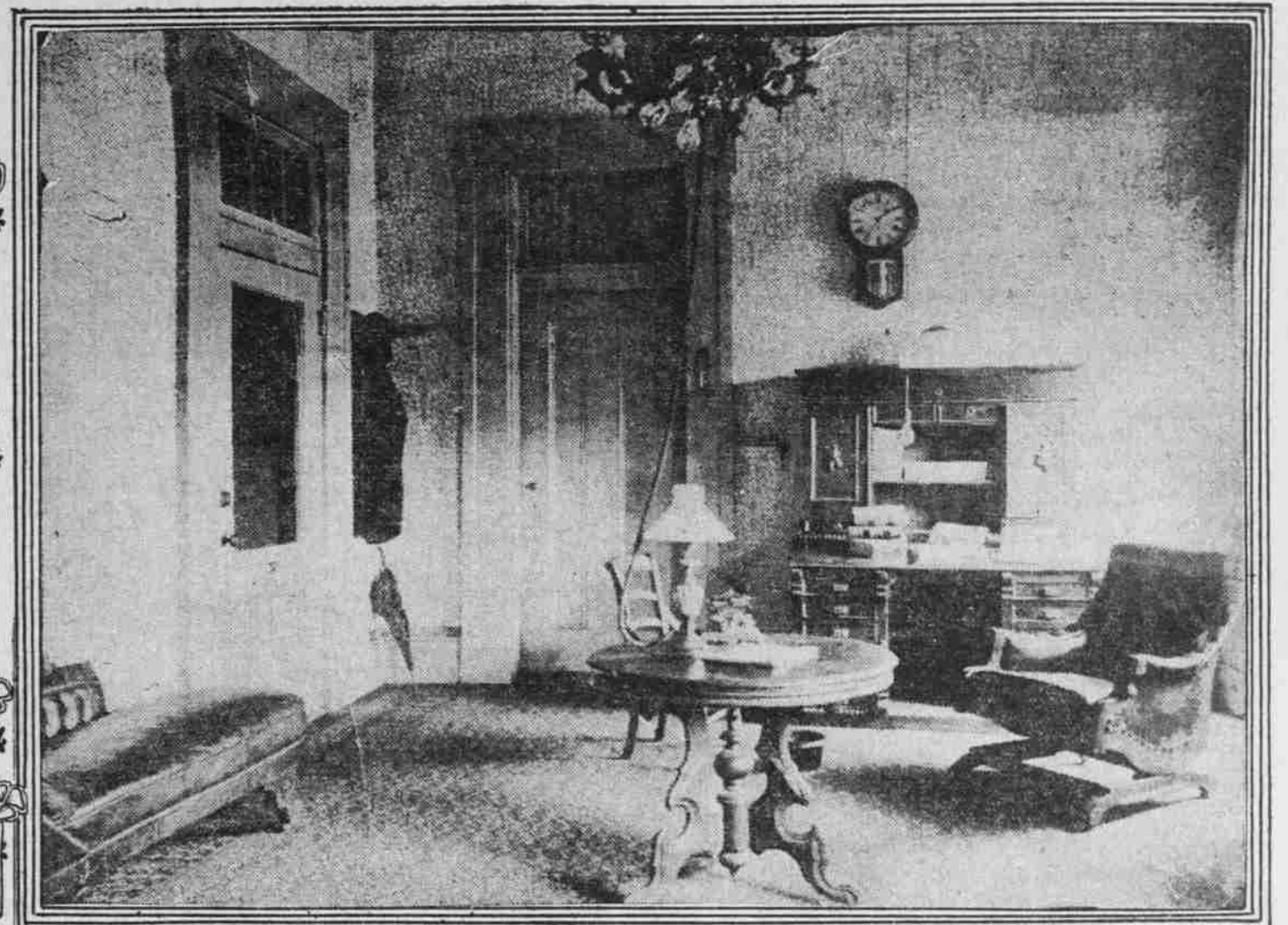
