

Philadelphia

Feb 22, 1861

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Pre-Inaugural
Speeches of Abraham
Lincoln, 1861

Philadelphia, Pa.

Feb. 22, 1861

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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PROGRESS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY.

Great Receptions at Trenton, Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

Patriotic Speeches by Mr. Lincoln.

CEREMONIES AT INDEPENDENCE HALL.

MR. LINCOLN RAISES THE NATIONAL FLAG.

Trenton, N. J., 21st. A special train with Mr. Lincoln and party on board, arrived at 12 o'clock. An immense crowd assembled at the depot, who heartily welcomed them. Mayor Mills extended a welcome and introduced Mr. Lincoln to the members of the City Government. The party were then taken in carriages to the State House, under the escort of one hundred horsemen, the City Blues of Patterson, and the German Rifles of Trenton.

Mr. Lincoln was welcomed by the President of the Senate, and replied as follows:

Mr. President and gentlemen of the Senate of the State of New Jersey: I am very grateful to you for the honorable reception of which I have been the object. I cannot but remember the place that New Jersey holds in our early history. In the early revolutionary struggle, few of the States among the old thirteen had more of the battle-fields of the country within their limits than old New Jersey. May I be pardoned if, on this occasion, I mention that away back in my childhood, the earliest days of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book, such an one as few of the younger members have ever seen, "Green's Life of Washington."

I remember that in all the accounts there given of the battle fields and struggles for the liberty of the country, none fixed themselves upon my imagination as the struggle here at Trenton, New Jersey. The crossing of the river, the contest with the Hessians and the great hardships endured at that time, all fixed themselves upon my memory more than any single Revolutionary event; and you all know, for you have all been boys, how these early impressions last longer than any others. I recollect thinking then, boy even though I was, that there must have been something more than common that these men struggled for.

I am exceedingly anxious for that thing which was then struggled for, that something even more than national independence, that something that held out a great promise to all the people of the world for all time to come—I am exceedingly anxious that the Union, the Constitution, and the liberties of the people, shall be perpetuated in accordance with the original idea of which that struggle was made; and I shall be most happy indeed if I shall be an humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty for perpetuating the object of that great struggle.

You give me this reception, as I understand, without distinction of party. I learn that this body is composed of a majority of gentlemen, who, in the exertion of their best judgment in the choice of a Chief Magistrate, did not think I was the man. I understand, nevertheless, that they come forward here to greet me as the constitutional President of the United States, as citizens of the United States to a man who, for the time being, is the representative man of the nation. As such I accept this reception more gratefully than I could do if I believe it was extended to me as an individual.

His speech was followed by a heartfelt applause.

Mr. Lincoln was then conducted to the assembly chamber, where he was addressed by the Speaker, to whom Mr. Lincoln replied as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: I have just enjoyed the honor of a reception by the other branch of this Legislature. I return to you and them my thanks for the reception which the people of New Jersey have given, through their chosen representatives, to me, as, for the time being, the representative of the majesty of the people of the United States. I appropriate to myself very little of the demonstrations of respect with which I have been greeted. I think little should be given to any man, but that it should be a manifestation of adherence to the Union and Constitution. I understand myself to be received here by the representatives of the people of New Jersey, a majority of whom differ in opinion from those with whom I have acted. This manifestation is therefore to be received by me as expressing their devotion to the Union, the Constitution, and the liberties of the people.

You, Mr. Speaker, have well said this is a time when the bravest look with doubt and awe upon the aspect presented by our national affairs. Under the circumstances you will readily see why I should not speak in detail of the course I shall deem it best to pursue. It is proper I should avail myself of all the information and of all the time at my command, in order that when the time arrives that I must speak officially, I shall be able to take the ground which I deem the best and safest, and from which I may have no occasion to swerve. I shall endeavor to take the ground that I deem most just to the North, the East, the West, the South, and the whole country. I shall take it, I hope, in good temper, certainly with no malice toward any section. I shall do all that may be in my power to promote a peaceful settlement of all our difficulties.

