

ADDRESS.

Before the Republican Club, New York,  
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No. 14, Vol. 10.

SUBJECT.

The Republican Party.

Abraham Lincoln.  
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REMARKS.

The Republican Party.

Addressed to the



address of

(6)

GEN. O. O. HOWARD

~~4 1/2~~  
Fellow Republicans of the

Republican Club of New York, Ladies and Gentlemen: ^

^ I have been seeking for about a half an hour for a definition of the present republican party. I asked General Porter and he thinks it consists principally in the following of Abraham Lincoln. I have asked General Dodge, who himself is the epitome of republicanism, and he says it is <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ party <sup>that</sup> ~~who~~ is always in favor of patriotism and progress. (Applause).

I was thinking while I sat here what a fate it is that a man should be a substitute at all. (Laughter.) I wasn't a substitute during the war. (Laughter) <sup>at a New England Dinner</sup>  
Some years ago I was a substitute for Mr. Carnegie in this City, and I remarked then: How is it possible for a man who has so little to represent a man who has so much? (Laughter)

And now I want to say to you that it is very unfortunate to get so small a shot gun to represent a Cannon, (laughter and applause) but I am willing to make



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this substitution in that beautiful remark of Speaker Cannon's just read to us, <sup>which is</sup> ~~is~~ the very essence of republicanism in this country.

I began with the republican party at ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> beginning. Of course I was in the army <sup>then</sup> and have been ~~in the army~~ now fifty-seven years, (Cries of good and applause) and expect to remain in the army until I die. (Great applause) But while in the army I have always contended, General Dodge, that a man has no right to forego his citizenship. (Applause) So I say to you that I am very, very glad to be welcomed here by seventeen hundred youngmen who represent the republicanism of New York. It is a hard place to be a republican, <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ New York. (Laughter) I saw a lady the other day, and she said, "Up in Vermont I am an out and out republican, but the moment I get to New York I am simply a Tammany Democrat". (Laughter)

When, during the Civil war, our public men were somewhat discouraged with reference to its outcome, more than at any other period, there had assembled quite early in the morning in Mr. Lincoln's office room a number of prominent men. Mr. Lincoln was sitting in his office chair with his right hand resting on the table in front of him when he heard a prominent Senator, with



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front of him when he heard a prominent Senator, with



deep emotion, remark, "If we only could do right as a people, God would give us a victory". Mr. Lincoln instantly rose to his feet and cried, in that singularly shrill, piercing voice of his "My faith is greater than yours"! As he stood there, head and shoulders above all of them, senators, representatives, cabinet officials and army officers were gazing upon his shining face. Looking toward the first speaker he repeated "My faith is greater than yours". The senator said: "How is it, Mr. Lincoln?" He answered "God will make us do sufficiently right as a people to give us the victory." This answer is the gauge of Lincoln's faith which never at any time was known to falter.

There is something very close to faith which we are wont to call virtue -- public virtue and private virtue - the old English of it is "Valor".

In the first speech I ever saw of Mr. Lincoln's he said: "Many free countries have lost their liberties and ours may lose hers, but if she shall, be it my proudest boast not that I was the last to desert but that I never, never deserted her." *That was Valor.*

Mr. Lincoln was fond of riding on horseback in the early evening to the Soldier's Home. One night during the latter part of 1863 he rode out with an orderly. When part way he sent the orderly back for something



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which he had left at the White House and rode on alone. After dusk he ~~rode~~ <sup>galloped</sup> up to the Home stables and the hostler noticed that he was without his hat. Mr. Lincoln, answering the hostler's question, said "Run back a few hundred yards and pick it up." The man had heard a shot but thought little of it till Mr. Lincoln came galloping in. He found the hat and brought it to the President, who was still waiting at the stable. There was a bullet hole near the top. Mr. Lincoln made the man promise not to speak of it. "It was probably an accident and might worry my family.", and he went ~~on~~ <sup>to the Soldier's house</sup> as usual, probably never again alone. -- ~~A~~ <sup>really</sup> man had undertaken to shoot him.

You see in ~~that~~ <sup>this</sup> incident, and in a great many others that you will recall, ~~suggested by that~~, the simple, straightforward courage of the man. It never failed him.

Now, there was another characteristic, and that was a uniform effort to obtain knowledge from his boyhood to his manhood, and in fact all through his manhood. If you will remember at one time when he was a lawyer he said, "I don't understand that word 'demonstration' -- demonstration -- demonstration. Lawyers are always talking about demonstration. I don't know what they mean by it." And somebody suggested it would be wise for him



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That indicates to you a <sup>choice</sup> ~~little~~ bit of the character of his mind in searching for the truth. He never was satisfied until he had completely mastered a subject that he had put his mind <sup>up</sup> on.