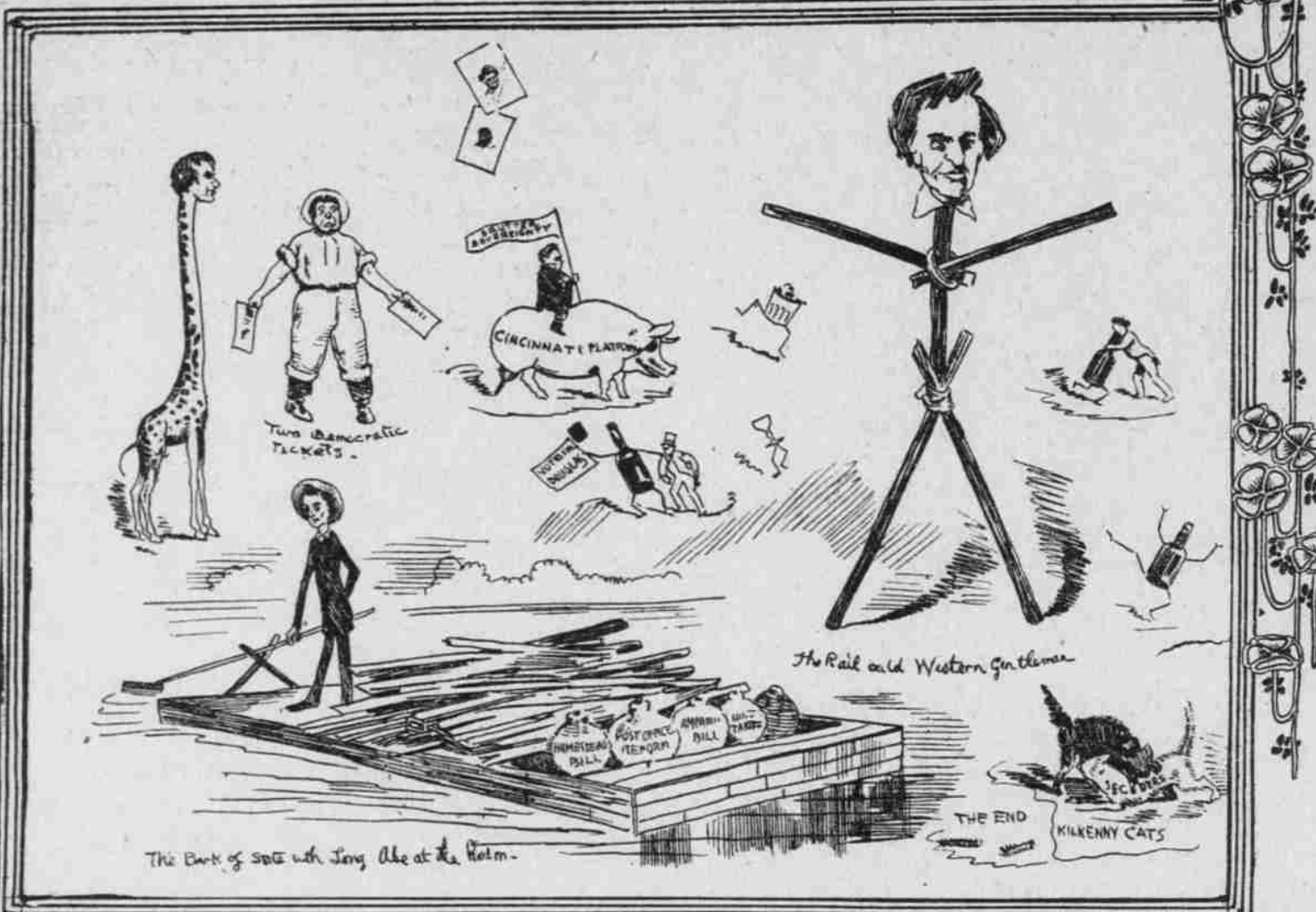


