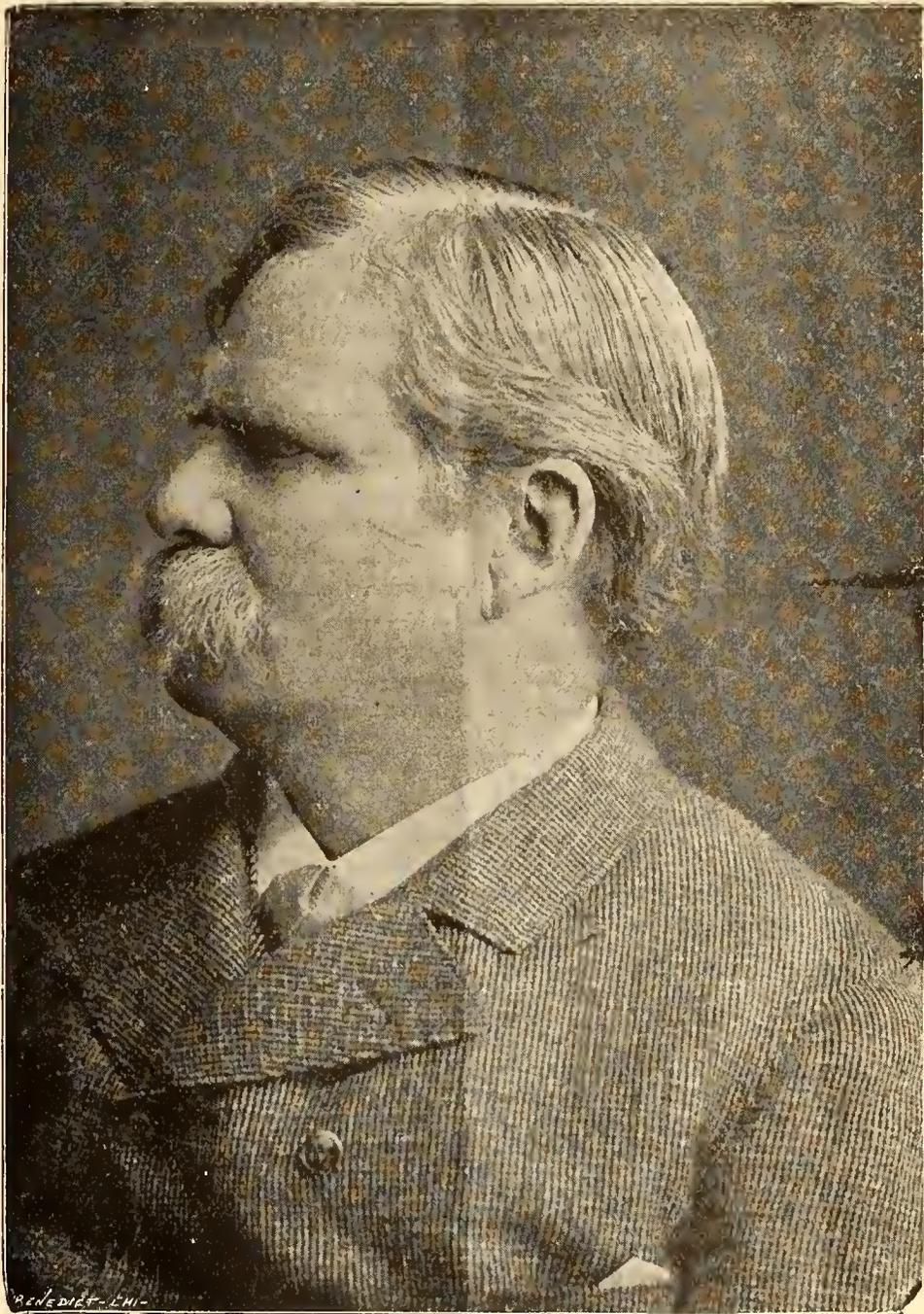


HENRY WATTERSON'S

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THE EVENT OF THE SEASON.

