

MR. LINCOLN TO MARY BEFORE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

A Dramatic Reading

by
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PRODUCTION NOTE: Abraham Lincoln paces floor and is speaking to his wife about the upcoming speaking engagement at the Gettysburg Battlefield dedication. He is tormented with the responsibility.

Well, Mrs. Lincoln--the word came today--They finally had to do it. I reckon I'll be going to Gettysburg for the dedication.

Oh, yes, I know there are those who don't want a frontier bumpkin marrin' the ceremony, what with Mr. Everett there to make the dedicating speech. But I guess they couldn't ignore the office even if they'd like to ignore that "bumblin' bearded ape from the West." (Chuckle)

(Serious again) But, oh, Mrs. Lincoln--now that it's here--what to do. Everett is a Jim-dandy orator. One of the best in the country they say. By all odds, the press is gonna compare us--Like a scrub rooster to a peacock--I'll accept that, but there is the office of the presidency. (Nods to a comment from Mary) Yep, I suppose I can get by without disgracing the office, but that isn't even part of it.

The day--the event--the moment--Important? No, sacred. Who am I? What right do I? I'm not part of it--The veteran, the dead, the parents, wives, orphans--

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---