WHEN LINCOLN RAN FOR PRESIDENT

"THE SAME GENIAL, ACCESSIBLE MAN AS EVER, HIS HABITS AS UNPRETENTIOUS, HIS FRIENDLINESS AS GREAT"



LINCOLN'S OFFICE IN THE OLD STATE HOUSE, SPRINGFIELD, ILL., WHERE HE HAD HIS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

BY IDA M. TARRELL

MR. LINCOLN during his first Presidential campaign remained quietly in Springfield. The conspicuous position in which he was placed made almost no difference in his simple life. He was the same genial, accessible, modest man as ever, his habits as unpretentious, his friendliness as great. The chief outward change in his daily round was merely one of quarters. It seemed to his friends that neither his home nor his dingy law office was an appropriate place in which to receive his visitors and they arranged that a room in the Statehouse, which stood on the village green in the center of the town, be put at his disposal. He came down to this office every morning about 8 o'clock, always stopping on the way in his old cordial fashion to get the news or exchange a story when he met an acquaintance. Frequently he went to the postoffice himself before going to his office and came out his arms loaded with letters and papers.

He had no regular hours for visitors; there was no ceremony for admittance to his presence. People came when they would. Usually they found the door open; if it was not, it was Mr. Lincoln's own voice which answered, "come in," to their knock. These visitors were a strange medley of the curious, the interested and the friendly. Many came simply to see him, to say they had shaken hands with him; numbers to try to find out what his policy would be if elected; others to wish him success. All day long they filed in and out leaving him some days no time for his correspondence, which every day grew larger. He seemed never to be in a hurry, never to lose patience, however high his table was piled with mail, however closely his room was crowded with visitors. He even found time to give frequent sittings to the artists sent from various parts of the country to paint his portrait.

To those who observed Mr. Lincoln closely as he received his visitors one thing was apparent: he always remained master of the interview. While his visitors told him a great deal, they learned nothing from him which he did not wish to give. The following observations, published in the Illinois State Journal in November, 1860, illustrate very well what

happened almost every day in his office: "While talking to two or three gentlemen and standing up, a very hard looking customer rolled in and tumbled into the only vacant chair and the one lately occupied by Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln's keen eye took in the fact, but gave no evidence of the notice. Turning around at last he spoke to the odd specimen, holding out his hand at such a distance that our friend had to vacate the chair if he accepted the proffered shake. Mr. Lincoln quietly resumed his chair. It was a small matter, yet one giving proof more positively than a larger event of that peculiar way the man has of mingling with a mixed crowd.

"He conversed fluently on all subjects, illustrating everything by a merry anecdote, of which article he has an abundant supply. I said on all subjects. He does not talk politics. He speaks from that gracefully the moment it is introduced. Hundreds seek him every week to get his opinion on this or that subject. He has a jolly way of disposing of that matter by saying, 'Ah! you haven't read my speeches. Let me make you a present of my speeches.' And the earnest inquirer finds himself the happy possessor of some old documents."

The Old Lady With the Socks.

Among his daily visitors there were usually men of eminence from North and South. He received them all with perfect simplicity and always even on his busiest days found a moment to turn away from them to greet old friends who had known him when he kept grocery in New Salem or acted as deputy surveyor of Sangamon County. One day as he talked to a company of distinguished strangers an old lady in a big sunbonnet, heavy boots and short skirts walked into the room. She carried a package wrapped in brown paper and tied with a white string. As soon as Mr. Lincoln saw her he left the group, went to meet her and, shaking her hand cordially, inquired for her "folks." After a moment the old lady opened her package and taking out a pair of coarse wool socks she handed them to him. "I wanted to give you something," Mr. Lincoln," she said, "to take to Wash-

ington, and that's all I had. I spun that yarn and knit them socks myself."

Thanking her warmly, Mr. Lincoln took the socks and holding them up by the toes, one in each hand, he turned to the astonished celebrities and said in a voice full of "ladyly amusement," "The lady got my latitude and longitude about right, didn't she, gentlemen?"

The old lady was not the only one, however, who gave Mr. Lincoln "something to carry to Washington." From the time of his nomination gifts poured in on him. Many of these came in the form of wearing apparel. Mr. George Lincoln, of Brooklyn, who in January carried a handsome silk hat to the President-elect, the gift of a New York hatter, says that in receiving the hat Mr. Lincoln laughed heartily over the gifts of clothing and remarked to Mrs. Lincoln:

"Well, wife, if nothing else comes out of this scrape, we are going to have some new clothes, are we not?" To those who observed Mr. Lincoln superficially in this period, it might have seemed that he was doing nothing of any value to himself or to his party. Certainly he was taking no active part in the campaign. He was making no speeches—writing no letters—giving no interviews. This policy of silence he had adopted at the outset. The very night of his nomination his townspeople in serenading him had called for a speech. Standing in the doorway of his house, he said to them that he did not suppose the honor of such a visit was intended particularly for himself as a private citizen, but rather as the representative of a great party; that as to his position on the political questions of the day, he could only refer them to his previous speeches, and he added:

"Fellow citizens and friends: The time comes upon every public man when it is best for him to keep his lips closed. That time has come upon me." When in August the monster mass meeting was held in Springfield every effort was made to persuade Mr. Lincoln to speak. All he would consent to do was to appear and in a few words excuse himself. Up to the time he left for Washington to be inaugurated he kept his resolve.

