This new selection, edited with an Introduction by Paul M. Angle, Director of Publications at the Chicago Historical Society, ranges over the whole of Lincoln’s public career, beginning with an electioneering address in the local politics of Springfield, Illinois, to the last speech the great President made, less than a week before his assassination.

‘Lincoln,’ said the historian, Lord Bryce, ‘is always clear. Simplicity, directness, and breadth are the notes of his thought. Aptness, clearness, and again simplicity, are the notes of his diction. The American speakers of his generation were generally infected by a floridity which made them a byword in Europe. In the forties and fifties florid rhetoric was rampant, especially in the west and south, where taste was less polished than in the older States. That Lincoln escaped it is a striking mark of his independence as well as of his greatness. There is no superfluous ornament in his orations, nothing tawdry, nothing otiose.

‘Lincoln addresses the reason of his hearers, and credits them with desiring to have none but solid arguments laid before them. When he does appeal to emotion, he does it quietly, perhaps even solemnly. The impressiveness of the appeal comes not from fervid

(Continued on back flap)

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Everyman, I will go with thee, and be thy guide,
In thy most need to go by thy side
ABRAHAM LINCOLN, born 12th February 1809, near Hodgen's Mills (now Hodgenville), Kentucky. Elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1834 and granted a licence to practise law in 1837. Became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1847. In 1860 he was elected sixteenth President of the United States. The Civil War began 12th April 1861. On 14th April 1865 Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, and died the following morning.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN’S
SPEECHES AND LETTERS
1832–1865

SELECTED AND EDITED BY
PAUL M. ANGLE

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