At one time some of the officers in Washington rather slighted him. He would go to them for advice and sometimes get quite a rebuff. He made up his mind then that he would study <sup>for himself</sup> strategy, and he got the hardest books we had upon the subject of ~~strategy~~, and he mastered it, and that is why, if you read history ~~and you read it~~ carefully you will find that he never made a mistake in the line of strategy, though he didn't profess to be a general.

We have in the schedule of virtues, the word temperance. I heard a story here to my right on the subject of Abraham Lincoln's temperance, and somebody indicated that he had no small vices. ~~AA~~ After he was nominated to be president of the United States, a committee came down from Chicago to his home in Illinois and said



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to him, "You are nominated; you are nominated." He said, "I suppose I must treat", and he sent out and a man came in with a large tray and on it were ~~the~~ tumblers, and <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ pitcher in the middle filled with water -- cold water. "Oh," he said, "This is Adam's ale. We can ask for nothing better than that." And so he treated the committee, drank their health in good cold water.

(Laughter) But you may say, "Did he overdo the matter?" Well, no, Mr. Lincoln was not temperate simply in eating and drinking; he was temperate in everything, and what is more he wouldn't do business with any man <sup>while he</sup> ~~was~~ was in a passion.

One day he saw Senator Fessenden, for example, coming toward his office room. Mr. Fessenden had received the promise of some appointment in Maine for one of his constituents. The case had been overlooked. As soon as Mr. Lincoln caught sight of the senator, he saw he was angry, and as <sup>Fessenden</sup> ~~he~~ approached his door he called out: "Say, Fessenden, aren't you an Episcopalian?" Mr. Fessenden, taken aback by the question, answered, "Yes, I belong to that persuasion." Mr. Lincoln then said: "I thought so; you swear so much like Seward. Seward is an Episcopalian. But you ought to hear Stanton swear. He can beat you both. He is a Presbyterian." By this time Fessenden was in hearty good humor and the President,



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*Soon*

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A like instance occurred when a poor father was beside himself pleading for the life of his son, who was to be shot the next day for desertion. Mr. Lincoln quieted him by a touching story and then put the coveted pardon of his son into the father's hand.

You notice he never ended any of those cases without pardoning the son.

Now, patience. I never saw in any of my intercourse with Mr. Lincoln, and I have met him a great many times, and General Dodge has seen more of him than I have, but I ~~have~~ *never* ~~seen~~ *known*, and I don't think ~~he~~ *Dodge* can recall an occasion in which ~~he~~ *Lincoln* showed the slightest impatience. Always patient! A poor woman came in who wanted her son pardoned. Her son had been sleeping on post. She pleaded her case, she pleaded it very well. The boy had been kept without sleep too long; he had undertaken to do duty for another young man, the night before, and he had a second night, and he fell asleep on post and he was tried by courtmartial and sentenced to *death* ~~be shot~~. Mr. Lincoln heard the case very carefully and granted the petition. A little later a woman more advanced in age came in, and she wanted her brother out of the old Capitol Prison. He was put in there perhaps



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by Mr. Stanton for using disloyal language. In those days we used to clap them in prison sometimes for things that now they can say on the street. (Laughter) He heard the old lady's case with great care -- probably the man deserved to be put in the old Capitol, but he pardoned him, <sup>and</sup> ~~he~~ let him out. Then he went with her to the door, and just as he was about to part with her she said, "Oh, you don't know how grateful I am, Mr. Lincoln; I don't know what I can say. I <sup>will</sup> say this, I hope I may meet you in heaven." "Well," Mr. Lincoln said, "In the rough and tumble of this world, I don't know, ~~I~~ I may never get to that beautiful place you speak of; I may never get there. But", he <sup>added</sup> ~~says~~, "I know this, it is the best wish you could make for me." And then he turned around as she went out <sup>remarking</sup> ~~and said~~, "Speed, it seldom happens to a man to be able to make two people happy in the same day." And then he said, "I hope it will be said of me when I am gone, by those who care for me, by those who love me most, that I never allowed an opportunity to pass where I could pluck a thistle and plant a flower where I thought a flower would grow." (Applause.)

Now, there is another subject I approach with a good deal of delicacy, but I put it down and you must pardon me <sup>for it</sup> ~~you know~~. I don't believe much in religiousness, never did, but there is one word that



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I do not know any substitute for -- the clergymen call it Godliness. Well, now, Abraham Lincoln had Godliness.