ADDITIONAL SUBJECT: "MONEY AND MORALS."



Henry Watterson

UNDER SOLE MANAGEMENT OF THE

SOUTHERN LYCEUM BUREAU,

Season 1896-97.

BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING
LOUISVILLE.

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 7, 1896.

ANNOUNCEMENT EXTRAORDINARY.

Henry Watterson delivered his now famous lecture on the Life, Career and Death of Abraham Lincoln, at the Auditorium in Chicago, the 12th of February, 1895, under the auspices of the Lincoln Council, National Union, in commemoration of the eighty-sixth anniversary of the birth of the Martyr President.

The great hall—the most capacious in the world—was packed from pit to dome by an eager throng of enlightened and appreciative people, who had come from far and near to hear the distinguished Kentucky orator—a Confederate soldier and a representative Southern statesman—lay upon the altar of American manhood the tribute of chivalric patriotism. The Hon. Robt. Todd Lincoln, the sole surviving son of Abraham Lincoln, and members of his family, occupied one of the boxes. Great was the expectation, and it was not disappointed. For two hours, amid constant and enthusiastic applause, Mr. Watterson held his audience, and, at the close, every one felt that, for the first time, he had seen and known the wonderful man whose weird life-story the eloquent Kentuckian had so vividly told.

Mr. Watterson went from Chicago to Denver, Kansas City, Minneapolis and St. Paul, meeting overflowing crowds everywhere. In the capital of Minnesota, the General Assembly which was in session—though two-thirds Republican—met by concurrent resolution in joint session in Mr. Watterson's honor, receiving him, as he appeared in the Representative Chamber escorted by the Governor and Committees of the two Houses, standing, a mark of respect rarely, if ever, paid by an official body to a private citizen. The present season Mr. Watterson has appeared in every part of the Union from Boston to New Orleans, and with ever-increasing welcome and applause, North and South alike joining in enthusiastic approval. He sails for Europe April 1st, returning in November, and will this season give but forty nights to the platform. The Bureau has received hundreds of calls for this lecture from all over America.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Reflection confirms first impressions, Mr. Watterson. It was a grand speech.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A great study of life and character, as well as a triumph of eloquence and art.—*Denver Republican.*

It was even better, more graphic and interesting than was expected, although expectation ran very high.—*Denver News.*

There was not a dull word spoken, and the audience came away feeling that they had for the first time personally met Abraham Lincoln.—*Chicago News.*

Robert Todd Lincoln, who with his family occupied one of the boxes, said that it was the most lifelike portrait of his father which has yet been produced by any one.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Never was an audience more delighted and at the same time better instructed. Mr. Watterson's Lincoln is all flesh and blood. He pictures his hero as he was. There is nothing old or trite. You come away feeling that you knew nothing about Abraham Lincoln, but that now, for the first time, you know it all.—*Chicago Herald.*

Mr. Watterson's treatment of Lincoln is most original. It is not a rhapsody, and yet is eloquent; it is not a biography, and yet it is full of interesting narrative and characteristic anecdotes. The orator subordinates himself to his theme. The listener goes away feeling that he has seen and talked with Abraham Lincoln.—*Denver Post.*

Henry Watterson, the great Southern editor, statesman and orator, delivered his lecture on Abraham Lincoln last night to a large and distinguished audience. The lecture was frequently interrupted with applause, and was pronounced a masterpiece of profound analysis, vivid presentation and stirring eloquence. His tribute to Lincoln was that of one great man to another, and was appreciative and sincere.—*Kansas City Journal.*

Henry Watterson's brilliant, beautiful and affecting oration upon Abraham Lincoln is a contribution to literature no less than to oratory. No picture of the great martyr has been so vividly drawn, no picture has been so picturesquely colored as this one, drawn and colored by a Southerner who once was a rebel in heart and in act. It is an imperishable wreath on Lincoln's imperishable tomb in the hearts of his countrymen. * * *

