

But there is another reason for the spiritual pre-eminence which the council of St. John the Divine may have had in mind when they selected Lincoln to represent the 19th Century, and that was his conception of the type of man which is required to advance the Brotherhood of Man and the struggles and sacrifices he deliberately suffered in order to make himself this sort of man.

There is no doubt that Lincoln's conception of manhood and character was built up from his study of the Bible. In his childhood and youth it was the one book of the community; in his father's house it was constantly read, debated, quoted. He grew to know it textually as few men do. It colored what he wrote and cropped out in his daily conversation. Many of his keenest and most widely quoted comments on public matters during the Civil War were direct or adapted quotations from the Bible. Thus, there was his dismissal of the Frémont boom in 1864. Frémont was a "protest" candidate for the presidency. His supporters loudly claimed that at the Cleveland convention held in the spring of that year he would draw "thousands". But it turned out that there were only some four hundred persons present. When this was reported to Lincoln his only comment was to pick up the Bible which always lay on his office desk, open it without hesitation and read: "And everyone that was in distress and every one that was in doubt gathered themselves unto him and he became captain over them and there were with him about four hundred."

But Lincoln knew the Bible spiritually, felt its truth;

