

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Number 396

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

November 9, 1936

EARLY PRINTING OF GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Upon each annual anniversary day of the Gettysburg Dedication Ceremonies, attention is called to the remarkable address delivered by Abraham Lincoln on that occasion. While the speech, it is true was not recognized immediately by the masses as an immortal utterance, yet it was given wide circulation along with the printed text of the more pretentious oration of Edward Everett.

Several publishers saw the sales value of making available the complete text of the Everett address and for good measure included the Lincoln speech, also the program of the dedicatory exercises.

Although very little attention is paid by the compilers to the President's speech and its position in the book is often obscure, it is of interest to note the publications which have been given consideration as first editions of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

There are at least four contemporary brochures which are worthy of notice in a compilation of early booklets printing Lincoln's Gettysburg speech. They are designated by the names of the publishers: 1. Baker and Godwin; 2. J. E. Farwell; 3. Wright and Potter; 4. Little, Brown. The title pages of the publications appear in the first paragraph under each caption.

1. Baker and Godwin

Everett, (Edward). An Oration delivered on the Battlefield of Gettysburg, November 19, 1863, at the consecration of the Cemetery prepared for the interment of the remains of those who fell in the Battles of July 1st, 2nd, and 3d, 1863. By Edward Everett. To which is added interesting reports of the dedicatory ceremonies; descriptions of the Battlefield; incidents and details of the Battles, &c. New York: Baker & Godwin, printers and publishers, Printing House Square, opposite City Hall. 1863. 8vo, pp. 48. (Fish 314)

Daniel Fish, first Lincoln bibliographer of note, states that the Baker and Godwin publication "contains Lincoln's dedicatory address, probably its first appearance in book form." This statement of Mr. Fish has largely been responsible for this pamphlet becoming one of the rare items of Lincolniana. One reputable dealer in March, 1931, advertised a copy at \$200.

There seems to be no evidence that would invalidate the conclusions of Mr. Fish, that the Baker and Godwin publication is the first edition of Lincoln's address. It carries a copyright date of 1863 and there is no date in the text later than November 19, 1863, but how soon after this date the book was published has not been determined.

2. J. E. Farwell and Company

City Document—No. 106. Report of The Joint Special Committee On The Burial Of Massachusetts Dead At Gettysburg; With A List Of The Massachusetts Soldiers Buried In The National Cemetery, And Other Matters In Relation Thereto. (Device) Boston: J. E. Farwell And Company, Printers To The City, No. 37 Congress Street. 1863.

Although it is not likely that the Farwell publication appeared earlier than the Baker and Godwin book, it evidently followed within a short interval after it. It also bears the copyright date 1863. At the time the pamphlet was printed by the city of Boston, F. W. Lincoln was

Mayor of the city and his name is signed to the preliminary article. The name of David H. Coolidge appears as a member of the city council.

The report of the Joint Special Committee appointed to attend the dedication, submitted their report under the date of December 28, 1863, so that it would be impossible for the publication to precede this date.

Although there was no comment on the Lincoln address in the Baker-Godwin publication, the Farwell copy has this brief comment about the address: "Perhaps nothing in the whole proceedings made so deep an impression on the vast assemblage, or has conveyed to the country in so concise a form the lesson of the hour, as the remarks of the President. Their simplicity and force make them worthy of a prominence among the utterances from high places."

3. Wright and Potter

Senate. No. 1. Address of His Excellency, John A. Andrew, To The Two Branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts, January 8, 1864. Boston: Wright & Potter, State Printers, No. 4 Spring Lane. 1864.

A section of the book is given over to the Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg and the commissioners in submitting their report stated that: "The exercises took place in the presence of the President of the United States, the Governors of the State of Pennsylvania and several other States, three members of the President's Cabinet, five foreign ministers, and a large assembly of the people. A printed copy of the order of exercises is appended to this Report, marked (A). The oration was delivered by Hon. Edward Everett, a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, and was heard with close attention; and the brief speech of President Lincoln, which followed, likewise made a profound impression. The former is appended in the printed copy, marked (B); the latter, which has not generally been printed rightly, having been marred from errors in telegraphing, is appended, marked (C), in the correct form, as the words actually spoken by the President, with great deliberation, were taken down by one of the undersigned. (Charles Hale.)"

This book bears the copyright date 1864, and could not have been published before January 8, 1864, which date appears on the title page.

4. Little, Brown Company

EVERETT, (Edward). Address of Hon. Edward Everett, at the Consecration of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, 19th November, 1863, with the Dedicatory Speech of President Lincoln, and the other Exercises of the occasion; accompanied by an account of the origin of the undertaking and of the arrangement of the cemetery grounds, and by a map of the Battlefield and a plan of the cemetery. Published for the benefit of the Cemetery Monument Fund. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1864. 8vo, pp. 88. (Fish 315)

This book, prepared to be sold for the benefit of the Cemetery Monument Fund, was copyrighted in 1864 and probably was distributed later than the three publications already mentioned. It is the most complete account of the program at Gettysburg but makes no comment on Lincoln's speech. One feature of the text is the story of the preliminary arrangements for the program.