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LINCOLN WAS TRUE CHRISTIAN

REV. CLARK POINTS TO "HIS FAITH IN GOD."

Presbyterian Congregation Last Evening Hears Tribute to Emancipator.

"Lincoln's Faith in God" was the theme chosen by Rev. G. L. Clark last evening in paying a fitting tribute to the great emancipator. During the course of his interesting discourse he went on to say:

Lincoln's Faith in God

One hundred and seven years ago, the twelfth of this month, in a log cabin within the bounds of Kentucky, Abraham Lincoln was born—born to poverty and to sorrow; born to burdens and to abuse; born to toil and to hardship; born to opportunity and to greatness; born to direct a nation's struggle and to receive a nation's praise.

Much has been written about Lincoln as a man, as a lawyer as a statesman and as a nation's chief executive.

Concerning his faith in God different opinions have been published: The following references are among the records of his life as his great heart touched other lives.

True, Mr. Lincoln did not belong to any church but he believed in what the Churches teach. On one occasion he said "When any Church will inscribe over its altar as its sole qualification for membership the Saviour's condensed statement of the substance of both law and gospel 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself,' that church will I join with all my heart and soul."

We are informed, that about a year before he was assassinated, Mr. Lincoln wrote to Hon. Joseph Speed, saying among other things: "I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this book upon reason that you can and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a better man."

At the unveiling of the Chicago monument some years ago, the speaker upon that occasion, Hon. Leonard Swett, is credited with saying of Mr. Lincoln "He believed in God as the supreme ruler of the Universe, the guide of men, and the controller of the great events and destinies of mankind. He believed himself to be an instrument and leader in this country of the force of freedom."

In a letter to his step-brother, John Johnson, when his father was suffering his last illness, Mr. Lincoln wrote "I sincerely hope that father may recover his health, but at all events tell him to remember to call upon and confide in our great and good and merciful Maker, who will not turn away from him in any extremity. He notes the fall of the sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our heads, and He will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in Him. Say to him that if we could meet now it is doubtful whether it would not be more painful than pleasant, but that if it be his lot to go now he will soon have a joyful meeting with loved ones gone before, and where the rest of us, thru the mercy of God, hope ere long to join them."

When a young nation called him to become its president he left his home in Springfield, Illinois for Washington, D. C.: At the station many friends gathered to see him off and to them he said "My friends, no one not in my position can realize the sadness I feel at this parting. To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century. Here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. I go to assume a task more than that which devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He never would have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine blessing which sustained him, and on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support. And I hope you my friends, will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance, without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain. Again I bid you an affectionate farewell." Of him another close friend, John G. Nicolay, wrote "Benevolence and forgiveness were the very basis of his character: his world-wide humanity is aptly embodied in a phrase of his second inaugural 'with malice toward none, with charity for all. His nature was deeply religious, but he belonged to no denomination: he had faith in the eternal justice and boundless mercy of Providence, and made the Golden Rule of Christ his practical creed."

These references picture the man who led the nation along a perilous path in years gone by and who will dare to deny that the steadiness of his hand, the calmness of his judgment, the poise of his soul were but the manifestations of his unflinching faith in and his unbroken hold upon Him whose judgments are true and righteous altogether?"

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