

In view of recent arguments concerning Lincoln's Gettysburg speech the account of its delivery as given by Judge Schmucker who heard Lincoln here is of special interest. He said:

"I very well remember the occasion, and my recollection is that the short speech delivered by the President made a profound impression among the people who could appreciate what was said. There was not, however, any general applause, but that was due to the fact that it was the dedication of a cemetery and we stood on a field where thousands of gallant soldiers had been slain.

"It was a solemn occasion and the dignity of the services would restrain one from being demonstrative. I remember Lincoln very well as he stood that day, towering above all, for he was a very tall man, and while he spoke in a slow, deliberate manner he held in his hands a paper to which he now and then glanced.

"The President was the last of the speakers. First there was a minister from Washington, who made an exceptionally long prayer, and then followed Edward Everett, who also spoke at great length, delivering a peroration that was magnificent, but which has long since been forgotten.

"Mr. Lincoln did not speak more than a few minutes, but I am sure that those who were there, and especially those of a thinking turn of mind, grasped the significance of the address, for I heard many favorable comments upon it. Mr. MacVeagh has expressed the situation to a nicety in his account, but while he seems to regard the lack of applause as exhibiting a lack of appreciation of the President's remarks, I feel that it was because of the solemnity of the occasion, literally a funeral service, and everyone felt that anything more than the subdued acknowledgment given would have been entirely out of place."