

1908

## Opening or closing exercise of Sunday School, Lincoln Memorial Sunday, February 16th, 1908

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### Preferred Citation

E457.7 .A54 1908: Opening or closing exercise of Sunday School, Lincoln Memorial Sunday, February 16th, 1908 : lessons in Christian patriotism, or Lessons in Christian patriotism, Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana, Mississippi State University Libraries.

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# Opening or Closing Exercise of Sunday School

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American Missionary Association

287 Fourth Ave., New York

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## Lincoln Memorial Sunday

FEBRUARY 16th, 1908

### LESSONS IN CHRISTIAN PATRIOTISM

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*Supt.*—The OBJECT of this memorial service is to promote Christian Patriotism. The METHOD of this service consists of the study of a life. The most valuable text-book possible is that which records the events and noble efforts of a worthy life.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN presented the highest type of a noble, sacrificial, brave and manly life. It is worth while, therefore, to study this life that its spirit and motives may become our own.

*Supt.*—Who was Abraham Lincoln?

*School.*—The sixteenth President of the United States.

*Supt.*—When and where was he born?

*School.*—Abraham Lincoln was born on Rock Creek Farm, Hardin County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809.

*Supt.*—What were the early conditions of his life?

*A Scholar.*—Young Lincoln had little schooling but learned to read in his cabin home upon the mountainside before the great, open, wood fireplace. There were only three books in his library. He practised writing in the soft ground between the furrows of corn when working in the field. In his seventh year the Lincoln family moved to Indiana, their entire household goods being easily carried on two horses. The family depended upon the father's hands to build the house, and upon his rifle to secure them daily food.

*Supt.*—Did Abraham Lincoln know how to work?

*A Class.*—Yes, he was a farm laborer, clerk in a country store, trader on a flat boat, surveyor, stump speaker and lawyer.

*Supt.*—When was he elected President of the United States?

*School.*—He was elected President of the United States in November, 1860.

*Supt.*—What great events characterized his administration?

*School.*—The successful suppression of the southern rebellion and the emancipation of four million slaves.

*Supt.*—What was the greatest contribution Abraham Lincoln made to the nation?

*A Scholar.*—His greatest contribution was a simple, straightforward, earnest and noble life. He was a great president and efficient commander of the armies, but the greatest contribution which he made to the nation was his own incorruptible and noble life. He was not a politician but a statesman. He never resorted to low cunning but always sought with strictest integrity that which was right. He left the richest possible heritage to his country, not in his great achievement, but in his lofty character. We honor his memory today, and the nation and the world will always honor it, not alone because he was President, but because in all the perplexity and storm of the Civil War he was always simple, honest, Abraham Lincoln.

*Supt.*—The RESULTS of this Sunday school service in behalf of Christian Patriotism devoted to the study of the life of Abraham Lincoln should be evident in our own character.

(a)—We should all be better citizens. Those who really catch the spirit of this service will neither sell their votes nor buy public office.

(b)—A larger knowledge of our nation and its opportunities will also be the result of these few moments given to the study of this brief service.

*A Teacher.* (c)—Sympathy for and interest in the most needy millions in our great national family circle will be the most important result of this study. The American Missionary Association is making actual that which the life and service of Abraham Lincoln made possible. Those who really catch his spirit and believe in the principles of Christian Patriotism will do all they can to promote it. The following sketch of the work of the American Missionary Association will help us each one to understand how we may carry out these principles of Christian Patriotism and finish the work Abraham Lincoln began.

*Supt.*—Where is the Field of the A. M. A.

*A Scholar.*—The A. M. A. Field includes the needy and dependent races in our entire country, whose enlightenment and education is a patriotic duty. The A. M. A. has schools and missions in the South among both races, among the Indians on



the prairies, in the far north among the Alaskans, on the Pacific Slope among the Chinese and Japanese, and in the new Island Territories of Hawaii and Porto Rico.

*Supt.*—How many schools were maintained by this Association last year?

*School.*—There were 100 schools and Christian institutions of learning maintained by this Association last year, with 18,000 pupils.

*Supt.*—How many churches were maintained?

*School.*—231 churches with a membership of 14,300 were supported in the field of the Association last year.

*Supt.*—What forms of instruction are employed in the schools?

*A Scholar.*—Every department of education is promoted. Much attention is given to Industrial Training to fit the boys and girls in these schools for the duties of citizenship and of life. Blacksmithing, carpentry, wood-carving, farming, stock-raising, brick-making and running of saw mill and printing are among the lines of instruction for the boys.

*Supt.*—Are the girls taught the industries?

*A Scholar.*—Yes, kitchen-gardening, dressmaking, millinery, cooking, canning and preparation of fruit and many other lines are taught the girls.

*Supt.*—Who first introduced Industrial Training into the schools of the South?

*A Scholar.*—The American Missionary Association first introduced Industrial Training in 1867. Talladega College, Alabama, was the first institution to adopt this method of instruction.

*Supt.*—What interesting feature of missionary work is connected with the mission at Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska?

*A Class.*—In addition to the church and school at Cape Prince of Wales a herd of reindeer is maintained. These reindeer are used as horses and move with their sledges very swiftly over the ice and snow. They furnish milk; when they are killed their meat is used for the table and their hides to cover the tents or furnish carpets for the floors or made into garments. The bones are cunningly carved into needles and other implements for work or used as ornaments.

*Supt.*—What is the work of Christian Patriotism in Porto Rico?

*School.*—The work here is the Christian instruction of nearly a million people who have recently come under our flag.

*Supt.*—What work has the American Missionary Association in Porto Rico?

*A Teacher.*—The Association has nine churches with a membership of about five hundred Porto Ricans. It has thirty-five outstations, many of which will grow into churches. It has one school with five instructors and nearly one hundred pupils. This school is called the Blanche Kellogg Institute, and is situated at Santurce.

1 *Supt.*—What is the great need at Blanche Kellogg Institute?

*Treasurer of S. S.*—The great need is contributions of money to complete the erection of Christian Endeavor Hall to be used as a chapel, a dormitory and school rooms for this important school.

*Supt.*—Why should we contribute to the work of the A. M. A.?

*A Bible Class.*—We should contribute because every condition of Christian Patriotism urges us to do so. The safety and strength of our country's future largely depends upon such work as the American Missionary Association is doing. The result of this Lincoln Memorial service, breathing the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, should lead every one of us to make genuine sacrifice that the humblest peoples under our flag may have the opportunities of Christian education and training for the best citizenship. The collection which we gather today for the American Missionary Association is the thermometer which marks the warmth or coldness of our Christian Patriotism.

**Offering** for the AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION gathered.

**Hymn:** "BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC."

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord ;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored ;  
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword :  
His day is marching on.

*Refrain*—Glory, Glory Hallelujah.

He has sounded forth a trumpet that shall never call retreat ;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat ;  
Oh ! be swift my soul to answer Him, be jubilant my feet :  
His truth is marching on.

*Refrain*—Glory, Glory Hallelujah.

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me :  
As He died to make men holy let us die to make men free :  
His Word is marching on.

*Refrain*—Glory, Glory Hallelujah.

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