General Sickles -- I wish he were here to-night (applause) told me over and over again in the first <sup>political</sup> McKinley campaign this story: He said, --"After I was wounded I was carried to Washington after Gettysburg and I was lying on the stretcher; people thought I would die. While I was there, Mr. Lincoln, with his little boy Tad came in to see me, and he began to talk to me, and I saw that he was a little too sympathetic to suit me, so I began to rally him, and then I said, 'Why I understand your cabinet and yourself were trying to get out of Washington just before the battle of Gettysburg', and Mr. Lincoln shook his head and said, 'No we were not, no, we were not. We had to take some precautions', he <sup>owned</sup> ~~said~~." General Sickles pressed him a little hard, and he said, "Well, Sickles, if you want to know what I was doing, I will tell you, about that time. There was one room in the White House where there was very little furniture and I went in there and I shut the door and I got down on my knees and I said to the Lord, 'You know I have done all I can. This is your struggle and I have done all I can.' And then I cried out with all my heart, 'Oh, God give us a victory.' Then suddenly it occurred to me to say, 'Oh, that I might have some token by which I could be



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assured of a victory.' Then such a sweet spirit came over me, such an indescribable spirit that I was <sup>as</sup> assured of a victory before I heard the news <sup>as</sup> ~~that~~ I was after." (Applause).

There was one young man out in the west that Mr. Lincoln was very fond of. His father used to entertain him on those lawyer's tours, and he always said to the young man "Whenever you see me stretch out both hands." Well, Mr. Lincoln remembered him. He became first a professor, then afterwards a president, <sup>so called</sup> and I think it was of the University of Illinois at that time, and Mr. Lincoln appointed him on the Board of Visitors <sup>such to</sup> ~~at~~ West Point, and he went there, and the Board knowing that Mr. Lincoln was his friend, made him president of the Board, and after they got through with their work he went to Washington and went into the War Department to get some facts that were necessary to complete his report. ~~And he said,~~ "It <sup>while then, he said,</sup> occurred to me that I would like to see Mr. Lincoln in ~~that~~ the darkest period of the war, and I sat down and I wrote him a short note; ~~and I said,~~ 'Dear Mr. Lincoln, give me five minutes, please'; ~~and~~ Mr. Lincoln folded the paper, turned it over and wrote on the back, 'I will give you an hour. A. Lincoln.'" And he went <sup>to Lincoln's office</sup> ~~there~~ ~~and~~; when he came in Mr. Lincoln rose up to his full height, stretched out both hands to him and gave him a

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welcome and they sat down, and they communed together. Just before he went away, he said, "Now, Mr. Lincoln, I want to ask you a question. I hardly dare ~~do~~ do it, but if it isn't proper, you needn't answer it, of course." Mr. Lincoln said, "Well, if I can't answer it I won't. Go ahead." Well, he said, "Out in Illinois they are very anxious about the termination of this ~~war~~ <sup>conflict</sup>. Shall we succeed in this war?" He said that Mr. Lincoln changed and <sup>color</sup> became haggard, great tears ran down his face, and it was some time that he could not speak at all, and then when he did, he said, "President <sup>a</sup> Mannis, we shall succeed in this war, but I don't expect to live to see its termination or its consummation." "Well, now, Mr. Lincoln", said the other, "Simply just one more question: Would you be willing to tell me on what you base your opinion?" Then Mr. Lincoln began in that singular negative way: <sup>of his</sup> "I do not base it upon my constituency, though no man ever had any better constituency, than we have, or more faithful; I do not ~~even~~ base it on my generals, though no king or potentate ever had better generals, abler men, ready and willing to sacrifice everything that they have for the good of the Republic; I do not even base it on the boys in blue of the army and the navy -- no, no, though no nation on earth ever had a better army than ours, ready to give everything even life itself for the salvation



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of the Republic, no, no. I will tell you what I base it on, on the God of our fathers who hath brought this nation hitherto and will never, never suffer <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ nation to perish." (Applause.)