The man does not live who is more devoted to peace than I am, (cheers) or who would do more to preserve it; but it may be necessary to put the foot down firmly. (Here the crowd broke out with cheers so loud and long that it was impossible to hear Mr. Lincoln's voice.) And if I do my duty and do it right, you will sustain me, will you not? (Loud cheers and cries of "Yes, yes, we will.") Received as I am by the members of the Legislature, a majority of whom do not believe with me in political sentiments, I trust that I may have their assistance in piloting the Ship of State through this voyage, surrounded by perils as it is; for if it should suffer from an attack now, there will be no pilot ever needed for another voyage. Gentlemen, I have already spoken longer than I intended, and must crave leave to stop here.

Mr. Lincoln was then escorted to the Trenton House by a procession, where he spoke briefly to the crowd outside. A splendid collation was given.

The train left at half-past 2 o'clock for Philadelphia, under the charge of a committee from that city.

RECEPTION AT PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia, 21st. The train with Mr. Lincoln and suite arrived at Kensington at 4 o'clock, and proceeded to take the carriages assigned to them. Mr. Lincoln's harouche being conspicuous by the gay plumage with which the four white horses were ornamented. The procession consisted of mounted police, a cavalcade of citizens of all descriptions and politics, the Pennsylvania Dragoons, the Chairman of the committee, the Presidents of the City Councils, the committees of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Legislatures, &c. About 100,000 people lined the streets along the route of the procession.

Mr. Lincoln, on his arrival at the Continental Hotel, was conducted to the balcony and introduced to the Mayor. The noisy multitude below greeted his appearance with wholesome cheering. Both the Mayor's welcome and Mr. Lincoln's reply were unheard except by those in the immediate vicinity. Mr. Lincoln displayed great earnestness in his delivery, which caused the mass to

respond to his patriotic views in deafening applause. Mr. Lincoln said:

"Mr. Mayor and fellow citizens of Philadelphia—I appear before you to make no lengthy speech, but to thank you for this reception. The reception you have given me tonight is not to me, the man, the individual, but to the man who temporarily represents, or should represent, the majority of the nation. (Cheers.) It is true, as your worthy Mayor has said, that there is anxiety among the citizens of the United States at this time.

I deem it a happy circumstance that the dissatisfied portion of our citizens do not point us to anything in which they are being injured, or are about to be injured, for which reason I have felt all the while justified in concluding that the crisis, the panic, the anxiety of the country at this time, is artificial. If there be those who differ with me on this subject, they have not pointed out the substantial difficulty that exists. I do not mean to say that an artificial panic may not do considerable harm; that it has done such I do not deny. The hope that has been expressed by your Mayor that I may be able to restore peace, harmony and prosperity to the country, is most worthy of him, and most happy indeed will I be if I shall be able to verify the fulfillment of the hope. (Tremendous cheers.)

I promise you in all sincerity, that I bring to the work a sincere heart; whether I will bring a head equal to that heart, will be for future times to determine. It were useless to speak of details and plans now. I shall speak officially next Monday week, and it would be useless for me to do so now. When I do speak, I shall take such grounds as I deem best calculated to restore harmony and prosperity to this country, and tend to perpetuate the nation and the liberties of these States and these people. Your worthy Mayor has expressed a wish, in which I join with him, that it were convenient for me to remain in your city long enough to consult with your merchants and manufacturers, or, as it were, to listen to those breathings arising within the consecrated walls wherein the Constitution of the United States, and I will add the Declaration of Independence, were originally framed and adopted. (Enthusiastic applause.)

I assure you and your Mayor, I hope upon this occasion and upon all occasions during my life I shall do nothing inconsistent with the teachings of these holy and sacred walls. All my political warfare has been in favor of the teachings that came forth from these sacred walls. May my right hand forget its cunning and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I prove false to these teachings. Fellow-citizens, I have addressed you longer than I expected to do, and now allow me to bid you good night.

Mr. Lincoln then retired, and subsequently held a levee.

The hotel is densely crowded this evening, and there is a vast crowd without. Mr. Lincoln stands at the head of the staircase, continually bowing to the hundreds that are passing him every five minutes. Occasionally there is a wild hurrah given for "Uncle Aho."