But it not only illuminates Abraham Lincoln's character. It also throws a light upon the present feeling of the South, of which Mr. Watterson is the foremost representative.—*Chicago Evening Journal.*

Every one who heard Henry Watterson, a year ago, on "Money and Morals" knows his power as an orator, and it was because of his high rank as such that he was selected to deliver the address in Chicago on Lincoln's birthday, when he carried his audience with him in perhaps the most eloquent discussion of a great man the country ever heard. * * * This soldier, editor, statesman and orator delivered his eulogistic lecture on Abraham Lincoln, last evening, at the People's Church before a splendid audience, upon which he made a deep impression. The eulogy was worthy of the theme. Col. Watterson was fervid, impressive, convincing, the crowning attraction of his effort being earnestness of conviction in all he so eloquently expressed.—*Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minn., March 5, 1895.*

Last night, in the presence of one of the largest gatherings ever assembled in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Hon. Henry Watterson, of Kentucky, delivered his famous lecture on Abraham Lincoln. It was a masterpiece of eloquence and frequently during the delivery of the lecture the feelings of the audience mounted to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. * * * As the graceful figure of the eloquent son of Kentucky appeared in full stature before the audience he was greeted with loud and prolonged applause. In the audience were many of Atlanta's foremost citizens. All professions were represented and the audience in itself, representing every phase of political thought, was a splendid ovation to the speaker.—*The Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, October 30, 1895.*

No one in the large and splendid audience at the Auditorium last night listened to the eloquent periods of Henry Watterson without having acquired a better understanding of Lincoln, a higher ideal of patriotism and a more comprehensive knowledge of humanity. Few men could paint the picture of Lincoln's life as the eloquent panegyrist of last night presented it. Few eulogists have so rich a subject upon which to discourse.

The eulogy was the tribute of a genius to the memory of one inspired to a grand work which was mastered in the time allotted to its performance. It was a narrative so simple and pathetic that it became the subject it canonized. No other man in the past or present has spoken of Lincoln as he deserves to be spoken of. Until Watterson spoke of him no one thoroughly understood a nature that was as plain, simple and sincere as the affections of a child.

In the work in which Henry Watterson is engaged he is serving humanity. He is opening the minds and hearts of his countrymen to the reception of a memory that deserves to be cherished. He is teaching the people of this country a lesson in patriotism which will survive and expand after he has joined Lincoln in the Beyond, when posterity will praise him as he now justly eulogizes the great character of the greatest epoch in modern history.—*Kansas City Times*, March 1, 1895.

Henry Watterson delivered his lecture on "Lincoln" at Entertainment Hall last night under the auspices of Ransom Post, G. A. R. The speaker had an audience which filled the hall in every part. Indeed, it was impossible to obtain admission in the body of the hall unless one had had the good fortune to secure tickets for the reserved seats. The lecture was in every way worthy of the audience. If one were to sum up a description of it in a sentence he would say it was an inspiring address worthy of an inspiring theme. * * In his every utterance Mr. Watterson carries conviction. Sincerity, earnestness, sympathy—these were the dominant characteristics. Those who listen to Watterson on such a theme as that which formed the subject of his address last night were thrilled. Mr. Watterson's lecture covered every point in Lincoln's character as revealed in his public acts. * * Mr. Watterson was additionally interesting because of his personal acquaintance with both Douglass and Lincoln. He described his meeting with Lincoln when the latter had become President, and described the simple honesty and candor of the man, with all the honors of the highest office in the gift of the people upon him. He heard him deliver his inaugural address, which showed all through the same calm dignity, truth, honesty, the unconscious power, which were the features of Lincoln's life. The lecturer showed Lincoln's mercifulness, unconscious humor and canny wisdom by many incidents. * * He briefly referred to Lincoln's love for the South, and concluded with one of the most eloquent perorations ever uttered. Lincoln, he said, was one of those inspired men, who, like geniuses of the stamp of Shakespeare and Burns, seem to rise from shadow and vanish in mist. Such men were distinct creations of some special Providence, baffling the will of men, vanishing from the scenes as mysteriously as they had come upon it. Tried by this standard, who so impressive as Abraham Lincoln?—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, February 29, 1896.

