

Book Notices.

Abraham Lincoln, the Liberator: A Biographical Sketch. By CHARLES WALLACE FRENCH. Edited by CARLOS MARTYN. Pp. 398. New York: Funk & Wagnalls. Toronto: Robert Berkinshaw. Price \$1.50.

To their notable biographical library of American reformers Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls have added this volume on Lincoln, one of the best of the series. Few biographers have had a nobler subject. One of the most conspicuous figures of the century—a man of heroic mould and heroic soul—is here portrayed. Born in obscurity, cradled in poverty, educated by adversity, Lincoln attained in full manhood a foremost position as a pilot of the ship of state. And never pilot had more difficult task than he to steer that well-nigh shattered barque through the stormy sea of civil war to the haven of peace. And never was nobler courage, that faltered not nor failed in the presence of adversity, exhibited than in the life and work of Abraham Lincoln. To few men has it been given to exert such potent influence for freeing the shackles from the bodies and souls of men. His gaunt, uncouth, homely figure; his strange western humour, made him a subject of gibe and jeer from the witling and the cynic. But his moral heroism shamed them from their hollow jest, and he lives enshrined in the heart of the world as one of the greatest of its great men. The tragedy of his death adds a strange pathos to his memory. The words of Shakespeare applied to the dead Duncan seem specially appropriate to this heroic soul.

“Besides this man hath borne his faculties so meek;
Hath been so clear in his great office,
that
His many virtues plead like angels’ trumpet tongues
Against the deep damnation of his taking-off.”

There are some strong specimens of Lincoln’s noble oratory given in this volume, notably his famous oration at Gettysburg, of which the *Westminster Review* says: “It has but one equal, in that produced on those who fell in the first year of the Peloponnesian war, and in one respect it is superior to that great speech. Nature here takes precedence of art, even though it be the art of Thucydides.” The book closes with the following appropriate lines:

“Oh, slow to smite and swift to spare,
Gentle and merciful and just;
Who, in the fear of God, didst bear
The sword of power—a nation’s trust!

“Thy task is done, the bond are free;
We bear thee to an honoured grave,
Whose proudest monument shall be
The broken fetters of the slave.

“Pure was thy life; its bloody close
Has placed thee with the sons of light,
Among the noble host of those
Who perished in the cause of right.”

Living Thoughts of John Wesley: A Comprehensive Selection of the Living Thoughts of the Founder of Methodism, as contained in His Miscellaneous Works. By JAMES H. POTTS. 8vo, 562 pages. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Cincinnati: Cranston & Stowe. Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

The accomplished Editor of the *Michigan Christian Advocate* has rendered good service to Methodist readers by gleaming this rich sheaf from the vast and fertile fields of John Wesley’s voluminous writings. In this busy age few readers have time to go through these numerous volumes for themselves; thereby many valuable gems of thought and