Philadelphia, 22d. The ceremony of raising the flag over Independence Hall by Mr. Lincoln, this forenoon, was attended by an immense crowd, and the scene was quite impressive.

Mr. Lincoln was escorted to the Hall at 7 o'clock, where he was received and welcomed by Theodore Cuyler. Mr. Lincoln in reply said:

I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing in the place where were collected the wisdom and patriotism from which sprung the institutions under which we live. You have kindly suggested that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to the present distracted condition of the country. I can say in return that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn from the sentiments originated in and given to the world from this hall. I never had a political feeling that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. I have often pondered over the dangers incurred by the men who assembled here and framed and adopted the Declaration of Independence. I have pondered over the toils endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that has kept this confederacy so long together.

It was not the mere matter of the separation of the colonies from the mother land, but it was that sentiment in the Declaration which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to the world for all future time. (Applause.) It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence. Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle it will be truly awful. But if this country cannot be saved with-

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LATEST NEWS

Midnight Dispatches.

MOVEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. Lincoln's Arrival in Trenton.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 21.
 The special train arrived at 12 o'clock. There was immense crowd at the depot. Mayor Mills extended a welcome, and introduced Mr. Lincoln to the members of the city government. The party was then taken by carriages to the State House, under escort of 100 members of the City Blues of Paterson, and the German Rifles of Trenton. Having been introduced to the Senate, the President then accompanied Mr. Lincoln, who replied as follows:

Mr. President and gentlemen of the Senate of the State of New Jersey,—I am very grateful to you for the honorable reception of which I have been the object. I cannot but remember the place that New Jersey holds in our early history. In the early Revolutionary struggle, few of the States among the Old thirteen had more of the battle fields within their limits than old New Jersey. May I be permitted, on this occasion, I mention that, away back in my childhood, the earliest day of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book, such as one as few of the younger members have ever seen—Weems' Life of Washington. I remember that in all accounts then given of the battle-fields and struggles for the liberty of the country, none fixed their eyes upon my imagination as the struggle here at Trenton. The crossing of the river—the contest with the Hessians—the great hardships endured at that time, all fixed themselves upon my memory, more than any single Revolutionary event, and you all know, for you have all been boys, how these early impressions last longer than any other, I recollect thinking then, boy even though I was, that there must have been something more than common in what these men struggled for. I am exceedingly anxious that that thing which they then struggled for—that something more than national independence—that something which held out a great promise to all the people of the world for all time to come—I am exceedingly anxious that this Union, the Constitution, and the Liberties of the People shall be perpetuated, in accordance with the original ideas for which that struggle was made; and, I shall be most happy indeed, if I shall be an humble instrument, in the hands of the Almighty, and of this, his chosen people, for perpetuating the object of that great struggle. You give me this reception, as I understand, without distinction of party. I learn that this body is composed of a majority of gentlemen who, in the exercise of their best judgment in the choice of a Chief Magistrate, did not think I was the man. I understand, nevertheless, that they come forward here to greet me as the constitutional President of the United States as citizens of the United States who, for the time being is the representative man of the nation—united by a purpose to perpetuate the Union and the Liberties of the People. As such I accept this reception more gratefully than I could do, did I know it was tendered me as an individual.

His speech was followed by heartfelt applause.

Mr. Lincoln was then conducted to the Assembly Chamber. The Speaker addressed him appropriately, when Mr. Lincoln replied as follows.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen—I have just enjoyed the honor of a reception by the other branch of this Legislature. I return to you and them my thanks for the reception which the people of New Jersey have given me through their chosen representatives. As for the time being the representative of the majority of the people of the United States, I appropriate to myself very little of the demonstrations of re-

