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SENATOR BAILEY AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Inviting Bailey to Speak
at the Lincoln Banquet
was a Disgrace to the
State of Illinois and an
Insult to the Memory of
Abraham Lincoln

In This Booklet

Extracts from Speeches on Lincoln and Bailey
Interviews with Prominent Illinois Public Men
Newspaper Comment from Representative Illinois Newspapers

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Publishers' Announcement

FOUR years ago, on Lincoln's one hundredth birthday, the Lincoln Centennial Association was organized at Springfield, Illinois. It is the purpose of this association to hold a banquet each year and celebrate in a fitting manner each birthday of the great Emancipator. At the first banquet William Jennings Bryan, the late Senator Dolliver and other noted orators delivered the addresses.

¶ This year when it became known that Senator Bailey was to be the principal speaker at the banquet, a storm of protest arose from the pulpit and press of the land.

¶ In this booklet we present interviews with prominent Illinois public men, clippings from various newspapers concerning Senator Bailey and his speeches at Springfield, and we print an extract from Harold C. Kessinger's Lincoln lecture, "The Railsplitter."

¶ Of this address the Aurora Beacon-News said: "Harold C. Kessinger stirred up high enthusiasm at the Y. M. C. A. Sunday afternoon. He scored Senator Bailey's selection as a Lincoln banquet orator. Among those in attendance was a goodly company of G. A. R. veterans and they led the vigorous applause which frequently broke out. Mr. Kessinger has made a special study of the life of Lincoln. The 'Railsplitter' is pronounced by critics a declamatory gem."


¶ Many who heard the lecture, or who have read newspaper reports of this great meeting have been enthusiastic about the beautiful tribute to Lincoln and no less enthusiastic about the scathing word picture of the fallen Bailey.

¶ We are glad to present in this brief extract a few words by this earnest young lecturer, knowing they will not be the last of his words to be printed, and trusting that they will encourage all who are interested in keeping sacred the memory of Lincoln, and in keeping free this Republic he died to save.

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GRAND PATRIOTIC SERVICE
Y. M. C. A.

SUN. FEB. 9TH 3³⁰ P.M.

ADDRESS BY Harold Kessinger,
SUBJECT:

The RAILSPLITTER.

J. M. SPRENGLE - Tenor Soloist.

Harold G. Winans - Cornetist.

ASSOCIATION ORCHESTRA

All Men & Boys Welcome.

THE RAILSPLITTER

By Harold C. Kessinger

(Extract from address at Aurora, Ill., Y. M. C. A., February 9, 1913)

FROM the forests of the Mississippi Valley the pioneer hewed his cabin home. From the fertile prairies he garnered his golden grain. He was neither Puritan nor Cavalier. His religion was not intolerant and his morals were not loose. Thru his veins there coursed the red blood of dauntless courage. His pulse was quick, his body strong, his wit keen, his wisdom practical. The impress of his rough life was stamped upon him. He was the new birth of a new soil—the first American.

Lincoln's Environment.

Cabin-born and lowly-bred, the son of pioneer parents, Abraham Lincoln was a product of this new and typically American environment. Contrasted with our ways of living his poverty was abject. But in his youth the cabin was the rule, not the exception. Hardships were expected and endured. This strength of endurance developed men strong and true to fight our nation's battles and to solve our nation's problems.

Lincoln's Mother.

But these surroundings alone did not mold Lincoln's life. Every great man's life begins at his mother's knee. There is the altar where he first bows down before his God. There is the shrine where he pours out his soul in confession, where he receives his ideals, noble and pure, nurtured by mother love. She came as a blessing from Heaven—Lincoln's mother. Her gentle spirit was his guiding star. We always shall remember, the world cannot forget her last words, "My son I want you to be a good and useful man." Death claimed her mortal body, but her immortal soul lives on, and her name will live through all eternity inseparable from the work he wrought.

Never Finished His Education.

To be a useful man he must study. Here we have the key that unlocks the mystery of his strange life and leaves it an

open book for all who will to read. He studied books and he studied men. Therefore he was not only learned, but also wise. Lincoln never finished his education. To the night of his death he was a student, a searcher after truth, never afraid to ask, never too proud to admit he did not know. He had genius without pride, intellect without arrogance.

The Orator of the People.

