

best interests as to expend large sums for punishing and reforming men, rather than in so educating them that punishment and reform would be unnecessary.

Since then, the State has had an awakening. Then the annual appropriation to normal and common schools was \$1,100,000; now the magnificent sum of \$5,500,000 is annually appropriated and wisely expended. Then the influence of State College was limited. Now you reach out into practically every county in the Commonwealth. Your influence is widespread and you stand for all that is vigorous and progressive in this great and mighty Commonwealth.

Nor is this accidental. Your trustees in 1882 builded better than they knew. They saw the field, they measured the possibilities and in the selection of a president they secured to the College and the Commonwealth the services of one who has wrought an influence upon education throughout the State second to none.

In congratulating you upon your rapid growth and splendid development, as well as upon the creditable showing and successful work of your students who have entered upon the activities of life, let me express the hope that the success which you have achieved, may be but the forerunner of greater success, and that your beloved Doctor Atherton may long be with you. (Applause)

It is eminently fitting that a free people should set apart memorial days upon which to remind itself of the lives and characters and guiding principles of the men who have represented great crises in the history of their development.

It is pre-eminently fitting that young men who are just looking forward to the great responsibility of participating in guiding that development, should nerve their purpose and inspire their patriotism by the contemplation of heroic examples of life and duty.

We have met to-day to draw inspiration from the life and character of one of the most impressive the most commanding, the most widely acknowledged and the most beloved figures in the nation's history. Four years from yesterday will occur the hundredth anniversary

of his birth. Already the press, always active and alert to catch the trend of public thought is suggesting a proper commemoration of the event. Nothing could be more appropriate. While such a celebration would probably and properly be under the direction of the Government, it should be upon such broad and popular lines as to call out the spontaneous activities of all those who love their country, regardless of color, race or creed. Such a celebration would give an impetus to the things he stood for and would tend to deepen and intensify the regard in which he is held by a grateful people. But such an event, as well as the gathering this day of the thousands upon thousands throughout the length and breadth of the land would be purposeless indeed, unless in it were caught some vital, some uplifting thought which might build up and strengthen and renovate the nation he did so much to save.

To dwell upon his greatness, or to tell of his services would be needless in this patriotic presence; to recount the blessings which have come to the nation through him would upon this occasion be impracticable if not indeed impossible. Therefore if you will permit me I shall, in the few words I have to say, address myself not to the great and mighty events in which he was such an active and important factor, nor to the details of the great conflict which tried his own and all men's souls but rather to the little things which fitted and equipped him for the unprecipitated burdens, the awful conflicts and the great victories which were his lot. By little things I mean the things which in this busy, bustling and material age, are thought by some to be little, but which when viewed in final analysis are among the greatest in the world. One of the little things of which I speak was his reverence for his mother. Of all the things he ever said or did, none struck a truer note, none came more directly from the innermost recesses of his great and tender heart than when he said, "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my aged mother." The world owes the memory of that mother a debt of lasting gratitude that in the nine short years she was spared to him she impressed upon his heart

and soul, the large trustfulness, the loving unselfishness, the firm faith in Divine Providence with which she herself was so graciously endowed. In accounting for the greatness of the man, his mother and things she taught him must not be left out of the reckoning.

Then, too, in his humble environment he was not handicapped by wealth. Wealth to any young man is a menace and to many an utter ruin. Statistics show that only one young man in seventeen knows enough to use wisely money that is inherited. Very few men, young or old, do things unless impelled by necessity—and necessity is not born of luxury.

Lincoln little dreamed of the great part he was to play in human affairs and in the world's history. But he knew that he needed to be properly equipped for life's duties and battles, whatever the battles might be and wherever the duties might lead.

He knew that to be thus equipped, knowledge and mental discipline must be gained and that knowledge and power could not be separate and apart from righteousness—God's law from whence it alone can come. He knew that God's law must be written upon the heart and stamped upon the forehead. He thoroughly believed in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Truth and candor in every phase of his life stood out in bold relief. His love of justice and fair play, in which he is so closely followed by our present chief executive, formed a conspicuous part in his mighty make up. He believed in the simple life, and he was untainted by the degrading passions of envy, malice or hatred. He well knew that some things which were legally right, were morally wrong and he was morally great enough to say so, though in doing so he should stand alone. His magnanimity—his sobriety and temperance are known and read of all men. His heroic devotion to duty and principle, stamped him and saved him from many a fall.

But if I were to point out the one most striking feature in the life of Lincoln, the one which seems to include all the rest and the one which is the sure result of the spirit's power, it would be his great usefulness. It is an ennobling trait and it is this alone that develops true greatness. There