spect with which I have been greeted. I think little should be given to any man, but that it should be a manifestation of adherence to the Union and the Constitution. I understand myself to be received here by the people of New Jersey, a majority of whom differ in opinion from those with whom I have acted. This manifestation is, therefore, to be regarded as expressing their devotion to the Union, the Constitution, and the liberty of the people. You, Mr. Speaker, have said, this is the time when the bravest and wisest look with doubt and awe upon the aspect presented by our national affairs. Under these circumstances, do you will readily see why, I should not speak in detail of the course I shall deem it best to pursue. It is proper I should avail myself of all the information, and at the time at my command, in order that when the time arrives in which I must speak officially, I shall be able to take the ground which I deem the best and safest, and from which I may have no occasion to swerve. I shall endeavor to take the ground I deem most just to the North, the East, the South, and the West; and the whole country will take it, I hope, in good temper. I shall do all that may be in my power to promote a peaceful settlement of all our difficulties. The man does not live who is more devoted to peace than I am—no man would do more to preserve it; but it may be necessary to put the foot down firmly—[here the audience broke into cheers so loud and long that for some moments it was impossible to hear Mr. Lincoln's voice]—and if I do my duty, and do right, you will sustain me, will you not? [Loud cheers and cries of "Yes!" "Yes!" "We will!"] Received, as I am, by members of a Legislature, the majority of whom do not agree with me in political sentiments, I trust I may have their assistance in piloting the Ship of State through this voyage, surrounded by perils as it is; for if it should suffer from the attack now, there will be no pilot ever needed for another voyage. Gentlemen, I have already spoken longer than I intended, and must beg leave to stop.

The procession moved to the Trenton House, where Mr. Lincoln spoke briefly to the crowd outside. A splendid collation was given.

The train left at half-past-two o'clock for Philadelphia, in charge of the committee from that city. It is thought there were 20,000 persons present.

Arrival in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21—10:15 p. m.
 The train with Mr. Lincoln and suite, arrived at Kensington at 1 o'clock. They were escorted by carriages, Mr. Lincoln's barouche being conspicuous, by the gay plumage and four white horses. The procession consisted of mounted police, a cavalcade of citizens of all descriptions of politics, and the Pennsylvania Dragoons. They were hailed everywhere with patriotic emblems and manifestations. About 100,000 people were scattered along the line of march.

Mr. Lincoln, on arriving at the Continental Hotel, was conducted to the balcony and introduced to the Mayor. The noisy multitude below greeted his appearance with hearty cheers. Both the Mayor's welcome and his reply were unheard, excepting by those in the immediate vicinity. Mr. Lincoln displayed great earnestness in delivery of his remarks, which caused the mass to reflect his patriotic views in deafening applause. Mr. Lincoln spoke as follows.

Mr. Mayor, and citizens of Philadelphia.—I appear before you to make no lengthy speech, but to thank you for this reception. The reception you have given me to-night, is not to me—the mass, the individual—but to the man who temporarily represents, or should represent, the majority of the nation. [Cheers.] It is time, as your worthy Mayor has said, that there is anxiety among the citizens of the United States at this time. I deem it a happy circumstance that the dissatisfied portion of our fellow-citizens, do not point us to anything in which they are being injured, or about to be injured, for which reason I have felt all

the while justified in concluding that the crisis, the panic, and the anxiety of the country at this time is artificial. If there be those who differ with me on this subject, they have not pointed at the substantial difficulty that exists. I do not mean to say that an artificial panic may not do considerable harm. That it has done so I do not deny.

The hope that has been expressed by your Mayor, that I may be enabled to restore peace, harmony and prosperity to the country, is most worthy of him, and most happy will I be if I shall be able to gratify and realize the hope.—(Tremendous cheering.) I promise you, in all sincerity, that I bring to the work a sincere heart. Whether I will bring a head equal to that heart, will let the future determine. It were useless to speak of details at present now. I shall speak officially on next Monday week. When I do speak, I shall take such grounds as I deem best calculated to restore harmony and prosperity to the country, and lead to the perpetuity of the nation and the liberty of these States and the people.

Your worthy Mayor has expressed the wish, in which I join with him, that I wish it was convenient for me to remain in your city long enough to consult with your merchants and manufacturers, or, as it were, to listen to these breathings rising within the consecrated walls, wherein the Constitution of the United States, and, I will add the Declaration of Independence, were originally framed and adopted. [Enthusiastic applause. May my right hand forget its canning, and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prove false to those teachings. And now allow me to bid you good night. He then retired, and, it is supposed, subsequently held a levee.