When other men consulted politicians, Lincoln went to the people. He kept close to the grass. He spoke to make clear, to shed light, honestly to convince. His short, clear-cut sentences, his apt illustrations, his pointed stories smacked of the soil and "the common people heard him gladly." He was the orator of the common clay. His was the voice of democracy.

His Trust in Providence.

When other men went to histories, he knelt before God. A child of God called in an hour of darkness because he sought truth. Seeking, he found. When we find truth we find God. Abraham Lincoln communed with his Maker. Upon him he relied. In Him he found comfort and strength.

An Inspired Prophet.

"With Lincoln men were neither great nor small, they were right or wrong. He knew that slavery had defenders, but no defense." He hated slavery because it was wrong, because it made our boast of freedom a mockery, because it made our Stars and Stripes a flag of hypocrisy, because it made our Declaration of Independence a lie and a sham. He hated slavery, but not the slave owner. It was not in his heart to hate his fellow man. He walked in love. "With malice toward none, and with charity for all," Abraham Lincoln was the brother of all men. He won because he talked with God, walked in love, and held to right. Emancipator of a race, savior of the union, he was the inspired prophet of the nineteenth century.

Lincoln the Rail Splitter.

When times come that change the course of human events, and leave mankind better and purer, and a man and a leader must be had, God passes by temple, and palace and mansion,

and as the Star of Bethlehem rested over the lowly manger, the hand of Providence points to the humble cabin or to the obscure village. David the shepherd, Peter the fisherman, Moses the waif, Columbus the sailor boy, and Lincoln the rail splitter all show the handiwork of God in the affairs of men. Called from his humble lot, sustained and inspired by divine power, Lincoln the unsuccessful store keeper, the poverty-stricken law student, the untried Illinois railsplitter-lawyer successfully guided a great nation thru a crisis to a victory that meant more for the lovers of liberty in every land, than any other in history.

Many Changes Have Come.

Many years have passed since he lived, and loved and labored among men. Many changes have come upon the nation he saved. Men there are who accuse us of departing from the ideals of our fathers. They say that we bow down before the Golden Calf, that as a people we place power above principle, worldly success above honor. They accuse us of pride, greed, hate and avarice. Yet on Lincoln's one hundredth birthday, four years ago, we came from office and shop and field and factory to honor one of the most unselfish and humblest of men. To our accusers, altho there is some truth in their accusation, let us say look, look where you will, to cities, to towns, to hamlets over these United States of America and you will find a people with praise on their lips, and with love in their hearts for this simple child of the backwoods.

We Love Abraham Lincoln.

We grow like the things we love. The American people love Abraham Lincoln, and we love the principles for which he fought. Today, men and women who dream of better political and industrial conditions, can find no greater inspiration than the knowledge that there is in the hearts of our people a deep and abiding love for Lincoln, and for his principle of justice to every living creature. We admire Lincoln the politician, we respect Lincoln the statesman, we praise Lincoln the emancipator, we laugh with Lincoln the story-teller, we weep for Lincoln the martyr, but we love Lincoln the man. We love him not for what he said or thought, but for what he was. We love him for the life he lived, for his kindness of heart, for his faith in his father God, and his love for his brother man.

Keep Him Near Us.

Let us not put him on a pedestal. Too many of our great men are to be admired rather than loved. Let us keep him close to us—the common people, who loved him, and whom he loved and served, the common people who believed in him when men reviled him, who re-elected him when men falsely accused him, the people from whom he sprang to lead them from the peril and blood of fraternal strife to the happiness and peace of a re-united republic, a nation made one thru the sacrifice of fathers and sons and brothers. And then on that altar already running red with blood, as the crowning sacrifice, he laid his life, dying as Another, who suffered death for the sake of humanity.

Bailey's Invitation.

Today, many men prate of Lincoln, who know little of, and care nothing for his ideas and ideals. Senator Joseph Bailey, the dishonored and discredited "Standard Oil Statesman," of Texas, has been invited to deliver the principal address at the annual banquet of the Lincoln Centennial Association. State officials have written the banquet committee that they will not attend the banquet, and undergo the humiliating and shameful ordeal of listening to a man like Bailey, hypocritically eulogize a man like Lincoln, misconstruing and misrepresenting Lincoln's motives and words, as he will be sure to do.

Bailey a Prostitute.

