

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN AND LIBERTY!!!

Independence Day and its aftermath has called our attention to a recent acquisition by the Lincoln National Life Foundation of a series of pamphlets called *Lincoln and Liberty!!!* These publications seem to be unknown to Lincoln students, and neither the Fish nor Oakleaf bibliographies mention them.

Lincoln and Liberty!!! was published by the Young Men's Republican Union of New York City, and the first issue, called Tract No. 1, bears the date of June 19, 1860. The pamphlets with one or two exceptions contain four pages, 6¼ by 12 inches, with two columns of print on each page. They were issued weekly, the last number in possession of the Foundation coming from the press on October 2.

A one column caption head carries a spread eagle and under it is printed "For President Abraham Lincoln of Illinois—For Vice President Hannibal Hamlin of Maine." There follows a list of the officers, board of control, and advisory board of the Young Men's Republican Union of the city of New York. There are twenty-nine names appearing in this roster.

The president of the club was Charles T. Rodgers, the chairman of the board of control, Cephas Brainerd, and the chairman of the advisory board, William Cullen Bryant. The names of Hiram Barney, Hamilton Fish, and Horace Greeley appear among the members of the advisory board. The reading room of the Union was at Stuyvesant Institute, 659 Broadway.

The margins on the first page bear the slogans, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable," "Free Speech. Free Press. Free Soil. Free Men," and "Freedom of Public Lands to Actual Settlers." A familiar quotation of Abraham Lincoln appears at the head of the first column, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Tract No. 1 displays on the first page Lincoln's remarks on "Sectionalism", his statement at Harper's Ferry about insurrection, and his appeal to his political associates for unity.

There appears in Tract No. 2 an interesting and significant article under the caption of "Young Men For Lincoln" which follows:

"It is an encouraging indication of the Campaign that the Young Men are rallying, in great numbers and with unbounded enthusiasm, to the support of 'HONEST OLD ABE.' Thousands who, in 1856, were deluded into the belief that MILLARD FILLMORE could be elected, are no longer willing to support a decoy ticket; besides, the Young Men have every confidence in the Illinois rail-splitter, knowing that one competent to raise himself from the humblest and most obscure, to the most elevated and influential position in society, is fit to be entrusted with the reins of the government, and will not hold them amiss. LINCOLN is, emphatically, the choice of the Young Men, and their earnest enthusiasm will contribute largely to his inevitable success."

In the same issue is a testimonial, credited to Senator Douglas, under the caption "Who is Lincoln?" He says, "The ablest lawyer in Illinois, and the smartest stump-speaker in the Union; an earnest and an honest man, who

believes what he professes and will carry out what he undertakes."

In the same issue one may read an item by Governor Chase on Lincoln, and an especially fine address of "Judge Bates in Support of Lincoln" with this significant paragraph:

"I consider MR. LINCOLN a sound, safe, national man. He could not be sectional if he tried. His birth, his education, the habits of his life, and his geographical position, compel him to be national. All his feelings and interests are identified with the great Valley of the Mississippi, near whose centre he has spent his whole life. That valley is not a section, but, conspicuously, the body of the nation, and, large as it is, it is not capable of being divided into sections, for the great river cannot be divided. It is one and indivisible, and the North and the South are alike necessary to its comfort and prosperity. Its people, too, in all their interests and affections, are as broad and general as the regions they inhabit. They are emigrants, a mixed multitude, coming from every state in the Union, and from most countries in Europe; they are unwilling, therefore, to submit to any one petty local standard. They love the nation as a whole, and they love all its parts, for they are bound to them all, not only by a feeling of common interest and mutual dependence but also by the recollections of childhood and youth, by blood and friendship, and by all those social and domestic charities which sweeten life and makes this world worth living in."

The third issue of the publication under the caption "Lincoln a Jefferson Democrat", prints in full the long letter which Lincoln wrote in reply to the invitation to speak at Boston in 1859 on the anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birthday. The same issue also carries an appeal to the Henry Clay Whigs.

Subsequent issues of *Lincoln and Liberty!!!* present an interesting compilation of campaign ammunition. The brief human interest item which follows helps us to understand how deeply obligated Abraham Lincoln felt to the Young Men's Republican Union of New York City, for they enthusiastically supported him for the Presidency and in various ways exerted a tremendous influence in the state of New York in favor of the Rail-splitter.

"Is he honest? Look upon his face. Is that an honest man? Inquire among his neighbors who honor his guileless integrity by the familiar name which expresses their confidence and love—Honest Old Abe! Read his speeches.

"Is he capable? Let his whole history, from his early and unfriendly struggles to his present high position among the acknowledged leaders of a learned profession in one of the greatest States in the Union,—give the answer. Let the people of his own State, who know him as thoroughly as they know any other public man, say whether he is capable. Let those who heard him a few weeks ago, at the Cooper Institute, say whether he has intelligence enough and talent enough to be the successor of James Buchanan, Franklin Pierce, Millard Fillmore, Zachary Taylor, James K. Polk and John Tyler.

"Is he faithful to the Constitution?—The views of Webster, of Clay, of Marshall, of all our eminent men who lived before the new school of Democracy was founded by Calhoun, are his views on the question now at issue. That is enough."