LINCOLN LORE

No. 169

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 4, 1932

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



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THE LINCOLN
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Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

LINCOLN IN PHILADELPHIA

For some time Lincoln Lore has been anticipating a geographical approach to the Lincoln story and it seems appropriate and timely to begin this series on July 4 with a monograph on Lincoln in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Inquirer for Saturday, April 22, 1865, gives a brief review of Lincoln's visits to the city and states that "since President Lincoln was called to his high office he has been in Philadelphia but three times."

Only brief accounts can be given of these visits and the excerpts made from his speeches on these occasions are selected because of some definite bearing on the location or sentiments recalled by the gathering.

February 21, 1861

Abraham Lincoln enroute from Springfield, Illinois to Washington, D. C. for the inauguration arrived in Philadelphia at 4 p. m. February 21, 1861. That evening he was given a reception and welcomed to the city by Mayor Henry. Lincoln replied to the mayor with a brief speech from the balcony of the Continental Hotel.

"Mr. Mayor and Fellow-citizens of Philadelphia: I appear before you to make no lengthy speech, but to thank you for this reception. The reception you have given me tonight is not to me, the man, the individual, but to the man who temporarily represents, or should represent, the majesty of the nation. It is true, as your worthy mayor has said, that there is great anxiety amongst the citizens of the United States at this time. . . . The hope that has been expressed by your mayor, that I may be able to restore peace, harmony, and prosperity to the country, is most worthy of him; and most happy, indeed, will I be if I shall be able to verify and fulfill that hope. I promise you that I bring to the work a sincere heart. Whether I will bring a head equal to that heart will be for future times to determine. . . . Your worthy mayor has expressed the wish, in which I join with him, that it were convenient for me to remain in your city long enough to consult your merchants and manufacturers; or, as it were, to listen to those breathings rising within the consecrated walls

wherein the Constitution of the United States, and, I will add, the Declaration of Independence, were originally framed and adopted. I assure you and your mayor that I had hoped on this occasion, and upon all occasions during my life, that I shall do nothing inconsistent with the teachings of these holy and most sacred walls." . . .

February 22, 1861

In the early morning of Washington's birthday Lincoln participated in the dedication of a new flag for Independence Hall, and with his own hands raised it to the breeze. Just previous to the flag raising ceremony Mr. Lincoln had replied to the remarks of Chairman Theodore Cuyler, Esquire, in the following language:

"Mr. Cuyler: I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live. You have kindly suggested to me that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to our distracted country. I can say in return, sir, that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated in and were given to the world from this hall. I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here and framed and adopted that Declaration. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of separation of the colonies from the motherland, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence." . . .

February 22, 1861

Upon arriving at Harrisburg enroute to Washington those in charge of Lincoln's itinerary learned of a plot to assassinate him as he passed through Baltimore. They advised Mr. Lincoln that his route should be changed and he reluctantly submitted to their suggestion and about midnight of the same day, February 22, arrived again in Philadelphia taking the midnight express for Washington.

June 16 1864

During the war funds were raised by conducting Sanitary Fairs by women's organizations. Abraham Lincoln was invited to attend one at Philadelphia and after much urging agreed to be present. A part of his speech delivered at this time follows:

"I suppose that this toast was intended to open the way for me to say something.

"War, at the best, is terrible, and this war of ours, in its magnitude and in its duration, is one of the most terrible. It has deranged business, totally in many localities, and partially in all localities. It has destroyed property and ruined homes, it has produced a national debt and taxation unprecedented, at least in this country; it has carried mourning to almost every home, until it can almost be said that the 'heavens are hung black.' . . .

"It is a pertinent question, often asked in the mind privately and from one to another, when is the war to end? Surely I feel as great an interest in this question as any other man can. But I do not wish to name the day, or the month, or the year, with which it is to end. I do not wish to run the risk of seeing the time come without our being ready for the end, for fear of disappointment because the time had come and not the end.