Senator Bailey is a prostitute. Inviting him to speak on Lincoln is like having a scarlet woman of the underworld speak upon the chastity of the home. Bailey wears the scarlet livery of the corporations. He has prostituted the great gifts, with which a generous Providence endowed him. He has committed the unpardonable sin—sold his talent, and compromised with wrong—for money.

Bailey Sold Out.

This man has great natural gifts. He has the wonderful gift of eloquence. He was educated in the finest universities of the South. He has a magnetic personality, and a commanding presence. As a young man, before the days of the tempter and his gold, Bailey's words rang true. He became one of the

leaders of his party, and has been mentioned for the Presidency. But he sold out. The Standard Oil letters were published and Bailey was exposed. His old power of oratory is gone, because his sincerity is gone, and people have no confidence in him. Sometimes we cannot hear what a man says, for thinking of what he is.

Agitators and Demagogues.

In his Springfield speech Bailey probably will refer to certain men as dangerous agitators and demagogues. Men like Bailey never answer arguments. They always resort to misrepresentation and abuse of their opponents. Lincoln was called a dangerous agitator, a "nigger lover," and the "Illinois Clown." Lincoln was a dangerous agitator, dangerous to all men, who were in an illegitimate business.

Whittier's Poem.

As Whittier described an erring statesman of his day, so we can picture Bailey in the words of Whittier's poem.

"So fallen! so lost! the light withdrawn
Which once he wore!
The glory from his gray hair gone
Forever more!

Of all we loved and honored, naught
Save power remains—
A fallen angel's pride of thought,
Still strong in chains.

All else is gone, from those great eyes
The soul has fled;
When faith is lost, when honor dies,
The man is dead!"

Bailey Dead; Lincoln Lives.

Bailey lives, yet he is dead, for his manhood is dead. Abraham Lincoln is dead, yet he lives, for his manhood was untainted and pure. A noble life, nobly consecrated to mankind can never die. Abraham Lincoln lives today, and his immortal spirit brings a message to you and to me, appealing to the angels of our better natures, that we carry on his unfinished work, the good man's eternal task of fighting for all that is best, and purest and truest among men.

Bailey's Banquet Speech

Senator Bailey's address was eulogistic of Lincoln and replete with historical references. He referred to political events of the present day as follows:

"One of the most valuable admonitions which ever fell from Lincoln's lips was that in which he warned his fellow countrymen against innovations, and urged them in impressive words and with prophetic vision to stand in the old ways and never to change the institutions of our fathers unless the wisdom of that change was so apparent that even the authority of their great names could not forbid it.

"That advice is wise, and it today ought to be written in letters of gold on the walls of every schoolhouse and university of this land.

Says Lincoln Urged Moderation.

"Judging what Lincoln would say if he were with us now by what he did say when he lived, I have no shadow of doubt that to the impatient men who would change the principles of the government in order to accomplish what they call reforms he would counsel moderation and explain to them that every useful reform can be accomplished under this government as it is and without any departure from its great principles.

"He would call on them to point out when and where the wise and fearless application of its principles had failed to meet any new condition or to solve any new problem.

"In all these things Lincoln would find an inspiration and a hope, and he would say to the agitators who are now instilling in the minds of the masses an unspeakable hatred against the classes that the true duty of an American patriot is to efface that line of distinction by teaching all men that they are to be judged by their character and their conduct, not by their wealth or their poverty.

Urges Renewal of Principles.

"I cannot read the future and I do not know what it holds for us; but whether the sober second thought of the American people shall assert itself and renew our devotion to the fundamental principles upon which this government was founded, thus making it certain that it will fulfill the mission to which our fathers dedicated it; or whether this restless discontent which now inflames the minds of so many men shall lead us into new and dangerous experiments which are destined to fail,

and in their failure to enthrall upon us disasters from the contemplation of which I shrink, we must still remember that this is our country and our duty commands us to do the best we can to promote its welfare and to secure the liberties of its people."—(From Chicago Tribune report of Lincoln Banquet).

Would Have Supported Douglas.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 12.—At the joint meeting of the Illinois Legislature today former Senator Joseph W. Bailey said he would have lined up with Stephen A. Douglas against Abraham Lincoln had he lived in that day.

Mr. Bailey did admit that Lincoln was a great character in American history, but he was not just the type of man that Bailey felt he could defend in many important details.

Some Members Leave Room.

