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Birthday at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee,  
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# **Lincoln Pilgrimage and Celebration**

*Celebration of Lincoln's Birthday at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee,  
February 10-12, 1917*

By  
Robert L. Kincaid, President  
Lincoln Memorial University  
Harrogate, Tennessee

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# **Lincoln Pilgrimage and Celebration**

*Celebration of Lincoln's Birthday at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee,  
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By  
Robert L. Kincaid

Of all the events connected with the story and development of Lincoln Memorial University, none was more colorful and spectacular than a celebration held on the campus February 10 to 12, 1917, on the occasion of the 108th birthday of Abraham Lincoln and the 20th anniversary of the chartering of the college.

It is appropriate that the story of this celebration be re-told at this time. We are on the threshold of a new epoch in the development of Lincoln Memorial University. In a report which I submitted to the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting held in June, 1950, I outlined some immediate and future objectives which should soon be attained. These objectives represent the plans and hopes of the founders, and have been kept constantly in mind by succeeding administrations. The impetus given to the expansion program by the 1917 Lincoln celebration was important and lasting. But it is only now, after thirty-three years, that some of the

goals outlined then are now near realization.

It has been my privilege to witness this growth of Lincoln Memorial University since I enrolled as a student on January 15, 1912. Except for a period during World War I, I have been actively identified with the institution in some capacity, either as a student, alumnus, member of the Board, or as a staff officer. During that period I have attended every important meeting held on the campus and have become acquainted with most of the national leaders and philanthropic men and women who have visited the institution taken part in its work, and brought encouraging messages to the students. It is an inspiring thing to grow up with an institution with so worthy a record of service to humanity.

Now that we are pushing forward to new goals, memories of many outstanding events on the campus come to my mind. But I regard the national celebration of Lincoln's birthday held in 1917 as the most significant





*The Old Auditorium — Scene of Celebration*

and far-reaching in the history of our institution. It was at a time of solemn forebodings, when the United States was being swept into a new role in world affairs. I can easily recall many of the hundreds of distinguished visitors and the thousands of local people who crowded upon our campus at that time, and took part in an impressive ceremony of renewed faith and dedication to the cause of liberty and freedom.

Our institution was then little more than a "barefoot college," founded twenty years before as a living memorial to Abraham Lincoln, to provide "education for the children of the humble, common people of America among whom Lincoln was born." General O. O. Howard's twelve years of service in building the institution had ended with his death on October 26, 1909. New friends and leaders had taken up his work. Dr. George Allen Hubbell, a devoted president with heart aflame for service, and Dr. John Wesley Hill, as Chancellor, with a broad vision of what the institution should be, had enlisted the support of many important philanthropists. To create a wider interest in the institution, it was arranged for a national celebration of Lincoln's birthday to be held at the college near historic Cumberland Gap.

The echoes of that celebration have not

yet died away on the campus of Lincoln Memorial University. In bringing to the campus cabinet members, Senators, Congressmen, governors, college presidents, writers, publicists, newspapermen, industrialists, and national leaders, the occasion marked a new day in the development of the college. There are still many friends and contributors to its work among the American people whose interest and support were obtained at that time.

Credit for this unique promotion event must go to the late Joe Mitchell Chapple of Boston, Massachusetts, at that time editor of the *National Magazine*. Mr. Chapple was an internationally known journalist who first became interested in Lincoln Memorial University through his friend, Robert Todd Lincoln, of Manchester, Vermont. The quiet and retiring son of the immortal President had once told Mr. Chapple that he considered Lincoln Memorial University one of the most appropriate memorials to his father. That conversation resulted in Mr. Chapple's visit to the small college, his subsequent election to the Board of Trustees, and his conception of the plan by which the institution would receive national recognition.

Mr. Chapple outlined his plan to Dr. Hill, the newly elected Chancellor who was mak-

ing his headquarters in Washington, D. C., and to Frank A. Seiberling, of Akron, Ohio, president of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Seiberling first visited the college at Commencement in 1915 at the invitation of Judge U. L. Marvin, a veteran of the Union Army and long-time friend of the Seiberling family. The short, stocky, dynamic rubber tire pioneer and then president of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company was so impressed with the institution he accepted a place on the board and was immediately elected its president. Seiberling brought to the little college a new virility in leadership. He helped finance it through a hard period, and secured the services of Dr. John Wesley Hill, a prominent minister and secretary of the World Court League, to raise funds for new buildings and endowment. At first he paid all the salary of Dr. Hill and the expenses of the financial campaign.

Mr. Seiberling was quick to respond to Mr. Chapple's suggestion for a Lincoln celebration at Harrogate. He agreed to pay all the

costs, and urged that it be made on a national scale. Dr. Hubbell, the president, was authorized to spare no expense in making local preparations, and Dr. Hill, as the Washington representative, was to arrange the program, secure the speakers, and issue the invitations. It was decided that the celebration should cover three days, February 10 to 12, 1917, in honor of the 108th birthday of Lincoln and the 20th anniversary of the chartering of Lincoln Memorial University.

The following quotation from a booklet giving a review of the celebration describes briefly the purpose and results of the occasion:

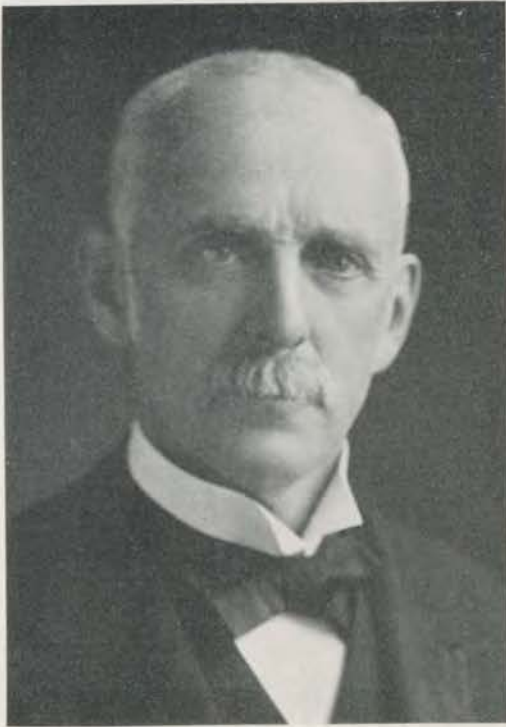
For three days, the 10th, 11th and 12th of February [1917], the eyes of the nation were on this institution [Lincoln Memorial University] nestled in the heart of the Cumberland hills, and for three days the thoughts of Lincoln lovers the world over were centered there.

