery and every form of despotism. Put these together — love for the slave, and a determination, a will, that justice, strong and unyielding, shall be done when he has the right to act, and you can form your own conclusion. Lincoln will fail here, namely, if a question of political economy — if any question comes up which is doubtful, questionable, which no man can demonstrate, then his friends can rule him; but when on justice, right, liberty, the Government, the Constitution, and the Union, then you may all stand aside: he will rule then, and no man can move him — no set of men can do it. There is no fail here. This is Lincoln, and you mark my prediction. You and I must keep the people right; God will keep Lincoln right.”

These words of yours made a deep impression upon my mind, and I came to love and trust him even before I saw him. After an acquaintance of more than four years I found that your idea of him was in all respects correct — that he was the loving, tender, firm, and just man you represented him to be; while upon some questions in which moral element did not so clearly enter he was perhaps too easily influenced by others.