"We accepted this war; we did not begin it. But we accepted the war for an object, a worthy object, and the war will end when that object is attained; and I hope under God it never will without. Speaking of the present campaign, General Grant is reported to have said: 'I am going through on this line if it takes all summer.' This war has taken three years. It was begun or accepted on the line of restoring the national authority over all the national domain. And for the American people, as far as my knowledge enables me to speak, I say we are going through on this line if it takes three years more."

April 22, 23, 24, 1865

When the lifeless body of Lincoln was removed from Washington to Springfield, Illinois from Saturday, April 22 to Monday, April 24 it lay in state in Independence Hall. The silent Lincoln's body was viewed here by over 300,000 according to reports. It was especially appropriate that his body should rest over Sunday in Philadelphia and one recalls the remarks made by Lincoln on the occasion of his first visit when he said after reviewing the purpose of the Declaration of Independence:

". . . Now, my friends, can the country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say that I would rather be assassinated upon this spot than to surrender it."

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 3, 1944

LINCOLN AT INDEPENDENCE HALL

Probably Abraham Lincoln's first view of Independence Hall was in June 1848 when he spent three days in Philadelphia while in attendance at the Whig National Convention held in the Chinese Museum. Lincoln arrived on June 7th and was there until June 10th. Taylor was nominated for President on June 9th, followed by the nomination of Fillmore for the office of vice-presidency. After these acts of the convention, the entire group of delegates retired to Independence Square where a great many speeches were made from various platforms erected for the celebration. At that time the old Liberty Bell was hanging in the belfry, but it had been cracked on Washington's birthday two years before, and probably was not used on the occasion of the Whig convention.

The inaugural trip to Washington in 1860 included one engagement to which Abraham Lincoln must have looked forward with much pleasure. He was invited to participate in a flag raising at Independence Hall on Washington's birthday. If he had not been following the policy, on this trip, of curtailing his remarks to the fewest possible words, it is likely that one of the outstanding speeches of his career might have been delivered in Philadelphia. As it is, what few words he did say at the flag raising and at two other appearances were prophetic, at least.

He arrived at Philadelphia on the evening of February 21st and was immediately escorted to the Continental Hotel where he responded to a word of welcome from the mayor of the city. Even in this response he anticipated the influence of the city's historic shrine. After referring to "the consecrated walls" wherein the Constitution of the United States and Declaration originated, he said, "All my political warfare has been in favor of the teachings that come forth from these sacred walls. May my right hand forget its cunning and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if ever I prove false to those teachings."

On the morning of February 22nd, he stood within the Nation's shrine and made a few brief remarks. He said in part:

"I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live. . . . I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of separation of the colonies from the motherland, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence. Now, my friends, can this country be saved on that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it."

The remarks made at the flag raising which followed were even more condensed than at either of the two other occasions on which he had spoken publicly in the city, although this exercise was the primary service to which he was invited. He mentioned the new star (Kansas) which was added to the flag, and made some further comments about the growth of the Nation.

The new flag Lincoln raised over Independence Hall that day was in itself significant, as it was made of China silk. Major Henry J. Snyder, who participated in the celebration, stated: "When the check cord was pulled and the flag, a beautiful banner of China silk, was blown out by the breeze the cheers, yells and hurrahs that went up from the crowd were louder than any I ever heard. . . . It was a fine and historic banner made by sailors on board the U. S. S. Hartford, as that ship was on its way from China waters, and the flag had been intended for presentation to the port where the men were to be paid off—which happened, in this case, to be the port of Philadelphia."

Upon reaching Harrisburg that same day and speaking before the Legislature, he expressed regret that he had not more time at Philadelphia to make known his feelings, excited by his visit to Independence Hall and the occasion of the flag raising.

On July 16, 1864, a little over three years after he raised the flag over Independence Hall, he was back in the city for a visit to the Philadelphia Sanitary Fair. His reluctance to attend any more fairs was emphasized by a humorous recital of the incidents which occurred at Philadelphia. He said:

"Why, I was nearly pulled to pieces before I reached Philadelphia. The train stopped at every station on the route, and at many places where there were no stations, only people; and my hand was nearly wrung off before I reached the Fair. Then from the depot for two miles it was a solid mass of people blocking the way. Everywhere there were people shouting and cheering; and they would reach into the carriage and shake hands, and hold on, until I was afraid they would be killed, or I pulled from the carriage.