Notwithstanding the critical phase of national affairs, with the country on the verge of war, Senators, Governors, Congressmen and men of high position from nearly every state in the Union suspended the serious tasks that confronted them to journey to the mountain University and join with



*Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mitchell Chapple  
Lincoln Memorial University Commencement, June 1949*





*Leslie M. Shaw*

the officers, faculty and student-body in paying homage to the memory of America's greatest man on the double anniversary of his birth and that of the institution named for him and inspired by him.

A delegation of about 100 men and women, whose roster included names noted from coast to coast, made the trip by special train from Washington. Another special train, bearing about the same number of distinguished visitors, went to Cumberland Gap from Chicago. The Washington special made the run direct, while the train from the West stopped at Hodgenville, Kentucky, where the party visited briefly the birthplace of Lincoln. In order that the Senators and Congressmen might be back in Washington to be present for roll call Tuesday, when important legislation was pending, the Washington special left on the return trip at 4 o'clock Monday afternoon. The Chicago delegation remained until 10 o'clock Monday night.

The big event for the little community of Harrogate was reminiscent of the spectacular opening of the gigantic "Four Seasons Hotel" in the spring of 1892. At that time similar special trains brought the "Four Hundred" from New York City, Washington and Chicago for the opening of a big resort which had been built at Harrogate during the industrial boom of the 'nineties in the Cumberland mountains. This time, however, the visitors were not coming for pleasure or entertain-

ment. They were joining the college staff, students and local mountain people in paying homage to a great American. This time, instead of music, dances and colorful extravaganza in an elaborate 700-room hostelry, the gathering of the dignitaries was in a simple frame temporary structure used as an auditorium, which had been erected on a portion of the foundation of the famous hotel, dismantled in 1895 after its failure. In order to accommodate the special trains used by the visiting guests, a quarter-mile-long sidetrack had been built at the Harrogate flagstop on the L & N Railroad. The guests rested and slept in the Pullman cars when they were not on the campus for the various programs.

It is easy for me to recall the hundreds of stirring speeches made during the three-day celebration by referring to the elaborate program, tied with a ribbon of red, white, and blue, which was distributed at the time. The program listed many formal addresses and scores of five-minute tributes to Abraham Lincoln. The speakers included statesmen, financiers, educators and social leaders from the great centers of the North, South, East



*Sen. Robert L. Owen*

and West. Every phase of Lincoln's life was reviewed, from his boyhood on the Kentucky frontier on through to the tragic end in the nation's capital. In the light of the events which were rapidly shaping up for World War I, Lincoln's "unswerving Americanism took on a new meaning and became a mightier example."

The roster of distinguished visitors and statesmen representing both major political parties was like a joint meeting of both Houses of Congress. Although President Woodrow Wilson could not be present, he sent greetings to the delegates assembled and expressed deep interest in the success of Lincoln Memorial University. His words of commendation have often been quoted: "I have for a long time been genuinely interested in the welfare of Lincoln Memorial University. I wish I could lend something more than my mere personal approval of the fulfillment of your plans. May I not take the liberty of bidding you God-speed in them?"

As an observer at the celebration, I was particularly impressed by a number of major addresses. Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma stirred the immense audience with his eloquent address on "Lincoln, the Man of the People." Another was a scholarly address of Leslie M. Shaw, former Secretary of the Treasury under Theodore Roosevelt, on the subject, "The Incomparable Lincoln." Neither can I forget the oratorical forensics of big, rough-hewn Senator James E. Watson of Indiana, who was cheered to the echoes by his speech, "Lincoln, the Man of the Mountains." Senator George W. Norris, of Nebraska, was young at that time, but he made a lasting impression on me. He reminded me of Daniel Webster with his deep-set eyes. He gestured with clenched fists. His subject, "Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence," permitted him to sound a clarion call for a new revival of patriotism.

A unique address which I will always remember was made by the famous publisher, S. S. McClure. This Irish-born protagonist of a new type of journalism in the United States had just returned from a long tour of



*Sen. George W. Norris*

war-torn Europe. He was filled with foreboding disaster for the world. He was the last speaker on Sunday night, February 11, and already the audience was tired from the long addresses which preceded him. This made no difference with McClure. He declared that the outcome of the European War depended upon the success of the German U-boat campaign or the action of Russia, ever the unpredictable. He went into long details concerning the causes of the War and unfolded a portentous story. He talked on and on as the night progressed, and went far past midnight. Most of the audience walked out on him, but I was among the few who remained. He did not seem to be disturbed by his tiring audience, because he had a story to tell.

To me the most moving address of the entire occasion was made by Congressman Caleb Powers of Southeastern Kentucky. Powers was a typical mountain man, who had served a long term in prison when he was being tried as an accomplice in the assassination of Governor William Goebel, of Kentucky, in 1901. After several mistrials,



he had been pardoned and had been re-elected several times to Congress. His subject was "Lincoln's Kentucky Home." My heart was warmed by his impassioned portrayal of the strength and character of the misunderstood people of the mountains. The audience was tremendously moved by his closing statement:

Amid these towering Appalachian hills, where Abraham Lincoln lived as a boy—here in this very region—is the greatest reservoir of pure, unadulterated Anglo-Saxon blood to be found anywhere under the folds of Old Glory! The trouble is that we have been bottled up, so to speak; there was no way for our ancestors to know the difference between this mountain country, with its natural disadvantages, with its handicaps, and the conditions out yonder in the eastern states or in the territory of the northwest out of which have come the great states of Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. Our ancestors were here, far removed from the marts of trade, from the great thought centers of the world, with no vehicles of transportation, no lakes, no railroads, no roads worthy of the name.

