Miss Tarbell Introduces Own Picture of Lincoln to Cleveland

Author Analyzes Emancipator in Talk to City Club.

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A new Abraham Lincoln was introduced to the City club yesterday by Ida M. Tarbell, who rode to new heights of fame with her biography of the martyred emancipator.

The Tarbell Lincoln was a sad-visaged man whose zealous championship of the principle of free men led him, against his will, into politics, into civil war so terrible that he was ready to relinquish his ideals as a way to peace, and finally caused his death. Miss Tarbell's appearance before the club was on the eve of Lincoln's birthday.

With sympathetic understanding of the ideals that motivated Lincoln, with keen analysis of his faults, with intelligent insight into the ability of the President to utilize the meanness in men to his own just ends, Miss Tarbell spoke of him as a man she had known and loved all her life.

"Greatness Lost Upon Us."

"Lincoln's great contribution to statesmanship, his fervency, his open-mindedness, his study of the cause for which he battled has been lost upon us," Miss Tarbell said. "He was no self-centered man. He became great because he took an unpopular cause and made it great. Douglas, a great man who knew his greatness, took a popular cause and went down with it simply because Douglas did not have the Lincoln earnestness of purpose."

When Lincoln pursued his ideals into the White House, Miss Tarbell said, he found himself handicapped with a cabinet, two members of which were openly hostile and treacherous and all of whom felt at first that Lincoln was incapable of discharging the duties of President.

"Seward wrote letters in which he expressed resignation to the fact that he would have to be President in fact. Chase, an able man who was disgruntled because he failed to get the nomination, launched upon a program of petty intrigues calculated to embarrass Lincoln.

Deserted by Fanatics.

"But Lincoln became tolerant. His ideals eclipsed small things. He set about to use the talents of his cabinet in the best manner to aid his cause," Miss Tarbell said.

When no other course was open, Lincoln went to war, she continued. The slavery question rent the nation and Lincoln put the question aside to deal with the tragic problems that foretold war.

Deserted at the outset of the war by some of the most fanatical abolitionists who were struck with horror at the results of the agitation they themselves had engendered, Lincoln stood aloof, embattled, thinking, while others ranted.

Horace Greeley turned on Lincoln and charged the President had no definite program in mind. Greeley demanded immediate freedom of the slaves in an editorial captioned "The Prayer of Twenty Millions."

Lincoln wrote Greeley.

Letter to Lincoln.

"That letter from Lincoln to Greeley is one of the greatest of human documents," Miss Tarbell said.

"Lincoln said if he could stop the war by freeing all the slaves, he would do that; if he could stop the war by freeing part of the slaves, he would do that; if he could bring peace by permitting slavery to continue, that course would be his.

"There is Lincoln.

"We Americans place our great on exalted pedestals. We should recognize the faults of our great so as to estimate them properly. I do not conceal Lincoln's faults. Rather I wish to see them."

When the slavery question plunged the country into war, with its terrible consequences, Lincoln was ready to do anything to remove the question from all consideration, Miss Tarbell said.

Miss Tarbell also spoke to members of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce last night. Her address was substantially the same.

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