Would Not Explain in Writing.

Nor would he write letters explaining his position, or defending himself. To one gentleman who asked him to write something disclaiming all intention to interfere with slaves or slavery in the states, he replied, "I have already done this many, many times; and it is in print and open to all who will read. Those who will not read or heed what I have already publicly said would not read or heed a repetition of it. If they hear no Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead."

Nor would he defend himself against the "campaign stories" which appeared in numbers. One of which his enemies made much was that he had received two hundred dollars for the Cooper Union speech in February, 1860. They claimed that as it was a political speech it was contrary to political etiquette to accept pay. Lincoln explained the affair in a letter to a gentleman who had been disturbed by it and added:

"I have made this explanation to you as a friend, but I wish no explanation made to our enemies. What they want is a squabble and a fuss, and that they can have if we explain; and they cannot have it if we don't."

Lincoln's silence and inactivity were merely external. As a matter of fact no one was busier than he. No one was following more intently and thoughtfully the gradual development of the situation and the daily fluctuation of opinion. By correspondence, from the press, through his visitors, many of whom came to Springfield at his request, he kept himself informed of how the campaign was going from Maine to California. Whenever he feared a break in the ranks he put in a word of warning or of advice. He warned Thurlow Weed that Douglas was "managing the Bell element with

great adroitness." He cautioned Hannibal Hamlin against a break the latter feared in Maine. "Such a result as you seem to predict in Maine," he wrote, "would, I fear, put us on the down-hill track, lose us the state elections in Pennsylvania and Indiana, and probably ruin us on the main turn in November."

While he gave the strictest attention to the progress of the elections all over the country, he managed to keep above local issues and to hold himself aloof from the personal contests and rivalries within the party.

In fact, Lincoln kept in perfect touch with the progress of his party from May to November and was able to say at any time with accuracy just what his chances were in each state. He seems at no time to have had any serious fear that he would be defeated.

There was a tragic side to this very certainty of election which Lincoln felt deeply. In the convention which had nominated him, nine states of the Union had not been represented. If he should be elected these states would have had no voice in his choice. He knew that he was pledged to a platform whose principles these states stigmatized as "deception and fraud," and that if elected he must deny what they claimed as rights. He knew that in at least one state, Alabama, the Legislature two months before his nomination had pledged itself by an almost unanimous vote in case of his election to call a convention to consider what should be done for the protection of their rights, interests and honor. He knew that numbers of influential Southern men were repeating daily with William L. Yancey, "I want the cotton states precipitated in a revolution," or declaring with Mr. Crawford, of Georgia, "We will never submit to the inauguration of a Black Republican President."

Observed the South.

From May to November he watched anxiously for every sign that the South was preparing to make good the threats with which its orators were infaming their audiences, which a hostile press reiterated day by day, which teemed in his mail, and which brought scores of timorous men to Springfield to advise and warn him. How serious was it all? He did his utmost to discover; even writing in October to Major David Hunter to find out how much truth there was in the report of disaffection in a Western fort.

In spite of all that Lincoln knew of the temper of the South, in spite of his close study of events there through the Summer of 1860, he did not believe secession probable. "The people of the South have too much good sense and good temper to attempt the ruin of the Government rather than see it administered as it was administered by the men who made it. At least so I hope and believe," he wrote a correspondent in August. And in September he said to a visitor, "There are no real disunionists in the country."

There were reasons for this confidence. In every state of the South there was a Union party working to meet the crisis which Lincoln's election was sure to produce; many of the members sent him cheering letters. In acknowledging such a letter in August, Lincoln wrote, "It contains one of the many assurances I receive from the South, that in no probable event will there be any very formidable effort to break up the Union."

Then, too, Lincoln had heard this threat of secession for so long that he had grown slightly indifferent to it. He remembered that in the Fremont campaign he had been employed with even more violence than now. Again in 1858 the clamor of disunion had risen. He believed that now much of the noise about disunion was merely political, raised by the friends of Breckinridge, Douglas, or Bell, to drive voters from him. The leading men of the party sustained Lincoln in this belief.