There is one other little item, ~~of~~ <sup>brotherly</sup> kindness. I was taken very ill out on Meridian Hill. I was a little overworked and had a bilious turn, and for about three days I was very near the grave -- delirious -- after that ~~fin~~ about three days more I was up and at work again. Well, during that time Mr. Lincoln came out to see me. First he came with Charlotte Cushman, whose name you have heard, to inquire about me. I have a very dim recollection of his coming. The next time he came with that same little boy who seemed to attend him always, Tad, whom he loved so much, and Tad walked with the sentinel, backwards and forwards while his father went to see the doctor to see if he could find out anything about my case, and see if anything could be done for me, and Tad said to the sentinel, "Is the <sup>Colonel</sup> ~~General~~ very sick?", "Yes." "Awful sick?" "Yes." "Well", he says, "Father thinks he is not going to live.", and I was <sup>then</sup> only a very common colonel among thousands of others. It was not only my camp that he visited and looked at my parade and congratulated me upon success, but the Twelfth New York, and <sup>Regiments</sup> ~~Regiment~~ and all the others around about. And



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think of the largeness of heart of the man who could so take us in and show us that personal tenderness.

Wasn't it brotherly kindness? (Applause)

He once came down to Brooks Station, and I saw him coming in through that bower that the Germans made for me, and he was too tall to come in. He took off that tall hat of his, that post office hat, and bowed his head <sup>as he</sup> ~~and~~ came in, and he sat down upon my cot and admired my robe <sup>made</sup> of ~~a~~ South American sheep, its construction and beauty. Then he saw the tablets upon the wall that the American Tract Society had given me, one for every day in the month, and that day was "The lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want", and he and I looked at it together, and I <sup>am sure</sup> ~~think~~ those words sunk into his heart ~~as~~ they did in <sup>to</sup> mine. It was not long after that that I had some trouble and I came home greatly discouraged, and I looked up where Abraham Lincoln had looked and I said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want", - why didn't I think of it before!

Gal 4

And after Chancellorsville, when ambition sought my removal they carried the case up to Mr. Lincoln, and asked "Wouldn't it be a wise thing to remove General Howard from the command of the Eleventh Corps; he hasn't succeeded very well?" You all know that Stonewall Jackson <sup>in that battle</sup> ~~was~~ more to blame than I was. (Laughter and applause)



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But Mr. Lincoln after hearing them carefully, winding one foot of his ~~thing~~ about twice around his leg, said, "Let him alone; let him alone; give him time and he will bring things straight." That is what kept me in the army. (Applause)

Most of you have read a little of the last interview that I had with Mr. Lincoln in Washington. I spent ~~about~~ <sup>over</sup> an hour with him, and he called my special attention to what he called afterwards the "Loyal refugees of Kentucky and of Tennessee and of Virginia." Your president, when he introduced me, spoke of ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup> Cumberland Gap. That is ~~right~~ <sup>Dunham College in</sup> the centre of those three portions of Virginia, of Tennessee and of the Kentucky mountains. ~~and~~ Mr. Lincoln turned and looked in my eyes, - I never can forget the expression, "Oh, General", he said, "They are loyal there, they are loyal." And we have built up an institution there to his name as a monument for the benefit of the boys and girls of the mountains. We have got six hundred and forty young men and young women, the brightest and best in the country. People call them "poor whites", sometimes "poor white trash". Then we are trash. They are not trash. They are the very epitome of Americanism, and I do not think it is anything against them that they were <sup>always</sup> loyal to the flag.

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I said, "Oh, you are mistaken, I fought on the other side." Yes, I fought on the other side. We may be the minority, but let us stick to it, let us stick to it *in* ~~the~~ *truth*. We don't want anything wrong, we don't want any spot on the escutcheon of the republican party. We want purity and progress and we *propose to* ~~will~~ have it; we will have it!

(Applause)

There is only one more item and that is this -- you will remember the book, Winston Churchill's *work* ~~book~~ in which he so beautifully represents the spirit of Abraham Lincoln. He represents also his roughness. In that he is mistaken. Oh, how often I have compared notes with other men. There was no real roughness in Abraham Lincoln. A little homeliness, - we are not all of us handsome, we can't be. But here he took *the beautiful* ~~little~~ Virginia, you remember, to the window of his room, and looked forth down there to Alexandria, and said, "When that star appeared there of the Confederacy, and I saw that *how is* ~~that~~ flag, oh", he said, "It offended me ~~very much~~, and I was worrying. *then I thought* ~~it~~ was necessary I should suffer for the republic," and *inconclusion* ~~then~~ he used these words to her, "I have



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not suffered by the South, - I have suffered with the South. Your sorrow has been my sorrow, and your pain has been my pain. What you have lost I have lost, and what you have gained", he added sublimely, "I have gained."

Just think of the sermon of it! The minister would say: who sits here, add to that faith, virtue, to virtue temperance, to temperance Godliness, to Godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. A man who could rise right up and show such love to God and love to his fellow man, even to his enemy, cannot be pointed out to-day. (Great applause)



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