

The Load of the Presidency

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Our very first Chief Executive, George Washington, upon completion of his first term, said, "I'd rather be in the grave than in the Presidency again."

John Quincy Adams summed up his tenure as "the unhappiest" four years of my life."

After leaving the Capitol, Thomas Jefferson sighed, "Never did a prisoner, released from his chains, feel such relief as I shall on shaking off the shackles of power."

James Buchanan told his successor, Abraham Lincoln, "If you are as happy, dear sir, on entering this house as I am leaving it, you are the happiest man in the country."

And after Lincoln had been in the White House for awhile, he had this to say about being President: "I feel like a man who was tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail."

James Polk simply said, "I shall be a happier man in my. retirement."

PRAY FOR YOUR PRESIDENT AND YOUR COUNTRY TODAY!

	The love of my country will be the ruling influence of my con- duct.	talentscan never gain the re- spectof the truly valuable part of mankind.	Without integrity, the finest	litical which has never failed us in the rality hour of distress.	for] that bountiful Providence	Quotations From George Washington a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate we	BUCHANAN LINCOLN come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.	furst In the	 continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated to the great task remaining before use. That from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. That this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom. 	TYLER TYLER TOPLOOUN TO
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General Pickett's Old Friend

The Confederate Soldier's Widow Visited by Mr. Lincoln

I was in Richmond when my soldier fought the awful battle of Five Forks. Richmond surrendered, and the surging sea of fire swept the city. News of Five Forks reached us, and there was a report that General Pickett had been killed. I did not believe it, but I was very anxious.

The day after the fire there was a sharp rap at the door. The servants had all run away. The city was full of Northern troops, and my environment had not taught me to love them. With my baby on my arm, I opened the door and looked up at a tall, gaunt, sadfaced man in ill-fitting clothes, who asked: "Is this George Pickett's place?"

"Yes, sir," I answered. "But he is not home."

"I know that, ma'am," he replied, "but I just wanted to see the place. I am Abraham Lincoln."

"The president!" I gasped.

The stranger shook his head. "No, ma'am; no, ma'am. Just Abraham Lincoln, George's old friend."

"I am George Pickett's wife and this is his baby," was all I could say. I had never seen Mr. Lincoln, but I remembered the love and reverence with which my soldier always spoke of him.

My baby pushed away from me and reached out his hands to Mr.



Lincoln, who took him into his arms. As he did so, an expression of rapt, almost divine, tenderness and love lighted up his sad face. It was a look that I have never seen on any other countenance. My baby opened his mouth wide and insisted upon giving his father's friend a dewy, infantile kiss. As Mr. Lincoln gave the little one back to me, he shook his finger at him playfully and said: "Tellthat rascal, your father, that I forgive him for the sake of that kiss and those bright eyes."

He turned and went down the steps talking to himself and passed out of my sight forever. But in my memory those intenseby human eyes, that strong, sad face have a perpetual abiding place—that face which puzzled all artists but which revealed itself to the intuitions of a child.

> -From The Heart of a Soldier by Mrs. La Salle Corbett Pickett