

## Abraham Lincoln.

**A**BRAHAM Lincoln! What sentiments of national pride and patriotism well up from the heart of every true American at the recollection of that name!—that staunch protector of man's rights, that bold and fearless champion of honesty and liberty, whose memory will remain forever green in American hearts. And now the centenary of this great man's birth is to be celebrated all over his native country, and the lesson of his life to be impressed upon the growing generation.

Born in Hardin County, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, he spent his early years on his father's homestead. His father, Thomas Lincoln, was descended from a Quaker family of English origin. In 1816, the family emigrated to Indiana, whence after remaining fourteen years, they moved to Illinois. Shortly after this, Abraham left home, to seek his own fortunes. During the next two years he tried his hand at different occupations, farm laborer, businessman, surveyor, till in 1832 he became a captain of a company in the Black Hawk War.

Meanwhile, he had been devoting his time to private study, and after four years of diligent application he was admitted to the Bar, in 1836. During this time he had been elected a member of the Legislature of Illinois, where he served the state for eight years, from 1834 till 1842. Five years later he was elected a member of Congress.

The success of his campaign for Senator in 1858 was a forerunner of that which awaited him two years later, when he was chosen as the Republican candidate for the Presidency. It was during this campaign of '58 that Lincoln first attracted to himself the attention of the American nation by his strong assertions and uncompromising attitude regarding the question of slavery. Everywhere throughout the country his fame spread, and it was due to his masterful handling of the vexed slavery question that the choice of the Republican party fell upon him. In the campaign of 1860, his party voted as a unit for Lincoln, the Democratic party was divided into three factions, and the result was that he won an overwhelming victory, receiving 57 votes more than his three opponents combined.

A short time after his inauguration, the Southern States seceded from the union, and from the booming of the first cannon at Fort