

LINCOLN IN MUSIC

By H. M. SAVAGE

IF ONE wished to gauge the record of a man, music, at first thought, might not be considered a likely place in which to look. Still, if we had no other data on Lincoln, we might gain from the contemporary popular music of the Sixties a well defined idea as to the important part of Lincoln's life, and an estimate of his greatness. It is a peculiarly significant field if there is a desire to inquire as to what was the real appraisal made of him by the masses of the nation in his own time. In this music, better than any other medium, has been left an expression of what the people thought of the man who shepherded them through the trying perplexities of a bitter Civil War.

The first characteristic brought to the front was honesty. Honest Abe was the keynote of the early political campaign songs. Later we come on the application of the term Father, and Father Abraham becomes the popular phrase. This is probably best exemplified in the marching song, "We Are Coming Father Abra'am." The words of this piece first appeared as a poem by William Cullen Bryant in the New York Evening Post. It was afterward set to the music of numerous different composers and became a popular war song. It was an important aid in keeping up the morale of the North.

The importance of the use of this term of parenthood is that it signifies the existence of a close feeling of relationship between Lincoln and the people. Such has not occurred in the same way with any other President, before or since. It is an enlightening fact. Washington, true, was called the Father of His Country. But here the word is used in its relationship to birth or conception. With Lincoln it was applied in a different and more homely sense, a term of intimate endearment, and proves how well Lincoln succeeded in the difficult task of not losing his touch with humanity when elevated to high position. In our history only one other great public popular character has gained this familiar status — our mythical uncle, Sam. And Lincoln was truly a Dad to a nation in the best sense of the word; the one who was looked to to see that the bills were paid, he who was to pick the course of the trail, the source for wisdom in council, the one who was expected to apply the disciplinary spankings. It is truly significant and shows as clearly as anything can the close sympathy and affection that continued to exist between Lincoln as a leader and the mass of the people who blindly trusted and followed.

A plain but able word picture of

Lincoln is made in the song, "The Old Chieftain," published by Lee and Walker of Philadelphia in 1862. The words and music were by Edwin Henry. Three verses are quoted.

"Old Abe Lincoln is the man for me,
However long or lean he may be,
He's honest and bold, he never fails,
He knows how to fight and split
oak rails.

"When Old Abe puts his foot on the
ground,
It sticks right fast and never turns
round,
He hears what the others have to say,
And then goes on in his good old way.

"He cracks his jokes and makes us
smile,
But he's in earnest all the while,

They say he has a narrow soul,
But it can take in the Union Whole."

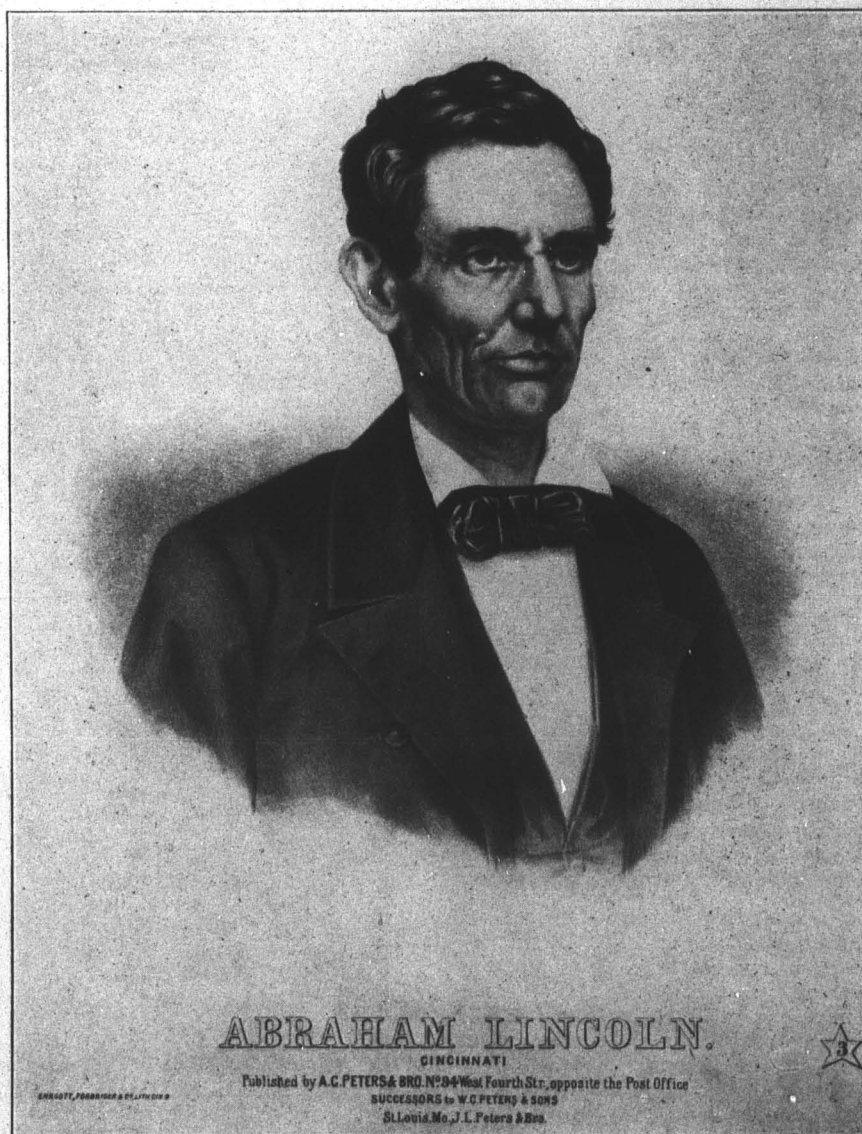
Throughout the music runs hundreds of little side lights that catch views from different angles. Often they are amusing. The following is an example:

"Abraham Lincoln and Emancipation,
De two tallest tings in dis tall nation.
Hurrah den boys, let us be merry,
Kingdom has come, boys, we've good
times berry."

The above was quoted from, Kingdom Has Come, published by H. M. Higgins in 1862.

If there is a wish to gain an idea as to what this man's own personal views toward life were, music can again serve us. William A. Pond published in 1865 a piece entitled, President Lincoln's Own Favorite Poem. It was set to music by A.

Cover for the "Lincoln Schottisch" published in the Sixties.



Sedgwick. The verse quoted tells its own story.

"Oh! why should the spirit of mortal
be proud,

Like a swift fleeting meteor, a fast
flying cloud,

A flash of the lightning, a break of
the wave,

He passeth from life to rest in the
grave!

The leaves of the oak, and the
willow shall fade,

Be scattered around and together
be laid;

And the young and the old and the
low and the high

Shall moulder the dust, and together
shall lie."

To visualize Lincoln we do not have to go outside of the field of published music to do so. Some of the finest portraits of Lincoln are those lithographed on sheet music covers. The portrait on the cover of the, *Lincoln Schottisch*, published by A. C. Peters and Brother of Cincinnati, and lithographed by Ehrgott, Forbrigger and Company, is especially good. It has caught in an inimitable way the two principals which were the key to Lincoln's character—simplicity and nobility.

The persons who created these works, tunes and verse, were a veritable host, but the names that stand out the most prominently and the most often were; Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst, Sep Winner, Henry C. Work, George F. Root, E. Mack, J. W. Turner and James W. Potter. Stephen C. Foster has not been considered as an ardent admirer of Lincoln, still five of his pieces make a reference to Lincoln. Their titles are; "Songs of All Songs," "Little Mac! Little Mac! You're the Very Man," "Better Times Are Coming," "We Are Coming Father Abra'am," "A Soldier in De Colored Brigade."

The climax of the Lincoln publications came with his death. Never has the country seen such an outburst. The major part of the Lincoln music was published at this time. It may not be great music but by its quantity and sincerity it is profound. It is a great tribute to a great man. Sometimes a title may express more than an entire song. "Farewell, Father, Friend and Guardian," by George F. Root and L. M. Dawn, does just that.

The collector of these old sheets finds himself amply repaid. The old songs and tunes have about them a fascinating atmosphere. They contain a clear echo of a life that has gone before us and form connecting links to the thoughts and emotions of those that lived when our nation was younger, and possibly — more vital.

The University Which Lincoln Founded



By PRESIDENT STEWART W. MCCLELLAND
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IN the possession of the Calliopean Literary Society of Kents Hill Academy, Kents Hill, Maine, is a map on the back of which is found these words: "Presented to Major General O. O. Howard by A. Lincoln, President U. S.," and a little description in General Howard's own writing of the use of which he made of this map. This Lincoln item is of interest because it is mentioned in General Howard's autobiography and the

occasion on which the map was presented to General Howard was the beginning of Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tenn.

The story of Lincoln's request to Howard to "do something for my people" is probably too familiar to Lincoln students to rehearse here, but Howard never forget the charge given him by Abraham Lincoln and, in 1895, when he had resigned his commission in the U. S. Army, he



Grant-Lee Hall for Men, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.



Duke Hall, Lincoln Memorial University