

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Tribute of the Synagogue

Edited by
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Introduction by
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Foreword by
THE VERY REV. DR. J. H. HERTZ
Chief Rabbi of the British Empire

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN: *The Tribute of the Synagogue*

NO ATTEMPT has ever been made to show what outstanding scholars, preachers, and orators of the People of the Book have thought, during the past six decades, of the Great Emancipator—Abraham Lincoln, whose life was motivated by that same Book which has always served as anchor to the Jew.

More than half a century was needed to perfect such a tribute, participated in by a distinguished line of Jewish leaders. Their offerings were almost destroyed by the corrosion of time, all but forgotten in the swift changes of recent years. Yet they represent truths and intuitions about Lincoln that merit preservation. In order, therefore, to complete this section of the Lincoln library, Mr. Emanuel Hertz, known for his zeal in collecting Lincolniana, engaged in a nation-wide search for the necessary material. After rummaging through such old newspaper files as had escaped the Chicago fire, or lay gathering dust in libraries, and after making costly purchases of rare pamphlets, he succeeded in assembling a series of about seventy-five distinguished papers.

The result is *The Tribute of the Synagogue*.

In his introduction, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler writes: "The interpretations and tributes which are brought together in these pages are impressive both in themselves and by reason of that to which they testify. They are eloquent, penetrating, sympathetic and full of understanding. They bear witness that a people of marked spirituality and intellectual power have seen the spirituality and the intellectual power of Abraham Lincoln. . . . That a nature such as his should appeal with peculiar force and directness



Reproduced from a rare and little-known portrait.

to the cultivated leaders of opinion among the Hebrew people, is natural enough, for it might truly be said of him, as of King Saul of old: Thou shalt be a captain over Israel."

Before us pass such personalities as Morais, Szold, Isaac M. Wise, Felsenthal, Joachimsen, Bondi, Vidaver, Lilienthal, Hochheimer, and Jones—all contemporaries of Lincoln; and Krauskopf, Fischkin, J. Leonard Levy, Schechter, Schulman, Revel, Solis-Cohen, and Heller, down to the men of our own days: Stephen S. Wise, Nathan Krass, Enelow, Schulman, and Feldman.

Most of the old sermons have disappeared from auction room and library; they would have been lost beyond hope of salvage but for this timely compilation. Title-pages of original pamphlets published in the sixties are reproduced; about a score portraits of American-Jewish leaders are incorporated; and eight addresses originally delivered and published in German in this country also appear. Sermons and papers are given in full; equally accurate are the transcripts from old periodicals.

Among many interesting facts presented are some generally unknown. Who knows, for instance, that it was Abraham Jonas, a Jewish lawyer of Quincy, Illinois, and an intimate friend of Lincoln, who first proposed Lincoln for the presidency? This occurred during an interview in 1858 between Horace Greeley and prominent political leaders of Illinois; a facsimile of the letter, proving this fact, is reproduced, together with a portrait of Jonas.

The Tribute of the Synagogue will be found to have peculiar appeal to Lincoln collectors, as well as to all admirers of that noble martyr.



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An examination of price-lists of *Lincolniana* for the past twenty-five years fails to disclose an equally attractive and at the same time important item at so moderate a price—the price of many single pamphlets contained therein.

Special pains have been taken to make an attractive format in harmony with the subject-matter. Title-pages of pamphlets, together with the texts, published shortly after Lincoln's death, are reproduced. Inaccessible rareties, their incorporation in the volume immeasurably enhances its value.

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