The audience which greeted Hon. Henry Watterson when he stepped on the platform at old City Hall last night was large and representative of the best intelligence of which the two cities can boast. On the platform were seated clergymen, physicians, merchants, manufacturers, lawyers, soldiers and teachers, and sandwiched in between were a number of ladies, whose brilliant headgear and costumes gave color to the scene. The audience proper was similarly flecked. On the table was a large nosegay of variegated roses which had been sent as a compliment to the lecturer by the veterans who had been so courteously entertained by him when at Louisville last September, and who were present in force to listen to his famous lecture on "Abraham Lincoln." * * When he rose to face his audience he was visibly embarrassed by the prolonged and vociferous applause with which he was greeted. * * Part of the lecture was pathetic in the extreme, and the voice of the orator was softened by emotions which testified to his strong affection for his friend even at this remote date. * * During the course of the lecture many new anecdotes and personal reminiscences were related of the man as illustrative of his great sympathies, his wisdom, knowledge of men, greatness in dealing with momentous questions and gentleness toward those who appealed to him for mercy. * * The peroration of the lecture was a fine specimen of oratory. It began with the vision of a little boy weeping at the bedside of his dead mother; it ended with a most beautiful word picture of what was called the most appalling tragedy which human history records.—*The Pittsburg (Pa.) Post*, February 7, 1896.

Hon. Henry Watterson's lecture at the Pike Opera-house Wednesday night on Lincoln was one of the rarest literary and oratorical treats the Cincinnati public has had in a long while. Mr. Watterson is always eloquent. He is even eloquent in his style of telling stories—and those who heard him at the Pike when he recited some of the droll sayings of Lincoln appreciated the lecturer's powers of imitation in this direction. All through it are characteristics of Mr. Watterson. His individuality is strongly stamped upon the style of the masterly eulogy on Lincoln. * * Every seat in the Opera-house was occupied, and the Union netted a snug little sum from the entertainment. Mr. Watterson, in his pen picture of "Abe Lincoln—From the Log Cabin to the Presidency"—is in his glory, and those who heard him last evening never listened to more eloquent words of eulogy for his fellow-being. Lincoln, to Watterson, was one of the greatest characters history has ever produced. The history of the martyred President was more of a compliment than it was detailed facts. In beginning the lecturer touched upon the most prominent figures in the early history of the American Republic. He grouped the great men and soldiers—made Washington the noblest of them all and asked his audience in a measure the question—Where could better subordinates or marshals have been chosen? Then Mr. Watterson pictured in beautiful language the events and the men of the Revolutionary period. Col. Watterson's description of how the quaint, ungainly lawyer of Illinois entered the political arena and afterwards made himself a power was very effective.—*The Commercial Gazette*, Cincinnati, February 13, 1896.

"The direst blow which could have been directed against the South was the assassin's bullet which struck him down." Such was the tribute which last night in the Boston Theatre Henry Watterson of Kentucky, to-day, as he was thirty years ago, one of the leading men of the Southern States, rendered to the memory of Abraham Lincoln. The occasion of Mr. Watterson's coming to Boston was to deliver for the benefit of the relief fund of Charles Russell Lowell Post, G. A. R., his famous lecture on Abraham Lincoln. * * A large audience had gathered in the theatre, drawn there probably by about equal interest in the speaker and his subject. * * The introductory words were brief, and the speaker stepped forward to be greeted with so loud and prolonged applause that if he had been at all anxious as to the kind of a welcome he would have he must have at once been reassured. * * The picture of the assassination of Mr. Lincoln which the speaker drew was perhaps the most perfect piece of word painting in an address where one masterpiece had followed another. * * No report, though it contained every word uttered, could do Mr. Watterson justice. One must see the man. While he is an orator, on this occasion he eschewed the tricks of the rhetorician and was idiomatic, not to say epigrammatic, and at times dramatic. He is a word painter, and as such can have no rival. His language is pure, and is enriched at times by a soft Southern accent. He builds rich and beautiful sentences and they are always freighted with ideas and crowned with logic. Better still, he is in love with his theme, for though he wore the gray, he loved Lincoln and reveres his memory. He presents a new picture of the martyr. Other orators have written of Lincoln for the time only. Watterson's estimate of him will live forever.—*Boston Journal*, January 20, 1896.

