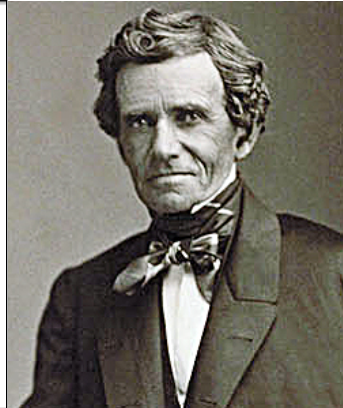


Debating Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

DETAILS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, }
Saturday Night, July 4. }

Who can write the history of a battle whose eyes are immovably fastened upon a central figure of transcendently absorbing interest—the dead body of an oldest born, crushed by a shell in a position where a battery should never have been sent, and abandoned to death in a building where surgeons dared not to stay?



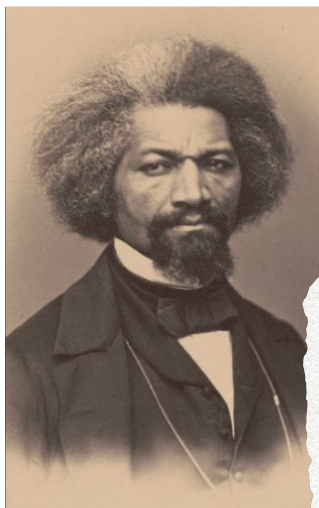
Opening from the *New York Times* coverage of the Gettysburg battle, July 6, 1863 by Sam Wilkeson (right)

Here is how Wilkeson chose to close his stirring dispatch from July 6:

“Oh, you dead, who at Gettysburgh have baptised with your blood the second birth of Freedom in America, how you are to be envied!”

On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln evoked a similar sentiment:

“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.”



Frederick Douglass, “Mission of the War” (January 13, 1864)

I end where I began—no war but an Abolition war; no peace but an Abolition peace; liberty for all, chains for none; the black man a soldier in war, a laborer in peace; a voter at the South as well as at the North; America his permanent home, and all Americans his fellow countrymen.

Anna Dickinson, “Perils of the Hour” (January 16, 1864)

But for what did they fight and for what had they died? In order that, in the language of the President, “good government might not perish from the earth.” In 1776 our independence was asserted, but 1861 was the beginning of liberty....



For more information, go to the Knowledge for Freedom Seminar at Dickinson College:

- <https://housedivided.dickinson.edu/sites/teagle/texts/gettysburg-address-1863/>
- <https://housedivided.dickinson.edu/sites/teagle/texts/frederick-douglass-mission-of-the-war-1864/>
- <https://housedivided.dickinson.edu/sites/teagle/texts/anna-dickinson-perils-of-the-hour-1864/>