"When we reached the Fair it was worse yet. The police tried to open a way through the crowds for me, but they had to give it up; and I didn't know as I was going to get in at all. The people were everywhere; and, if they saw me starting for a place, they rushed there first, and stood shouting, hurraing, and trying to shake hands. By and by, the Committee had worried me along to a side door, which they suddenly opened, pushed me in, and then turned the key; and that gave me a chance to lunch, shake myself, and draw a long breath.

"That was the only quiet moment I had; for all the time I was in Philadelphia I was crowded, and jostled, and pulled about, and cheered, and serenaded, until I was more used up than I ever remember to have been in my life. I don't believe I could stand another Fair."

Less than nine months after the Sanitary Fair episode the body of Lincoln was being returned for burial at Springfield, and the itinerary called for a stop at Philadelphia. The city was reached at 4:30, on Saturday afternoon, April 22nd. The body was taken to Independence Hall where it lay in state in the Declaration Chamber until the following Monday morning. It is estimated that 300,000 people viewed the body during this interval. The old Liberty Bell had long since been removed from the belfry and rested close by the remains of Lincoln which led one author to observe:

"The broken bell that had 'proclaimed liberty throughout the land,' and the broken body of him who had issued the Proclamation of Emancipation, and thus proclaimed liberty 'to all inhabitants thereof' paid mute tribute one to the other. The union was preserved and slavery was abolished."

Men and Things

Lincoln's Speech in Philadelphia at Independence Hall on Washington's Birthday, 1861, a Foreword of the Inaugural Address at Washington a Few Days Later

LINCOLN at Philadelphia, February 22, 1861, speaking at the raising of the flag at Independence Hall, to mark the anniversary of Washington's birth, was as terse as in his speech at Gettysburg at a later time. What he said was even more significant. In reality it was the foreword of the inaugural address that he was to deliver in Washington less than two weeks later.

Recollections of that day and the text of that brief speech have been provided by Mr. Victor Rosewater, and are pertinent to this day dedicated to the memory of the Emancipator.

Lincoln was on his way to Washington for the inaugural occasion. He had left Springfield, Illinois, some ten days before, planning a circuitous trip to the Capital by way of Albany and New York on which the visit to Philadelphia had been definitely fixed for the holiday celebrating the birth of the first President of the Republic. As a matter of fact, Lincoln doubled up with an unscheduled second stop here the following day when returning from Harrisburg, where he went to meet the Legislature then in session.

For the entertainment of the President-elect plans were outlined well in advance and carried out by a joint committee of citizens and of the councils. The Citizens Committee, numbering 150, made its members distinguishable by a badge in representation of a spread eagle with the figures of Commerce and Agriculture under the wings. The President-elect was to be met at the Trenton Railroad depot at half past three o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, February 21, and escorted to his headquarters at the Continental Hotel by a volunteer cavalcade along this route: Down the Frankford Road to Girard Avenue, up Girard to Sixth Street, down Sixth to Arch, up Arch to Sixteenth, down Sixteenth to Walnut, down Walnut to Ninth and up Ninth to the hotel at the Chestnut Street corner. Here he was to spend the night after a public reception and then to take the principal role in a sunrise flag-raising at Independence Hall.

Mr. Lincoln arrived somewhat late but was met by an unprecedented turn-out. "The chill wind and muddy streets combined to make everybody look uncomfortable and unhappy." A salute of guns signaled the incoming train. There was no ceremony at the depot and the procession moved with little delay. The mounted police under Chief Ruggles were followed by police afoot, Chief Marshal Ellmaker and his aids, Marshal Conrad B. Address and his aids, the cavalcade of about 250 horsemen, the Pennsylvania Dragoons under Major Charles Thompson Jones, the President-elect in a barouche drawn by four white horses, committeemen and officials. Many buildings along the route were decorated with flags and bunting and some with mottoes while an arch of evergreens spanned 16th and Chestnut. Several handsome bouquets were thrown into the carriage as it proceeded. A jam of people blocked 5th and Chestnut where Mayor Henry addressed a few words of welcome as the party came out on the hotel balcony. Lincoln responded briefly with expression of his thanks and then retired to his apartments.