Mr. Watterson's lecture on Lincoln at Plymouth Church last night was before an audience correctly described as large and distinguished. There was the shrewd, sharpened faculty of the veteran editor in the few selections Mr. Watterson made from Lincoln's writings. There was a wholesome homeliness in the sketch of Lincoln's youth and struggles. There was brilliant characterization of his genius, his style, his literary faculty, his canny sagacity, and then came the answering question: "Where did Shakespeare get his endowment, Mozart his music, Burns his song?" One point in Lincoln's career that was brought out by the lecturer with remarkable power was that of his dominance—his mastery of the situation. And, said Watterson: "He was the one friend of the South. He was himself born in the South. I marvel he was so maligned by his contemporaries. He was so broad, so generous, so simple, so tender." The dramatic interest of the lecture is very great. There are many passages of it singularly pathetic and beautiful, and the influence of it is as robustly patriotic as the entertainment is enchanting.—*Editorial, Standard Union*, Brooklyn, N. Y., May 15, 1895.

One of the largest audiences ever gathered in Denver assembled at Central Presbyterian Church last night to hear Henry Watterson. As a theater audience it would have been large; as a lecture audience it was phenomenal. From the center of the great organ a noble silken flag streamed downward across the choir gallery to overhang the platform, and above the latter, in great black letters upon a snowy ground, the people read: "We meet to-night under the spell of a great name. The mystic chords of memory are touched by the better angels of our nature." At 8:15 the assembled thousands broke into applause as C. S. Thomas and the speaker of the evening walked upon the platform. Mr. Thomas immediately spoke a few words of introduction, eulogizing the character of Lincoln. Mr. Watterson then stepped forward in the midst of applause, which hushed itself into perfect silence as he began to speak. The exceeding polish and beauty of his style at once became apparent. * * The audience was not a noisy one, but it was an attentive one, and it was with a feeling of surprise that his hearers discovered when he closed that Mr. Watterson had spoken an hour and a half.—*Denver News*.

The debt of gratitude which this country owes to Henry Watterson is almost incalculable. No man, North or South, has done as much as the editor and statesman of Kentucky to bind the sections in friendship and charity. The fact that Northern money has poured into Southern trade, while Southern men settling in the big cities of the North have been received with open arms and advanced to positions of great honor, must be credited largely to the continued, the generous, the eloquent messages which Mr. Watterson has carried to and fro across Mason and Dixon's line, * * He added another to his distinguished services of patriotism last night by his oration on Lincoln. Of all the panegyrics pronounced here or elsewhere his was easily the most eloquent, sympathetic and just. It deserves a place among the best things that have been said about Lincoln. It was the last stone on the arch which has imperishably bridged over the chasm of the war, to whose construction Mr. Watterson has devoted thirty untiring years.—*Chicago Evening Post*.