The joint session of the Legislature for the most part, out of courtesy to the Lincoln Centennial Association of Springfield, sat through the address. Several members arose and walked out when Bailey declared:

"Had I lived in Lincoln's day I would probably have been on the side of Douglas."

Secretary of State Harry Woods walked out before Bailey began, although a member of the reception committee.

In the grand finale in the House of Representatives Speaker McKinley cleverly asked for a rising vote of thanks. Many members sat stolidly in their seats.

Bailey realized that he was not in accord with the assemblage and in reality did not conclude his speech. He stopped in the midst of it. A number of members cried "Go on."

"No," responded Bailey, "I'd rather stop when you want me to go on than go on when you want me to stop."—(From Chicago Examiner report of Speech to Legislature).

Bosses and Demagogues.

"My countrymen, let us remind those men that neither the boss nor the demagogue are the natural necessary product of American politics. That both the boss and demagogue can be forever destroyed if only the American people will do their duty. Good men, instead of allowing the bosses and demagogues to drive them out of politics, ought to drive the bosses and demagogues out of politics. My countrymen, I do not think every man is a boss who is commonly described as such. I have learned in my political experience the definition of a boss with many men is a leader who does not agree with them. And the

definition of a leader with many men is a boss who does not happen to agree with them. It is an iridescent dream to suppose we can ever govern this world without leaders. You cannot do anything else without leaders. When the geese start south in the fall they follow a leader, and one time a man, more skilled in fowling than in politics, told me that if you killed their leader they never proceeded until they circled about and a new leader asserted his right to lead. So it is in politics.”— (From Illinois State Register report of Speech to Legislature).

Lincoln Day in Springfield.

The brilliancy of last night's banquet at the arsenal was dazzling. In magnitude and in the elaborateness of preparations for the event it was highly creditable to those in charge. There have been several things which we consider improprieties, and which could, in all fairness, be severely criticized at this time, but the State Register lays aside criticism, and expresses admiration for the physical beauty of the great armory bedecked with flags and flowers, and is especially interested in the message which Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador, brought to the home of Abraham Lincoln from our great sister nation in Europe.

It was gratifying to hear such gentle words of friendship from the representative of one great nation to the representatives of another. It was pleasing to hear the ambassador tell of the friendly relations which existed between this nation and his own back in the days when the dark clouds of war were hanging low over this country, and during the days when the conflict was on. It was especially pleasing to hear his expressions indicating a continuance of these friendly relations which we are sure are mutually enjoyed by Germans and Americans and people of all nationalities.

Springfield takes great pride in the visit of this distinguished gentleman from abroad, and hopes that the friendly attitude of America toward Germany will warrant our German friends in entertaining these same feelings of friendship toward America.

The proprieties of the occasion forbid, at this time, detailed comment upon the visit of former Senator Bailey. Let it suffice to express the sincere hope that his visit to the home and tomb of the great patriot—Lincoln—will make him more patriotic. The more Bailey is like Lincoln the less will the former senator be like Bailey.—(Editorial from Illinois State Register).

My Creed of Labor

By Harold C. Kessinger

I BELIEVE that Labor is prior to Capital, that labor had to be done before Capital even could exist.

Labor should come before Capital in the minds of the masses, and in the consideration of the leaders of Religion, Politics, Economics, and Fraternalism.

The fruits of labor should be so distributed that every man, especially the man who earns it by the sweat of his brow can have a comfortable home for himself and his family.

The children of laboring men deserve the best the land produces and offers, good educations, good clothing, good food, all the necessities and some of the luxuries of life.

I believe in the dignity of labor, in the respect due every worker in the ranks of legitimate endeavor, as a sovereign citizen of this Republic with rights to be considered, and interests to be safeguarded and upheld.

I believe in old age and disability pensions for the Soldiers of Peace, who daily face death in the mines, mills, shops, fields and factories of the land.

We reward the warrior who destroys life, and brings sorrow and grief to the hearts of mother and wife.

We should not forget and neglect the valiant warriors in the ranks of honest labor, who toil, and dig, and delve, and slave that humanity might be clothed, and fed, and sheltered.

I believe in the working man, in his labor unions, in all of his just and righteous efforts for the betterment of himself, his brothers, and his loved ones.

For when the countless number who toil are bettered, the race advances, government and law are more secure, and civilization higher.