But better days are at hand. It is such endeavors as the Lincoln Memorial University that are not only spreading the light of education among the mountain people, but are bringing the rest of the country into a better realization of the great treasure of honorable manhood and womanhood that is stored here.

Among the speakers were scores of other Congressmen who gave short tributes to Lincoln. I recall particularly C. Bascom Slemph, from the Ninth District of Virginia, who was later to become the secretary of President



*Caleb Powers*



*Sen. James E. Watson*

Coolidge. Eloquent tributes were made by Jacob E. Meeker, of Missouri; William P. Borland, of Missouri; F. S. Purnell, of Indiana; George A. Loud, of Michigan; John A. Elston, of California; Sydney Anderson, of Minnesota; Charles H. Sloan, of Minnesota; Merrill Moores, of Indiana; Homer P. Snyder, of New York; James A. Frear, of Wisconsin; Frederick O. Hicks, of New York; Scott Ferris, of Oklahoma; Thomas Gallagher, of Illinois; James V. McClintic, of Oklahoma; Fred A. Britten, of Illinois; and James C. McLaughlin, of Michigan.

One of the most interesting addresses was made by Henry R. Rathbone, president of the Hamilton Club, of Chicago. He was the son of Major Rathbone, who was in the presidential box at Ford's Theatre on the night of the assassination. He reviewed the events of that tragic night as the story had been told to him by his father.

Significant emphasis in the program was given by a number of speakers to the educational service rendered by Lincoln Memorial University. Dr. A. E. Winship of Boston,

Massachusetts, editor of the *Journal of Education* and Trustee of Lincoln Memorial University, sounded the key note on the first meeting Saturday morning. In discussing "Lincoln's Educational Mission," he stressed the educational ideals of the college bearing Lincoln's name. He said, "Lincoln Memorial University is exposing the native American spirit of one hundred years ago to the light of the 20th century; and Professor McCall of Columbia University and Jennie Burkes, Assistant State Superintendent of Alabama [two graduates of L. M. U.] are the rich illumination from the inspiration of Lincoln Memorial University."

Dr. W. S. Currell, President of the University of South Carolina, spoke of the humanitarian attitude of Lincoln toward the South. He praised Lincoln for his generosity, stating that Lincoln was the South's best friend, and asserted that had he lived, the South would have recovered from the ravages of war at least a decade before she did; and that the greatest of all her problems—the race problem—would have been much nearer to a satisfactory solution than it is today had his life been extended. Another educational leader, Dr. Henry S. Barker, President of the University of Kentucky, spoke on the subject, "Lincoln, Kentucky's Foremost Son." He referred to Lincoln as a Kentuckian of the purest Anglo-Saxon type and stated that the descendants of the early pioneers in the Appalachian region were endowed with Lincoln attributes of character, integrity and love of liberty. He praised the work of Lincoln Memorial University in training new leaders for the decades to come. Dr. J. A. Morehead, President of Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia, discussed the people of the Appalachian region and asserted that this section has the greatest undeveloped resource of character and leadership to be found in America. With the spirit of Lincoln touching the lives of these people, he stated that the nation could expect new strength and virility from the development of this great resource of citizenship.

Another phase of Lincoln's life was discuss-

ed by Dr. S. J. McPherson, Headmaster of the Lawrenceville, New Jersey, School for Boys. He discussed the boyhood of Lincoln and emphasized his innate qualities of justice, sympathy and understanding of his fellow man. He said that he felt Lincoln's greatest quality was his absolute faith in the supremacy and final triumph of the moral forces.

Bishop Samuel Fallows, Chicago, Illinois, in his address linked General Howard with Lincoln in the establishment of Lincoln Memorial University. He stated:

Before you are the pictures of two men. One was my Commander-in-chief, the other was my Commander in the Army of Tennessee. That noble man, General Howard, had on his heart and mind the conception of this great and growing institution. Again and again I have conversed with him regarding it. The last service that he was ever to perform for the Army of Tennessee was an address that he was to give it, and this University was to have been his theme. Three weeks before the Army of Tennessee met, he slept that last long sleep, but this University was on his heart, and he is still living, as the great man among the greatest men of the world is still living, and I feel in my heart of hearts that they have been together, and that they have not lost their love for the Nation they both helped to save, or for this institution which they helped to create.

Among those who stressed spiritual phases of Lincoln's life was Dr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, pastor of the All Souls Church of Chicago.



William Hale "Big Bill" Thompson





Gov. A. O. Stanley

Dr. Jones, with gentle blue eyes and flowing white beard was patriarchal in appearance. Ralph Zaring, of Chicago, Editor of the *Western Christian Advocate*, spoke on Lincoln's Bible. Dr. F. B. Avery, rector of an Episcopal Church in Cleveland, Ohio, a trustee and founder of the University, described the early days when he was a co-worker with General Howard.

Speakers from the Chicago area were Dr. M. V. O'Shea of the University of Wisconsin; Max Pam, of Chicago; and Dr. William A. Burch of the Hamilton Club of Chicago. John A. Stewart, Chairman of the American Peace Commission, discussed the British interest in Lincoln, and J. Horace McFarland, Chairman of the American Civic Association, talked on "Lincoln and Playgrounds." Among the financiers who were present and made talks were: William S. Shields, of Knoxville, president of the City National Bank and brother of U. S. Senator John K. Shields; and Milton W. Harrison, of New York City, Secretary of the American Bankers Association. Norman C. Raff, of Canton, Ohio, and Captain C. C. Calhoun of Wash-

ington, D. C., were also on the program.

Other addresses were by Newton W. Gilbert, former Vice Governor of the Phillipines; Henry Allen Tupper, former special Peace Commissioner to Mexico; Henry Solon Graves, Chief of the U. S. Forest Service, Washington, D. C.; John Warren Hill, former Assistant District Attorney, New York City; and Congressman Sam R. Sells, of Tennessee. Joseph R. Burres, of Chicago, Franklin C. Rutan, of Chicago, Frederick Dennett, former Land Commissioner, Washington, D.C., and Major Louis Livingston Seaman, of New York City also took part in the program.