Mr. Henry Watterson is doing one of the grandest acts of his life in throwing on the history of Abraham Lincoln the calcium light of truth, uncolored by the prejudice of passion or the bias of hero worship. The people of the United States owe him a debt of gratitude for the lecture that he is delivering and for drawing aside the curtain of sectionalism and revealing the heart of Abraham Lincoln as it beat for the South as well as for the North, for a United Country. The Southern people have viewed the man through the smoke of battle and of burning homes. They have cherished against his memory that which, if living, he might have averted—the horrors of reconstruction—but which the death-dealing bullet of a misguided man only served to intensify. Those who heard the eloquent Kentuckian, the Southerner, the Confederate, and yet the friend of Lincoln because he knew him personally, cannot but be glad that they were present last night. It is a matter of pride for the enlightenment and culture of Augusta that there was a representative audience in attendance and they were not afraid to applaud the sentiments of the orator eulogizing the dead statesman. No language but his own can convey to the reader an idea of the subject that would do justice to the eloquence and thought of Mr. Watterson; and then it should be heard and not read for his words are not mere empty words. The lecture is such a life of Lincoln as has never before been submitted to the public.—*Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle*, November 2, 1895.

"A thousand years hence no story will be followed with deeper feeling and greater interest by mankind than the one which tells the story of the life and death of Abraham Lincoln." Thus did Henry Watterson last night close one of the most eloquent and stirring orations that has ever been heard by the people of this city. An oration which, like the lifework of some great artist, was made up of a score of wonderfully painted pictures, each telling in its varied hues and shades of color the story of one of the greatest statesmen America has produced, clothing a personality already richly endowed with all the glorious attributes of a man inspired by God, and telling of the virtues which history has recorded in the person of the long dead President. Mr. Watterson, when he reached the location of his lecture, found Washington Artillery Hall filled with a fashionable and representative audience, all eager to listen to the address upon the life and death of Abraham Lincoln, which has already become famous since first delivered by the noted Kentucky orator and statesman. * * He spoke earnestly and with graphic description, seemingly forgetting himself in the impressions of the moment, masterly in expression, graceful in his diction and superbly eloquent. All during the address he was interrupted by frequent bursts of applause, testifying not alone to the subject of the oration, but to the charm and influence of the speaker. Mr. Watterson closed with a brilliant and eloquent oration upon the virtues and character of Lincoln, dwelling upon the manifold virtues of the dead President.—*The Times-Democrat*, New Orleans, La., October 22, 1895.

Last night was a memorable occasion in Minneapolis. At the Lyceum Theater a large audience assembled to listen to a great citizen of the republic, perhaps the greatest citizen of the republic, a man who has exerted a mighty influence upon his generation, although never attaining to any public honor higher than that of a great citizen. Henry Watterson, the gifted Kentuckian, a son of the South, stood up in the simplicity and grandeur of his citizenship and paid his tribute to the greatest citizen, the greatest man, that ever breathed a benediction on mankind. Watterson's lecture on Lincoln was the quiet, scholarly, analytic and anecdotal presentation of a theme that furnishes a wealth of material for the philosopher and sage to touch with the beautifying hand of genius and make it glorious to mankind. He spoke in a simple, conversational manner, wholly unostentatious, plain and quiet, and as unaffected as the great man that inspired and thrilled his heart. For two hours he held the audience completely in his power, for he spoke as one who, from a perfect understanding, from a wealth of knowledge and insight, lovingly interprets the genius, the glory and the immortal splendor of character and achievement of a heroic soul. He began in the most quiet way imaginable, and gradually, under the thrill of his theme, he acquired an eloquence that, if it was not sensational, was direct, captivating and satisfying. And when he came to the glowing peroration where his lecture reaches the heights of true eloquence, and glitters with the gloss and velvet of luxurious rhetoric, leaving upon all minds that fall beneath its influence a holy benediction, he stood on tip-toe, his frame quivered, his voice was emotional and grand, his attitude rugged and dramatic, and his very soul spoke in the sublime words, "Where did Shakespeare get his genius? Where did Mozart get his music?" But, after all, nothing can be said that will convey an adequate conception of the significance of the occasion. It was a great man, a representative man and a Southern man as well, weaving a tribute of sublime beauty for a man that he had known and loved in life. Watterson's lecture will long be remembered as an inspiring scene, as a gracious blessing, as a superb effort.—*Minneapolis (Minn.) Times*, March 6, 1895.

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