

Among the small group of people that can be said to have been, for a longer or shorter period, intimates of the Lincoln family when they occupied the White House, must be numbered the artist, Frank B. Carpenter. He spent six months with the Lincolns in 1864 painting the only great historical canvas that has come down to us from the times:- The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, now hanging in the Capitol in Washington. Carpenter won the friendliness of the entire household while living in the White House. The President from the start took keen interest in his work, sat patiently and talked to him freely on all sorts of matters, so freely that later Carpenter wrote a little volume of reminiscences of his experience which is not surpassed in veracity, sympathy or understanding by any recollections we have.

A fresh contribution to what we know of the man who made these invaluable Lincoln records comes in a work soon to be published - "Epoch", by the dramatist, Percy Mackaye. "Epoch" is the story of the life and times of that remarkable and versatile dramatist Steel Mackaye. Carpenter grew up here in New York with the Mackaye's. He had the run of the homes on East 19th Street of the grandfather, James Mackaye and of his close friend, Robert Dale Owen. No doubt the young man's enthusiasm for perpetuating forever on canvas the first reading of Lincoln's great proclamation was warmly sympathized with by these two notable friends of freedom. James Mackaye was on intimate personal terms with the President and his voice was probably added to the several that were needed to procure for Carpenter the freedom of the White House while he painted his picture. Not only does Percy Mackaye give us help in his volume in building up Carpenter himself, but unexpectedly he adds a remarkable record of a stage in the composing and painting of his famous picture - a photograph taken no doubt

for his own guidance and probably just before he arrived at the arrangement we have in the final work. This valuable find of Mr. Mackaye's is particularly notable for the portrait of Lincoln, which is greatly superior to the one in the finished picture. One cannot but regret that in the finishing of the work Carpenter lost much of the vigor and liveliness of the Lincoln head which the photograph here reproduced shows that he at one time caught.