A unique interlude in the round of speeches was the formal presentation to the University by Dr. J. Ackerman Coles, of New York City, of a handsome bronze statue, by E. Drouot, exemplifying the dignity of labor. It was also announced that a bequest of \$30,000 in the will of Daniel C. Remick had been given to the University.

Since no roster of the visitors was kept, it is impossible to name all the important guests who came for the program. Most of the trustees of the University were on hand. Among those not already mentioned were Arthur L. Garford, Elyria, Ohio; Clarence O. Miller, Lancaster, Ohio; E. P. Fairchild, Rutherford, New Jersey; Charles Eager, Knoxville, Tennessee; Dr. I. S. Anderson, Rose Hill, Virginia; Judge Herman Y. Hughes, Tazewell, Tennessee and Judge J. H. S. Morison, Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. I grow weary in trying to name the most important prominent guests who made the pilgrimage to Cumberland Gap and Harrogate for this greatest event in the annals of Lincoln Memorial University.

Many letters and greetings were sent to the University from distinguished Americans who could not accept the invitation to be present. The greeting most appreciated was a letter from Robert Todd Lincoln, of Chicago, Illinois. This is preserved in the files of the Department of Lincolniana and is one of the treasured items of the institution:

You cannot realize how sincerely I regret that my health will not permit my being with you in person at this celebration of my father's birthday in connection with the twentieth anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial University at Cumberland Gap, Tenn. The work which this school is doing



and plans to do strongly commends itself to me as it must to all who realize the value to our American institutions of popular and practical education in a community of the origin and surroundings of this one. The gathering of so large a number of representative men to participate in this event indicates the hopeful extent of the growth of the ideal upon which this undertaking is founded and is to progress.

Former President William Howard Taft also sent greetings and commended the work of Lincoln Memorial University. He said, "There is no part of the country or the world where education can do so much as in the region for which your University furnishes the opportunity for advanced education." Warm commendations were also received from Governor Frank O. Lowden of Illinois, Governor Arthur Capper of Kansas, Governor J. A. A. Burnquist of Minnesota, Governor Woodbridge Ferris of Michigan, Governor G. W. Clarke of Iowa, and Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania. Among many other tributes from national leaders of the time were those received from Senator John K. Shields, of Tennessee, Wellington Koo, ambassador from China, Major General Leonard Wood, and Charles W. Fairbanks, former Vice President of the United States.

The extended program covering the three days was featured by musical numbers provided by a band from Knoxville, Tennessee, and a chorus of 100 students of the University under the direction of Professor A. Vernon McFee. The audience was greatly thrilled when Mrs. Frank A. Seiberling of Akron, Ohio, sang "My Captain." Mrs. Seiberling, the wife of the President of the Board of Trustees, was a well-known music lover and contralto singer. Her gracious charm during this appearance and when she visited the college on other occasions will always be remembered. Another unique feature of the musical program was a song by Miss Johnson, soloist for All Souls Church, Chicago. The words of the song were written by Jenkin Lloyd Jones, the pastor, and were set to the music of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The program was flavored by short addresses of a number of students of the University. This gave the visitors a conception of the student life of the institution. The

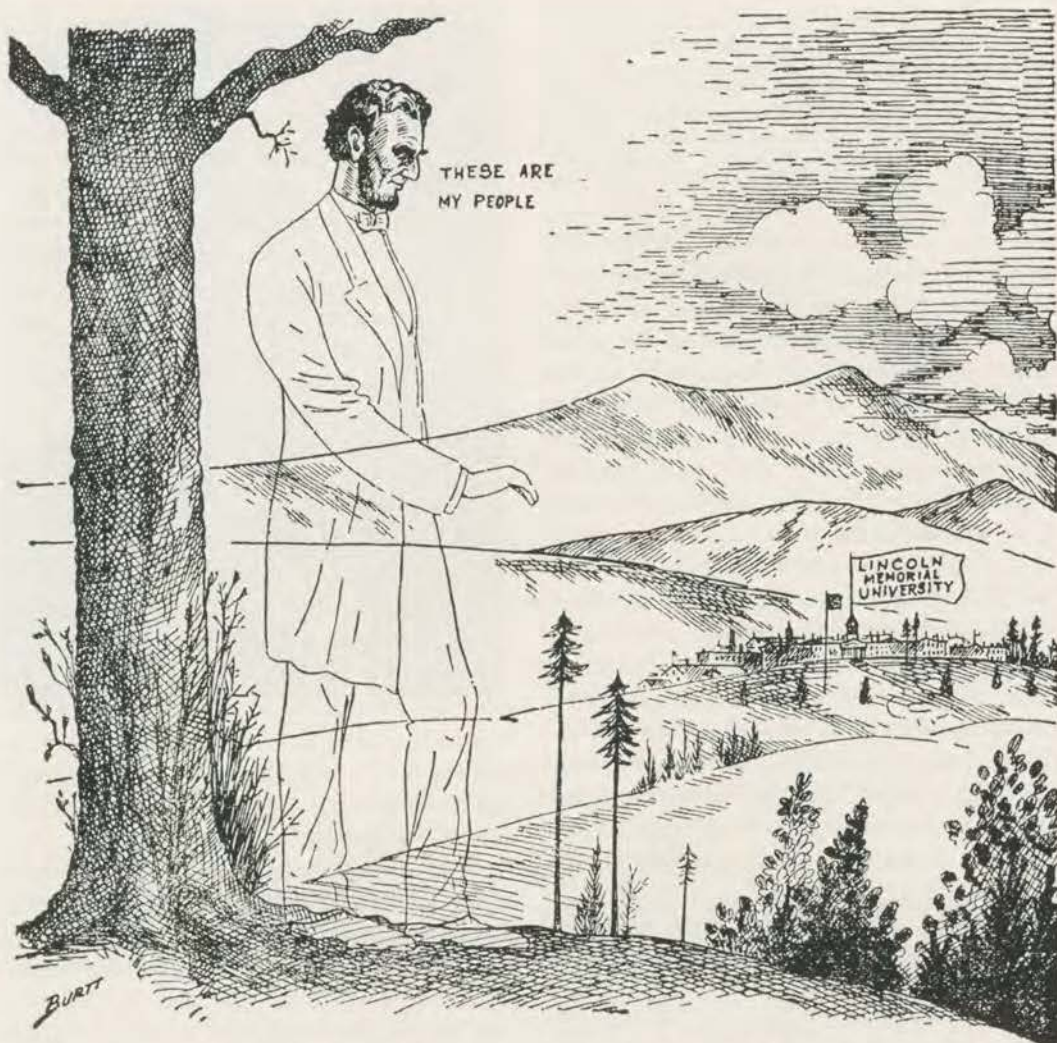
opening program on Saturday morning, February 10, was featured by a welcome address by Miss Malinda Chance, a Senior from Virginia. She reviewed the historic setting of L. M. U., pictured the development of the region after the coming of Daniel Boone, and outlined the present life of the mountain people. In closing, she said, "Here in the heart of nature, free from the lures of the city, boys and girls have instilled into their souls the secret of right living. Here they learn that happiness is gained by unselfish service. Here they learn the dignity and value of labor. Lincoln Memorial University teaches them to find themselves. It sends out men and women capable of bearing the burdens of the nation."

