

LINCOLN LORE

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THE HUMANITY OF LINCOLN

Through one's writings often a glimpse of the man himself may be observed. This compilation of excerpts from Abraham Lincoln's works allow us to measure his real worth.

We should urge it persuasively not menacingly.

The subject is difficult, and good men do not agree.

I am unwilling for any boy under eighteen to be shot.

Please strain a point for him if you do not have to strain it too far.

It will be with pain and not with pleasure that you are not obliged.

I believe it will not offend again; and if not, it is better to let the past go by quietly.

I frequently make mistakes myself in the many things I am compelled to do hastily.

The foregoing is what I would say of Frank Blair were he my brother instead of yours.

Let us be sure that in giving praise to certain individuals we do no injustice to others.

What possible injury can this lad work upon the cause of this great Union? I say let him go.

I do not like this punishment of withholding pay—it falls so very hard upon poor families.

I feel sure he is more than half right. We don't want him to feel cross and we in the wrong.

I am slow to listen to criminations among friends and never expose their quarrels on either side.

It will be just all we can do to keep out of a quarrel—and I am resolved to do my part to keep peace.

With me the presumption is still in your favor; that you are honest, capable, faithful, and patriotic.

Your association assures me I have not failed. I could not ask, and no one could merit, a better reward.

I am very happy to know that my course has not conflicted with your judgment of propriety and policy.

I never have been, am not now, and probably never shall be in a mood of harassing the people either north or south.

I am responsible for it to the American people, to the Christian world, to history, and in my final account to God.

A few days having passed, I am now profoundly grateful for what was done, without criticism for what was not done.

A more intimate acquaintance with him would probably change the views of most of those who have complained of him.

The peace and friendship which now exists between the two nations will be, as it shall be my desire to make them, perpetual.

All I ask for the negro is that if you do not like him, let him alone. If God gave him but little, that little let him enjoy.

Quite possibly I was wrong both then and now; but, in the great responsibility resting upon me, I cannot be entirely silent.

Ambition has been ascribed me. God knows how sincerely I prayed from the first that this field of ambition might not be opened.

I therefore concluded to tell you the plain truth, being satisfied the matter would thus appear much smaller than it would if seen by mere glimpses.

Of course you expected to gain something by this; but you should remember that precisely so much as you should gain by it others would lose by it.

Your note is so free from passion and so full of charity and good will, that I regret not having time to do more than acknowledge the receipt of it.

Let him have the marble monument along with the well assured and more enduring one in the hearts of those who love liberty unselfishly for all men.

I cannot have failed to strike you that these men ask for just the same thing—fairness and fairness only. This so far as in my power, they and all others shall have.

It is a truth which I thought needed to be told, and as whatever of humiliation there is in it falls directly on myself, I thought others might afford to let me tell it.

I am quite anxious for ——— election, first, because he will make the best judge, and second, because it would hurt his feelings to be beaten more than it would almost anyone else.

You cannot if you would be blind to the signs of the times. I beg of you a calm and enlarged consideration of them, ranging if it may be far above personal and partisan politics.

Preferring to make my personal acknowledgments of the thoughtful kindness of the donors, and awaiting for some leisure hour, I have committed the discourtesy of not replying at all.