It was then with the belief that he was going to be elected and that while his election would produce a serious uproar in the South, that no successful resistance would follow, that Lincoln approached election day. He had grown materially in the estimation of the country in the interval between May and No-

vember. Many of the leading men of his party who had deplored his nomination had come to believe in him a wise, strong man. Those who sought personal interviews with him, and they were many, went home feeling like Thurlow Weed, who, heart-sick over Seward's defeat and full of distrust, not to say contempt, of Lincoln's ability, visited him soon after the nomination at the earnest request of David Davis and Leonard Swift.

"I found Mr. Lincoln," wrote Weed afterward, "sagacious and practical. He displayed throughout the conversation as much good sense, such intuitive knowledge of human nature, and such familiarity with the virtues and infirmities of politicians, that I became impressed very favorably with his fitness for the duties which he was not unlikely to be called upon to discharge. This conversation lasted some five hours, and when the train arrived in which we were to depart, I rose all the better prepared to 'go to work with a will' in favor of Mr. Lincoln's election, as the interview had inspired me with confidence in his capacity and integrity."

In the very South, where a fury of prejudice had burst and where, as was to be expected, Lincoln was popularly regarded as an odious and tyrannical monster, much as later the North regarded Jefferson Davis, there were signs that he was at least considered honest in his views.

Common People Turn to Lincoln.

The most significant element in the estimate of Lincoln which the country formed between May and November was the respect and affection which was awakened among the common people. There sprang up all over the country among plain people a feeling for him not unlike that which had long existed in Illinois. The general distribution made of his speeches had something to do with this. There was published in 1859 in Columbus, Ohio, an edition of the Lincoln and Douglas debates of 1858, which was used freely as a campaign document. Lincoln himself gave away scores of these books to his friends and to persons who came to him begging for an expression of his views. Today copies bearing his autograph are to be seen, treasured volumes in the libraries of many public men. "The Cooper Union speech" was published by the Young Men's Republican Club of New York and circulated widely. To the hard-working farmer, mechanic, storekeeper, who thought slowly but surely, and whose sole political ambition was to cast an honest vote, these speeches were like a personal face-to-face talk. The argument was so clear, the illustration so timely, the statement so colloquial and natural, that they could not get away from them. "Lincoln's right," was the general verdict among masses of people who, hesitating between Republicanism and popular sovereignty, read the speeches as a help to a decision.

While Lincoln's speeches awakened respect for and confidence in his ability, the story of his life stirred something deeper in men. Here was a man who had become a leader of the Nation by the labor of his hands, the honesty of his intellect, the uprightness of his heart. Plain people were touched by the hardships of this life so like their own, inspired by the thought that a man who had struggled as they had done, who had remained poor, who had lived simply, could be eligible to the highest place in the Nation. They had believed that it could be done. Here was a proof of it. They told the story to their boys. This, they said, is what American institutions make possible; not glitter or wealth, trickery or demagoguery is necessary, only honesty, hard thinking, a fixed purpose. Affection and sympathy for Lincoln grew with respect. It was the beginning of that peculiar sympathetic relation between him and the common people which was to become one of the controlling influences in the great drama of the Civil War.

Election day in 1860 fell on the 6th. Springfield, although a town of strong Democratic sympathy, realized the importance of the occasion, and by daylight was booming away with cannon; before noon numbers of bands which came, the citizens hardly knew from where, were playing on the corner of every street. Mr. Lincoln, as was his custom, came down to his room at the State House by 8 o'clock, where he went over his big mail as coolly as if it were not election

day and he a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. He had not been there long before his friends began to flock in in such numbers that it was proposed that the doors be closed and he be allowed to remain by himself, but he said he had never done such a thing in his life as to close the door on his friends, and that he did not intend to begin now, and so the day wore away in the entertainment of visitors.

It had not been Mr. Lincoln's intention to vote, the obstacle which he found in the way being that his own name headed the Republican ticket and that he did not want to vote for himself. One of his friends suggested that his name might be cut off and he vote for the rest of the ticket. He fell in with this suggestion, and late in the afternoon, when the crowd around the polls, which were just across the street from his office, had subsided somewhat, he went over to cast his ballot. He was recognized immediately, and his friends were soon about him, cheering wildly and contending good naturedly for an opportunity to shake his hand. Even the Democrats, with their hands full of documents which they were distributing, joined in this enthusiastic demonstration and cheered at the top of their voices for their beloved townsmen.