Another student speaker later in the program was L. G. Bailey, a Senior from South Carolina. He referred to Lincoln Memorial University as "an oasis in the desert where those who thirst may come and drink." He expressed gratitude to the institution which enabled him to work his way through college and for the aid it gave similar students in finding an opportunity in life.

Other students who spoke similarly of their impressions and of what the University had meant to them were H. T. Boston, later to win the French "Croix de Guerre" for bravery in World War I; and Fred A. Jones, a brilliant student majoring in science, from Harrogate. Others who told their story were Alfred Baldwin, Omer Spratt, Miss Frances Carlisle, R. H. Lambright and Calmus Beatty.

It was left to me as a graduate of 1915 who had returned to do publicity work for the college to give a brief talk on the subject "Lincoln Memorial University of the Future." Assigned the topic by Dr. Hubbell, I had worked carefully to make the most of the five minute limit. Awed by the distinguished visitors and the audience which packed the old auditorium, I was not prepared for the enthusiastic reception which my little speech received. When I left the platform and went back to my seat through a long aisle, dozens of people in the audience reached out to grasp my hand. Later I learned that some of the visitors playfully intimated that Dr. Hill had





Cartoon by E. E. Burt, Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal & Tribune.

written my speech. Whether or not that impression got abroad, I can truthfully say that the speech was my own and had not been seen by anyone. Since my talk was in the nature of a prophecy, it is quoted in full at the end of this story. This vision of the future institution I gave at the time has not been completely realized, but I am made humble by the fact that after thirty-three years I have been given the responsibility for helping to make the dream come true.

One of the most impressive high points of the program occurred at the last session on Monday, February 12. I presented the following resolution to the boys of the audience, which was unanimously passed:

*Resolved*, That we the male students of Lincoln Memorial University will be ready at a moment's notice to enlist under the flag of the United States, should war be declared by the Congress of the United States, and a call made for volunteers by the President of the United States.

This unexpected and unpremeditated action by the students of the University brought prolonged cheers from the visitors and the audience. During the entire program the tenseness of the international situation was evident. Practically every speaker referred to it. Dr. Hill had delivered a great eulogy of President Wilson when he read the greetings from the President announcing he could not be present. The action of the students in pledging their services should the United

States be drawn into the War was sent over the wires and printed in most of the newspapers of the country. It demonstrated the patriotic spirit of the students of the institution.

Now I can tell the background of this action. I did not conceive the idea. That morning I was in the wings of the auditorium off the stage mingling with waiting visitors, when Joe Mitchell Chapple, the Boston publicist, rushed up to me and placed the resolution in my hands. It was scrawled in pencil by Mr. Chapple. He said, "When the next speaker gets through, you go out on the stage and read this resolution." I read it over hurriedly and saw the implications of it. It was not my business to present the resolution, but I obeyed Mr. Chapple. I am sure that the unanimous action in passing the resolution by the students reflected their devotion to their country, but I have often wondered how much it influenced their action when so many of them responded to the call of their country, which came so soon thereafter.

This resolution was not the only one adopted. Also at the final session, former U. S. Senator James A. Towne of Minnesota submitted another, pledging support to President Wilson in the international crisis. This resolution was also adopted by the entire audience and was later transmitted to the President. It read as follows:

Resolved, by an audience representing every section of the republic, every occupation and profession of its population and every complexion of its political opinion, assembled on the birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln in the heart of the mountain and forest country that gave him to the world for the purpose of consecrating in his name a great institution of learning to perpetuate the memory of his character and service to his country and to all mankind; that we hereby send the President of the United States, now bearing the weight of a heavier responsibility than any of his predecessors but Lincoln himself, was called upon to bear, a salutation of patriotic sympathy and devotion, an assurance of confidence in his wisdom and self-restraint, and his courage, and a pledge that his determination to preserve peace so long as it may be kept with honor; but to maintain if need must be the self-respect and duty of the country at every hazard shall be supported and sustained by the united and undaunted citizenship of America.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of

the celebration for the students themselves was the opportunity to get personally acquainted with the distinguished visitors. When the long speaking programs were over, the visitors swarmed over the campus, talked with individual students, inspected the facilities of the college, and playfully entered into the spirit of the occasion. Senator Norris proved his ability to fraternize in a democratic spirit by going to the dairy barn and milking four cows. Dr. John Wesley Hill and Joe Mitchell Chapple stood by to see that he did the job properly. Mayor William H. Thompson, a controversial figure of Chicago, Illinois, and known as "Big Bill," always had a group of students and local people around him. They were also impressed by Governor A. O. Stanley of Kentucky, who delivered the first major address of welcome on Saturday morning, February 10. Governor Stanley, the distinguished orator from Lincoln's native state, was in splendid form.

