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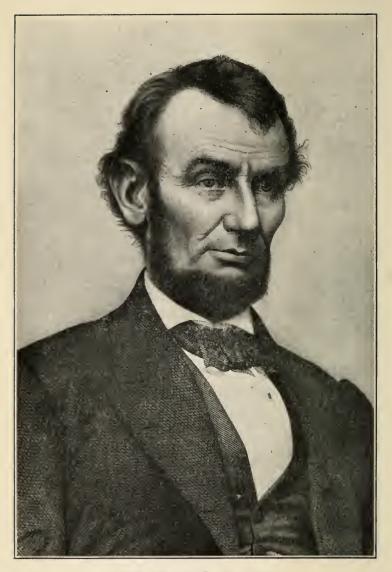


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LINCOLN THE PRESIDENT From an Engraving after a Photograph by Brady

This familiar likeness is said to have been taken at the request of Secretary Seward

THE WORKS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS MESSAGES TO CONGRESS MILITARY ORDERS AUTOBIOGRAPHY, ETC.

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PREFACE

THERE is a logical division of Lincoln's correspondence at the date when he became President. Before that his letters were largely personal, private, and professional, and when they dealt with politics, did so without the note of authority. After his inauguration as Chief Executive of the Republic, and Commander-in-chief of its armies and navies, the letters of Lincoln became official in character and content, though advisedly not always in tone. They dealt rarely with purely personal concerns, and generally treated of military and administrative matters. Largely, too, the personnel of Lincoln's correspondents changed.

Accordingly the editor of the present edition has divided the correspondence at March 4, 1861, repeating the entries of correspondents' names in the few cases where these belong to the two periods of Lincoln's career.

The correspondence is docketed by the names of addressees, and these divisions are arranged chronologically according to the date of the first letter in each division. This is the natural fashion in which Lincoln, according to the practice of all the lawyers of his day and of many at the present time, arranged his correspondence. It has the advantage to the average reader, who prefers to study character in relation to contemporaneous events, of concentrating his attention upon particular personalities, and at the same time of unfolding in the natural inductive method not only the central character of Lincoln but also the general progress of American history.

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

(Before March 4, 1861)

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CORRESPONDENCE (BEFORE MARCH 4, 1861)

Adam and Eve's Wedding Song.

In 1826, on the occasion of a wedding in his neighborhood, Lincoln wrote the following poem:

> "When Adam was created He dwelt in Eden's shade, 'As Moses has recorded, And soon a bride was made.

"Ten thousand times ten thousand Of creatures swarmed around Before a bride was formed, And yet no mate was found.

"The Lord then was not willing That man should be alone, But caused a sleep upon him, And from him took a bone,

"And closed the flesh instead thereof. And then he took the same "And of it made a woman, And brought her to the man.

"Then Adam he rejoiced To see his loving bride 'A part of his own body, The product of his side.

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