How Lincoln Received the Returns. No returns were expected before 7 o'clock, and it was a little later than that when Mr. Lincoln returned from his supper at the Statehouse. The first dispatches that came were from different parts of Illinois, the very first being from Decatur, where a Republican gain was announced. Soon after Alton, which was expected to go for Douglas, sent in a majority of 12 for Lincoln. There was a tremendous sensation in the company, and Mr. Lincoln asked that the dispatches be sent out to the "boys," meaning the crowd which had gathered in and about the Statehouse. After an hour or more news began to come from Missouri. "Now," said Mr. Lincoln, "they should get a few ticks back at us." But to everybody's surprise, there was more good news from Missouri than had been expected. Towards midnight news began to come from Pennsylvania: "Allegheny County, 10,000 majority for Lincoln"; "Philadelphia, 15,000 plurality, 5000 majority over all"; then a telegram from Simon Cameron, "Pennsylvania 70,000 for you, New York safe, glory enough." This was the first news from New York, and since

10 o'clock the company had been waiting impatiently for it. A Union ticket, it was feared, might go through there, and if it did the disaster to the Republicans would be serious.

While waiting anxiously for something definite from New York, a delegation of Springfield ladies came in to invite Mr. Lincoln and his friends to a hall near by, where they had prepared refreshments for all the Republican politicians of the town. The party had not been there long before there came a telegram announcing that New York City had gone Republican. Such a cheering was probably never heard in Springfield before. The hall full of people, beside themselves with joy, began a rousing promenade around the tables, singing at the top of their voices the popular campaign song, "Oh, ain't you glad you joined the Republicans?" Here at intervals further telegrams came from New York, all announcing large majorities. The scene became one of the wildest excitement, and Mr. Lincoln and his friends soon withdrew to a little telegraph office on the square, where they could receive reports more quietly. Up to this time the only anxiety Mr. Lincoln had shown about the election was in the returns from his state and town. He didn't "feel quite easy," as he said, "about Springfield."

Towards morning, however, the announcement came that he had a majority in his own precinct. Then it was that he showed his first emotion, a jubilant chuckle, and soon after he remarked cheerfully to his friends, that he "guessed he'd go home now," which he did. But Springfield was not content to go home. Cannon banged until daylight, and on every street corner and in every alley could be heard groups of men shouting at the top of their voices, "Oh, ain't you glad you joined the Republicans?"

Twenty-four hours later and the full result of that Tuesday's work was known. Out of 363 electoral votes, Lincoln had received 180. Of the popular vote he had received 1,566,422 nearly a half million over Douglas, a million over Breckinridge, a million and a quarter over Bell. It was a victory, but there were facts about the victory which startled the thoughtful. If Lincoln had more votes than any one opposing candidate, they together had nearly 1,600,000 over him. Fifteen states of the Union gave him no electoral vote, and in 10 states he had not received a single popular vote. (Copyright, 1908, by the McClure Co. Copyright, 1909, by McClure, Phillips & Co.)

Lincoln's Gettysburg Speech

Undying Words of the Great President Spoken on the Battlefield.

FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this Continent a new Nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether that Nation, or any other nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that Nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Grandeur of a Sacred Poem

Closing Words of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address.

FROM CARL SCHURZ ESSAY ON LINCOLN. THE war was virtually decided but not yet ended. Sherman was irresistibly carrying the Union flag through the South. Grant had his iron hand upon the ramparts of Richmond. The days of the Confederacy were evidently numbered. Only the last blow remained to be struck.

Then Lincoln's second inaugural came, and with it his second inaugural address. Lincoln's famous "Gettysburg speech" has been much and justly admired. But far greater, as well as far more characteristic, was that inaugural address in which he poured out the whole devotion and tenderness of his great soul. It had all the solemnity of a father's last admonition and blessing to his children before he lay down to die. These are its closing words:

Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled up by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

This was like a sacred poem. No American President had ever spoken words like these to the American people. America never had a President who found such words in the depth of his heart.