As I recall the various men in the visiting delegation, I was perhaps more impressed with Leslie M. Shaw than any other. This personal feeling for Mr. Shaw may be explained, however, because he made it a point to take me aside after my speech and give me some instructions on public speaking. He praised my address but indicated that I could make great improvement. I was expectantly waiting for further pointers when someone came along and took him away. It was also on this occasion that I became well acquainted with Joe Mitchell Chapple, to whom I timidly divulged my ambition to become a newspaperman. I remember the grandiloquent sweep of his arm when he said, "Let it soar!"

The publicity coverage for the celebration was nation-wide. Press representatives, magazine writers, and reporters for metropolitan newspapers were on hand. The two Knoxville, Tennessee papers, *The Journal and Tribune* and *The Sentinel*, gave the most complete coverage. E. E. Burt, cartoonist for the *Journal and Tribune*, sketched a shadowy figure of Lincoln standing with outstretched hand over the Cumberland mountains and Lincoln



Memorial University. The caption was "These Are My People." Editorials commending the college appeared in many metropolitan papers. *The Independent*, a national weekly, commented in an editorial: "The celebration was a splendid tribute to the worth of the American institution working without sound of trumpet among those fine Americans of the pure breed."

A small bronze Lincoln medal was distributed to the visitors as a souvenir of the occasion. This medal had the face of Lincoln on one side, and engraved on the obverse side were these words: "108th Birthday of Abraham Lincoln and 20th Anniversary of Lincoln Memorial University, Feb. 10, 11, 12, 1917, Cumberland Gap, Tennessee."

It is impossible to evaluate the importance of this great celebration in promoting the work of Lincoln Memorial University. It was designed by Dr. Hill and Dr. Hubbell to be the opening feature of a campaign for a million dollars in endowment. Although it failed immediately in this objective due to America's entry in World War I, it did result in many important contributions to the college. The nucleus of an endowment which General O. O. Howard had raised prior to his death was considerably increased during Dr. Hill's long tenure as Chancellor.

Following the celebration, Leslie M. Shaw authored a little booklet entitled "A Patriotic Pilgrimage From Boston, New York, Washington and Chicago to Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland Gap, Tenn. Lincoln Birthday Celebration, 1917." This booklet was a series of "cameo sketches" written to Dr. Hill as an aftermath of the celebration. It was an excellent appeal for the support of Lincoln Memorial University. In his final letter, Mr. Shaw wrote:

Finally, I want to say, with reference to our delightful and inspiring visit to Lincoln Memorial University, that you and Mr. Seiberling managed to assemble as harmonious and delightful an aggregation as I have ever seen. A special train carrying one hundred representative people from Washington and an equal number from Chicago, including its mayor, without a grouch, a self-seeker, a jealous orator or singer, is worth commemorating. Senators, Congressmen, mayors, manufacturers, bankers, merchants, newspaper writers, governors,

orators and singers, together with those who knew they could neither speak nor sing, but cheerfully tried to do both, very naturally fraternized and, having fallen in love with the country, the mountain lads and lasses, the object of the excursion, very naturally returned thinking better of themselves and looking at life with improved optimism, and they parted with only one regret—that good-byes had to be said.

Extracts of some of the more important tributes to Lincoln during the celebration are reprinted herewith. It is unfortunate that the complete manuscripts of the addresses were not preserved by the Program Committee. A full transcript of those addresses would constitute the most unusual and outstanding tribute to the Sixteenth President ever made on a single occasion.

#### WELCOME FROM LINCOLN'S NATIVE STATE

by  
A. O. Stanley  
Governor of Kentucky

In Lincoln Memorial University you have the opportunity to follow the man who was wise, patient as destiny, temperate in all things, kind when other men were cruel, gentle when other men were truculent, forgiving when other men were vindictive.

He made manual labor dignified by the destruction of black slavery. I am the son of a Confederate brigadier; my people were slave-owners, on either side of the house, for generations, and I reverently thank God that there is not a man under the Stars and Stripes who is not free today. He struck the manacles from the wrists and ankles of the slaves, and then the shackles from the souls of the owners. Labor became honorable, as manual labor never would have become honorable in the South with slavery. He opened the doors of industry and labor. Today you can work, work with your hands and other people think just as much of you.

Here under the leader of your President, and the example of this rail-splitter, I hope to see the sons of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee come down from the glory of the mountains, bringing with them, as a breath from the heights, strength and inspiration to the states they are destined to serve.

#### THE INCOMPARABLE LINCOLN

by  
Leslie M. Shaw  
Former Secretary of the Treasury

Lincoln was not an abolitionist. He never belonged to or affiliated with the abolition party. The platform on which Mr. Lincoln was elected was not an abolition platform. Mr. Lincoln set his face strongly against the spread of slavery and his party promised that all free soil should remain free, "Thus far, but no farther," was its position.

It is undoubtedly true that Mr. Lincoln hoped for an expected ultimate abolishment of slavery;

for he expressed the opinion that the nation could not continue part slave and part free. But, if he ever so much as intimated how that end might be attained, it has never been recorded. It is noteworthy, however, that he signed the emancipation proclamation with many misgivings and after much delay. The abolition of slavery by proclamation was a war measure and an incident of the war. The states that sought severance from the Union were quite as much displeased on account of the protective tariff as upon the issue of slavery. When the constitution of the Confederacy was adopted it expressly prohibited a protective tariff and guaranteed slavery.

Mr. Lincoln believed in three co-ordinated branches of government, and he did not believe in any subordinate branch. He did not believe that the judiciary should advise the Congress or executive. He did not believe that the Congress should interfere with the interpretation or the administration of the laws which it saw fit to enact, and he did not believe the executive should attempt to dictate to the courts or make appointments to the bench with a view of securing certain interpretations of statutes, nor did he believe that the executive should coerce the Congress or lobby the enactment of laws.