A little after eight o'clock in the evening, Lincoln took his position at the head of the grand stairway and remained at that place for some time so that all who passed into the hotel could have a view of his face. No delegations or individuals seeking to meet him, however, were presented, as it was impossible for them to get to him. Just after ten o'clock, the piece of fireworks specially constructed for the occasion and set up across the street was lighted and loudly cheered. This was in the form of an arch bearing the words, "Welcome Abraham Lincoln," in large letters above and "The Whole Union" below, the word, "The," being in-set in a shield. It was the workmanship of Professor Jackson, and was so located as to face the balcony on the Chestnut st. front of the Continental Hotel.

According to all reports, Washington's birthday, 1861, was more generally observed in Philadelphia than for many years. An added excitement stirred the people because of the presence in the city, and promised participation in the program, of the President-elect. At sunrise, the booming of cannon in a national salute and the ringing of innumerable bells roused folks from their slumbers and, at six o'clock, there

were more persons in the streets than anyone could recall at that hour.

The old State House was the center of attraction. A platform composed of three stands had been erected in front; the adjacent streets were densely thronged. At seven o'clock, the Committee escorted Lincoln to Independence Hall, the Scott Legion acting as guard of honor, where he was received by Mr. Cuyler with greeting on behalf of Councils and where he responded with his speech, as follows:

"I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here, in this place, where were collected the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institution under which we live. You have kindly suggested to me that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to the present distracted condition of the country. I can say in return, sir, that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated and were given to the world from this hall. I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of the separation of the colonies from the motherland, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country but, I hope, to the world for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men. This is a sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence. Now, my friends, can the country be saved upon this basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. If it can not be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful.

"But if this country can not be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it. Now, in my view of the present aspect of affairs, there need be no bloodshed or war. There is no necessity for it. I am not in favor of such a course; and I may say, in advance, that there will be no bloodshed unless it will be forced upon the government, and then it will be compelled to act in self-defense."

On conclusion, Lincoln inspected the portraits and relics in the building, and then proceeded to the platform outside. The prayer was pronounced by the Rev. Henry Steels Clarke. Mr. Lincoln, with overcoat and hat off, pulled at the halyards until the flag unfurled at the peak of the flagstaff and the enthusiasm of the crowd knew no bounds.

Referring to the incident in his talk at Harrisburg the same day, he said:

"I have already gone through one exceedingly interesting scene this morning in the ceremonies at Philadelphia. Under the high conduct of gentlemen, thus I was for the first time allowed the privilege of standing in old Independence Hall to have a few words addressed to me there and opening up to me an opportunity of expressing, with much regret that I had not more time to express something of my own feelings excited by the occasion, somewhat to harmonize and give shape to the feelings that had been really the feelings of my whole life. Besides this, my friends there had provided a magnificent flag of the country. They had arranged it so that I was given the honor of raising it to the head of its staff. And when it went up, I was pleased that it went to its place by the strength of my own feeble arm when, according to the arrangement, the cord was pulled and it floated gloriously to the wind without an accident, in the light, glowing sunshine of the morning, I could not help hoping that there was, in the entire success of that beautiful ceremony, at least something of an omen of what is to come."

The flag-raising completed, Mr. Lincoln returned to the hotel and at 8:30 o'clock had left in an open carriage for West Philadelphia where a special train of three cars was in waiting. At 9:30 A. M. he was on his way to Harrisburg, accompanied by Mr. Hacker, chairman of the Philadelphia committee. He passed through Philadelphia again the same night, with scarcely anyone knowing it, going from Harrisburg to Washington. The story of the reported plot for his assassination at Baltimore is familiar. He went on through Philadelphia to the Capital, arriving there Saturday morning at about the time he had been scheduled to leave Harrisburg.

Philadelphia
Feb 22, 1861

DRAWER 5

Pic - hourglass

