

1889

**An address delivered by Abraham Lincoln before the Springfield  
Washingtonian Temperance Society at the Second Presbyterian  
Church, Springfield, Illinois on the 22d day of February, 1842.**

Abraham Lincoln

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AN ADDRESS  
DELIVERED BY  
Abraham Lincoln  
BEFORE THE  
SPRINGFIELD WASHINGTONIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY,  
At the Second Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois,  
ON THE 22D DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1842.

PUBLISHED BY

O. H. OLDROYD, STATE CUSTODIAN LINCOLN HOMESTEAD, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

**LINCOLN AS A TEMPERANCE MAN.**

Papers of the liquor persuasion are not content with falsifying statistics and manufacturing bogus dispatches. They must needs distort history and attribute rum sentiments to the great and good of sacred memory. One of the most dastardly pieces of campaign villiany ever perpetrated was the use by the liquor men during the Atlanta Prohibition Contest of a flaming circular representing Abraham Lincoln in the act of striking the shackles from the slaves, while under this suggestive picture were declarations against Prohibition, purporting to have been uttered by Lincoln. The object of the liquor men who devised the circular was, of course, to influence the colored vote, and the pretended quotations were deliberate forgeries.

The shameful Atlanta tactics have been resorted to in the Northern Amendment campaigns. A Dakota correspondent sends us the following, which he says he clipped from the Sioux Falls Leader, credited to Abraham Lincoln:

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of Temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation, and in making crimes out of things that are not crimes. A Prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our Government was founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker classes from the stronger, and I never can give my consent to such a law as you propose to enact. Until my tongue shall be silenced in death shall I continue to fight for the rights of man."

Does that sound like Mr. Lincoln? Like most forged quotations, it proves too much—is too evidently made to fit the wish of the author.

That Mr. Lincoln was a total abstainer and an enthusiastic temperance man is well known. We have received from Capt. O. H. Oldroyd, of Springfield, Ill., State Custodian of the Lincoln homestead, a pamphlet containing a speech delivered by the Martyr President in the 2d Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Ill., on Feb. 22, 1842. Compare the liquor forgery with this, and say whether the same man could consistently say both:

“Whether or not the whole world would be vastly benefited by a total and final banishment from it of all intoxicating drinks, seems to me not now an open question. Three-fourths of mankind confess the affirmative with their tongues; and, I believe, all the rest acknowledge it in their hearts.

Ought any, then, to refuse their aid in doing what the good of the whole demands? Shall he who cannot do much, be, for that reason, excused if he do nothing? “But,” says one, “what good can I do by signing the pledge? I never drink, even without signing.” This question has already been asked and answered more than a million of times. Let it be answered once more. For the man, suddenly or in any other way, to break off from the use of drams, who has indulged in them for a long course of years, and until his appetite for them has grown ten or a hundred fold stronger and more craving than any natural appetite can be, requires a most powerful moral effort. In such an undertaking he needs every moral support and influence that can possibly be brought to his aid, and thrown around him. And not only so, but every moral prop should be taken from whatever argument might rise in his mind, to lure him back to his backsliding. When he casts his eyes around him, he should be able to see all that he respects, all that he admires, all that he loves, kindly and anxiously pointing him onward, and none beckoning him back to his former miserable “wallowing in the mire.”

Turn now to the temperance revolution. In it (referring to the total banishment from all intoxicating drinks) we shall find a stronger bondage broken, a viler slavery uncommitted, a greater tyrant deposed—in it, more of want supplied, more disease healed, more sorrow assuaged. By it, no orphans

starving, no widows weeping. By it, none wounded in feeling, none injured in interest; even the dram-maker and dram-seller will have glided into other occupations so gradually as never to have felt the change, and will stand ready to join all others in the universal song of gladness. And what a noble ally this, to the cause of political freedom, with such an aid, its march cannot fail to be on and on, till every son of earth shall drink in rich fruition the sorrow-quenching draughts of perfect liberty. Happy day, when, all appetites controlled, all passions subdued, all matter subjugated, mind, all-conquering mind, shall live and move, the monarch of the world! Glorious consummation! Hail, fall of fury! Reign of reason, all hail!

And when the victory shall be complete—when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth—how proud the title of that Land, which may truly claim to be the birth-place and the cradle of both those revolutions that shall have ended in that victory. How nobly distinguished that people, who shall have planted, and nurtured to maturity, both the political and moral freedom of their species.”—The Voice.

Every W. C. T. U. woman should have a copy of this famous speech, in order to be able to refute the erroneous quotations from it by speakers and editors opposed to the Prohibition of the liquor traffic. It should have an extensive circulation among the American people, as it is an exponent of the sentiments of one of America's grandest representatives and most illustrious men on an evil which he evidently did not consider second, even, to that of human slavery.

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**FROM MRS. HENRIETTA L. MONROE,**  
PRESIDENT OHIO W. C. T. U

XENIA, OHIO, JUNE 6th, 1889.

O. H. Oldroyd, Esq., Springfield, Ill.,

MY DEAR SIR:

I am very happy to write you that the General Offices of the Ohio Women's Christian Temperance Union most heartily endorse the sending of President Lincoln's Temperance Address, in the way proposed by you, to the local Unions of Ohio. It should be in possession of all people of these United States.

HENRIETTA L. MONROE.

## THE W. C. T. U.

FIRST DAY'S SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH DISTRICT CONVENTION.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Aug. 23d '89.

Mrs. G. C. Smith, the Secretary, read some of the stronger selections from Abraham Lincoln's celebrated temperance address delivered in 1842 in the old Second Presbyterian Church—now torn down—in this city, the sentiment expressed was received with enthusiasm. The publisher, O. H. Oldroyd, state custodian of the Lincoln Homestead, is a member of the G. A. R. Miss Willard and others have written him letters expressing gratitude for the great favor he has done the cause of temperance in bringing before the public the strong sentiments uttered by the great man nearly fifty years ago. It has been a revelation to all who have read the pamphlet. It is neatly gotten out, has a picture of Lincoln as he looked at that time, the only one extant, and can be obtained on this pamphlet alone, together with a cut of the church in which the speech was delivered, an excellent picture of the old Lincoln homestead, now being so carefully preserved by Mr. Oldroyd and his estimable wife, and a perfect picture of the monument, all for the small sum of ten cents.

A hearty standing vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Oldroyd for his enterprise in republishing the grand address and putting it before the public at such low rates, and the secretary was instructed to notify him of the action of the convention.

Single copies of this address will be sent upon receipt of ten cents in stamps.

They will be furnished to Unions at \$5.00 per 100, express charges paid, and all unsold copies can be returned, charges prepaid, and the money refunded. Where Unions will order 100 or more and do not wish to pay for them until sold, can have them delivered, charges prepaid and pay for them when sold and return unsold copies.

Address,

O. H. OLDROYD, PUBLISHER,

Springfield, Illinois.