In other words, Mr. Lincoln was a conservative of the most pronounced type, an uncompromising protectionist, and an American. He believed in peace, but in peace with victory, for he wrote to Charles Francis Adams, our ambassador to England, as follows:

"If the British government in any way approach you directly or indirectly with propositions which assume or contemplate an appeal to the president on the subject of our internal affairs, whether it seems to imply a purpose to dictate or to mediate or to advise, or even to solicit or persuade, you will answer that you are forbidden to debate, to hear, or in any way to receive, to entertain, or transmit any communication of the kind."

It requires somewhat more than a deep interest in man as man, somewhat more than an abiding love of country, somewhat more than settled convictions, to establish a similitude with Abraham Lincoln.

## LINCOLN AND LABOR

by

Marcus M. Marks

President, Borough of Manhattan

Lincoln never took the paternalistic attitude toward labor. He was broader, wiser, more appreciative of the spirit of fraternity. Many well meaning men and women today still commit the error of patting labor on the back. So-called welfare work introduced into factory, mine, school and home fails of its purpose when superimposed by a would-be philanthropic agency. The working man wants no favor. He demands only a simple justice. Fair wages, short hours and proper working conditions are his due. Safety, comfort, sunlight, ventilation and general protection during employment are not gifts but only fair payment for services rendered. There is at times a suspicion on the part of labor that the cost of welfare work is deducted from the wages due. This suspicion nullifies the usefulness of the offering. Employers are beginning to understand what Lincoln intuitively perceived concerning

the spirit of liberty and independence of labor.

The men of Washington and Lincoln's time fought for free institutions with patriotic self-sacrifice; we, on the contrary, having inherited the priceless treasure of self-government without an effort on our part, do not fully appreciate the value of the gift. We are deeply absorbed in gainful occupations. Business and money-getting consume our thought, and instead of taking active part in municipal, state and national affairs, in clean politics, we are content to "sell our birth-right for a mess of pottage." Our diffidence encourages some of the public servants to assume the air of arrogant masters. Lincoln's message should be sounded and echoed throughout the land: "Beware of surrendering political power." Arouse, good citizens, be diligent, perform your share in co-operation with government. The patriotism of peace should show itself in self-sacrificing civic service.

Let us never cease glorifying the memory of our most rugged, simple American; the honest son of toil; the real man, whose heart overflowed with love of mankind; the true, patriotic statesman whose life has been made immortal by giving a new interpretation of liberty by presenting to the world the highest ideal of Americanism—Abraham Lincoln.

## LINCOLN, MAN OF THE PEOPLE

by

Robert L. Owen

United States Senator, of Oklahoma

From many states we come to honor Lincoln's memory. From abject poverty to the presidential chair he came. For his great physical strength and courage, for his absolute honesty and industry, respected. For his commanding intellect, compelling logic, honored. For his utter unselfishness and true patriotism, admired. For his gentleness and tenderness to others, beloved. For his magnificent service in saving the Union, in abolishing human slavery, immortal.

Let us not come merely to burn incense in memory of his great human virtues, but let us, with heartfelt patriotism, cultivate the principles of which he was the great exemplar, and dedicate ourselves to make these principles a vital force in promoting the happiness of our beloved countrymen.

Lincoln believed in the people.

He believed that all the people knew more than some of the people.

Lincoln believed that a majority, "always changing easily with deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments, is the only true sovereign of a free people. Whoever rejects it does, of necessity, fly to anarchy or to despotism. Unanimity is impossible; the rule of a minority, wholly inadmissible; so that, rejecting the majority principle, anarchy or despotism in some form is all that is left."

Lincoln strongly opposed the artifices and craft of those politicians who are subtle and profound in the rights of minorities, however, always clearly recognizing the right of the humblest individual as well as minorities, to every constitutional guaranty protecting life, liberty and happiness, but vigorously condemning the heresy that minorities had a right to rule majorities.

In his mighty prayer lifted to high Heaven on the field of Gettysburg, November 19, 1863, he voiced forever the aspiration of his great heart, and spoke the hope of all democracies, when he paid tri-



bute to those who laid down their lives to maintain "a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." When he prayed that those who had given their lives in this cause "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, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

This is "the unfinished work" which Lincoln pointed out at Gettysburg.

This is "the great task remaining before us" which he emphasized.

Let us, as Americans who love Lincoln and his principles, recognize "the great task remaining before us" is not yet perfectly accomplished.

Let us promote government of the people by the people, remembering what Lincoln said in his first inaugural address: "Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?"

The great task remaining before us of stable, popular government, is being worked out by the American people through the initiative and referendum and recall, the preferential ballot, the publicity pamphlet, a mechanism which is destined to enthrone the sovereignty of majorities and to establish forever a wise and beneficent government which was in Lincoln's mind when he prayed that "government by the people should not perish from the earth."

## WILSON AND LINCOLN

by

John Wesley Hill

Chancellor, Lincoln Memorial University

There is one in our midst today, one in the White House facing an international crisis, "walking in the light" as it was revealed to him as Lincoln walked in the light as it was revealed to him. In the emergency through which Lincoln passed, Lincoln was deprived of the support of the people.

If we would pay a tribute to Lincoln we could do so in no more efficient manner than in upholding the hands of President Wilson and in upholding his hands, uphold the most perfect embodiment of civil and religious liberty the world has ever known symbolized by the Stars and Stripes.

And thus while we stand for adjudication rather than military combat and the pen rather than the sword, yet we let the world know that while we have strength for the weak, charity for the unfortunate, our rights must be respected and that our flag floats over every sea the emblem of the sovereignty of a mighty nation pledged for the protection of the humblest citizen beneath it.

It is better to recognize and honor such peerless leaders while they are at work in our midst than to wait until the death certificate is issued. Could Lincoln—slandered, maligned, criticized, assailed and assassinated—have heard the faintest echo of the tumultuous applause that now greets his name, the prolonged night through which he passed would not have been starless. Could McKinley have heard the agonizing groans of the nation above his confined dust, his heart would have been strengthened during the burdensome days of the Spanish American War.