We Need Men Who Care

Abraham Lincoln said: "I know there is a God and he hates injustice and slavery. I see a storm coming and I know that His hand is in it. I know that I am right, because liberty is right. Douglas doesn't care whether slavery is voted up or down, but God cares and humanity cares and I care, and with God's help I shall not fail. I may not see the end, but it will come."

Attitude Toward Dreams

By George Bicknell

I MET a youth who bared his heart to me and told me all his dream—his dream to seek “The Priceless Fleece—the Truth”, and give it out to men. I knew his task too great; but never word of doubt did I reveal to him, but promise sure that he'd attain the thing he sought, and that men would take his offering and wear it as their shield. Yet I knew his dream was false—I knew he could not find the thing he sought in such a world as this; and should he find and give to men his offering they would reject. But I would rather have him keep his dream—and I had better far have put a dagger in his heart than put a vision of the things that are to be, or give a hint to crush the hope that made this youth so beautiful.

Lincoln as a Lecturer

(From the New York Herald).

“The Republican Convention at Chicago has nominated Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, for President of the United States—a third rate western lawyer, poorer than even poor Pierce. The conduct of the Republican party in this nomination is a remarkable indication of a small intellect growing smaller. They pass over Seward, Chase and Banks, who are statesmen and able men, and they take a fourth-rate lecturer, who cannot speak good grammar, and who to raise the wind, delivers his hackneyed, illiterated compositions at \$200 apiece. Our readers will recollect that this peripatetic politician visited New York, two or three months ago on his financial tour, when in return for the most unmitigated trash, interlarded with coarse and clumsy jokes, he filled his pockets with dollars coined out of Republican fanaticism.”

This amusing outburst is taken from the New York Herald of 1860. It is a part of a long article abusing and ridiculing Lincoln. Many great city newspapers of today will be found on the side of the moneyed interests. The champions of the people's rights always are abused and misrepresented.

Many newspapers of today uphold men like Senator Bailey and abuse and ridicule the men who are fighting for needed reforms.

But the steadily increasing number of newspapers and especially magazines, fearless enough to advocate what is right is an encouragement to the men and women who are working for better political and industrial conditions.

HOW PROMINENT MEN SCORE SELECTION OF BAILEY AS ORATOR

SENATOR KENT E. KELLER

Of Alva. Democrat—I think the selection of Senator Bailey to eulogize Abraham Lincoln at this time is inopportune.

SENATOR WILLETT CORNWELL

Of Chicago. Republican—I do not think it is in keeping with the memory of Lincoln to have men of the Bailey type speak for them. Why didn't they pick Lorimer? Springfield should bow its head in shame at this act of the Lincoln Association.

EX-STATE SENATOR FRANK FUNK

Of Bloomington, Ill. Progressive—The selection of Joseph Bailey as principal speaker to eulogize the memory of Abraham Lincoln is a direct insult to the American people.

SENATOR EDMUND BEALL

Of Alton. Republican—It is an insult to the citizenship of this country that Joseph Bailey should be called upon to speak of Abraham Lincoln. It is a double insult to the Grand Army.

EDWARD O. PETERSON

Of Aurora. Progressive Candidate for Secretary of State—Caught with the goods, thrown out by his own state, he is picked from oblivion to speak for the greatest man in history.

REPRESENTATIVE EMIL E. ZOLLA

Of Chicago. Progressive—I have been invited to attend the Lincoln ceremonies by the Commercial Association of Springfield. I have declined the invitation because Joseph Bailey of Texas is the principal speaker.

MY CREED OF FRIENDSHIP

By Harold C. Kessinger

I HAVE great faith in you, always did have, always will. I don't care what you do, what you become, whether you succeed moderately or splendidly. That's not considered in the Creed of Friendship.

¶ I am your friend. It's my job to encourage you, to be loyal to you, fair with you and honest, and to help you in any way you need help. That's Friendship.

¶ The man or the woman who likes me because I succeed will have no use for me if I fail, and that is not friendship. I know quite a few people like that and pass them by with very little consideration. There are a good many folks who treat me mighty nice now—but I can't forget. I harbor no hatred, no resentment, but I know just how to measure their pretended friendship, just how to distinguish between the real and the counterfeit.

¶ Friendship asks no questions. Overlooks both success and failure. Gets beneath both prosperity and poverty to the real man and the real woman. That's the kind of a friend I am, and that's the kind of friends I want.