There is another in our midst today, standing at the center of a world crisis. Great interest and issues are revolving about him. The destiny of the nation

is in his hands. His burden is as great as any ever imposed on mortal man. Yet in the midst of the tumult, he is working so silently that we are scarcely conscious of his presence. Power is always silent.

At such a time as this, partisanship should disappear, patriotism should occupy the foreground, and every man who loves the flag and who believes in the protection of American rights and the preservation of our national self-respect, owes it to his citizenship to stand loyally by the President, to uphold his hands, and thus contribute to the solution of the great problems which confront him. This loyalty to his successor will be our best tribute to Abraham Lincoln.

## LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE

by

Robert L. Kincaid, Class of 1915

Lincoln Memorial University

Mr. Warren H. Manning has laid out the grounds of the future Lincoln Memorial University. He has grouped the departments into a remarkable arrangement and he has pictured the material university as it would appear with splendid buildings for every department. He has planned the men's group, where the young men of the university can have every incentive for growth and development; he has sketched the group for women, where the young ladies may enjoy the comforts and pleasures of real home life and at the same time be in the atmosphere of a college; in the industrial departments the young men and young women may become practical and useful workers in all the mechanical arts.

But this will be only the material Lincoln Memorial University of the future. The university which I would portray will present a grander prospect than mere driveways and brick buildings; it would be an answer to the cry that is going up from the hearts of the boys and girls in our southern hills, and will be the incarnation of their hopes and dreams.

When one understands that the restless spirit which glows in the breast of the mountain youth is about his only capital, the greatness of our university will be better comprehended. The greatest heritage of these young people is an intensity of ambition which is acutely sensitive to all kindling impulses and which makes their limitation hard to bear. This ambition pushes them beyond the limits of their home communities and develops within them desires which need only to be directed along the proper ways of endeavor.

Can you understand that striving spirit at the heart of the mountain lad? Can you understand a heartache which seldom finds its solace? Unhappy; dissatisfied; hungry for knowledge; yearning for an opportunity; alert for every chance to understand the mysteries of life and to better their conditions of living; faithful to their ideals and courageous in their efforts to widen their visions, the boys and girls of the mountains feed the flame of aspiration in their hearts, and yet hardly dare to dream of achieving their ideals.

How many have stood upon the mountain peaks with an undefinable ache in their hearts! How many have listened to the laugh of the hill's streams running to the bosoms of the dells and have answered in their souls with a mute cry of anguish at the hopelessness of it all. How many



have cried out in their despair, "I am nothing; the world is so big and so far away and so mysterious, and I am so small; there is little hope for me!" How many have walked alone at night, under the shadows of the hills, with only the stars as their witness, communing with their spirits and dreaming of accomplishments which they believed impossible! Infinite are their ambitions; intense is their earnestness and profound their depth of feeling and native intellect. They grow up; the wistfulness in their eyes is replaced with gleams of seriousness: they go about their daily rounds of toil with the tenderness and sympathy of a Burns; they have compassion on the least of the unfortunate; with calm submission, they bear their misery and hopelessness of a brighter existence without a murmur of discontent. They pursue their simple, honest ways, living in the cemetery of their buried ideals, submitting with patient resignation to the will of their master. What greater tragedy of the human soul?

But now the light of hope has dawned, and the thrill that comes from an opportunity understood, is being registered in the responsive hearts of the boys and girls in our southern hills. No longer will it be necessary for them to grow up with their ambitions unsatisfied, and their hopes ruthlessly crushed to the earth. The prayer that has been ascending from these hills for nearly two centuries is being answered. Lincoln Memorial University is bringing to our people the boon for which they have sought all these years. Their problem has been one of arrested development; the solution one of education. Now, that the people of other sections, who have been blessed with greater opportunities, are helping in the solution of the problem, the latent powers of a neglected people will be released, and our civilization will receive a marvelous contribution of real American citizenship.

So, in describing the Lincoln Memorial University of the future, it is fitting to portray the university as an institution where the young people of our land shall have an opportunity to work out their ever-broadening ideals, and to realize the fondest hopes of their childhood. We look through the years and see the realization of Mr. Manning's plans, every department equipped for the most efficient study, every incentive for the rapid and normal development of the student.

We see it as an institution where poor boys and girls can win their education by their labor, where they can begin at the humblest stations of life and develop into efficient, practical, broad-minded workers in the various lines of activity; where boys can learn the best breeds of cattle for their fathers' farms; the right proportions of fertilizers for the soil, the best seasons in the year for planting the various crops, the popular systems of drainage, and the method of procedure in any emergency which might arise. Here the boys from the rural districts can learn the need of highways and how to build them; how to hang a gate with a swing that is true; how to construct a table that stands solidly on its legs; how to mold firm cubes of butter; how to forge a perfect link in a chain. Here the girls learn the little touches that make home life a heaven; they learn how to make fluffy, palatable biscuits that melt in the mouth; how to make a perfect piece of tailoring; how to plan and keep a home. Here, the boys and girls are taught the lessons of head, heart and hand, with emphasis placed upon the supreme ideals of work and study, independence and democracy.

The Lincoln Memorial University of the future will go farther than all this. Here the students will learn by the ache of their back and the complete utilization of the quiet hours how they can build an imperishable structure from the fancies of their youth; here they will develop strong minds and strong bodies quickened with the enthusiasm of conscious power and sustained by the exaltation of the moral victor. Here, at the future Lincoln Memorial University, with the continuation of its present ideals and by the enlargement of its field of service as outlined by these plans, will be evolved young men and young women of culture, power and character, who will go out into the world as true sons and daughters of Lincoln, prepared to serve and to achieve. Here, future heroes will be reared. In the exalted atmosphere of this institution will be created men with the courtesy and courtliness of Lee, the indomitable determination of Grant, the patriotic fire of Patrick Henry, the honest and rugged courage of Andrew Jackson, the matchless power of Henry Clay, the marvelous brilliancy of Henry W. Grady, and the sublime spirit of Lanier. Here the noblest purposes of the human heart will be incorporated in the highest resolves of the students, and the existence of the university will be made eternal through the transmission of its spirit into the life of a great people.

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