

Lincoln and Johnson by W.O. Stoddard
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ANDREW JOHNSON-SEVENTEENTH PRESIDENT P 7

In the year 1834 a new field peculiarly his own was opened in the proposal of a new constitution for the State of Tennessee. By the provisions of this instrument the political power of the great landholders was to be reduced, and he (Johnson) distinguished himself by the vigor of his advocacy.

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At the close of the session of Congress he returned home by way of Virginia. At Liberty, in that State, he was threatened with violence by a mob, but drove his assailants away, pistol in hand. At Lynchburg he was hooted. In many places throughout the South he was burned in effigy, but there were large numbers of Southern Unionists, nevertheless, who silently agreed with him and honored him.

Andrew Johnson made the following statement in a speech in the U.S. Senate March 2, 1861. "I would have them (the secession leaders) arrested and tried for treason, and, if convicted, by the eternal God they should suffer the penalty of the law at the hands of the executioner."

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After the beginning of the Civil War however strong might be the Union element in East Tennessee, it was not long before Mrs Johnson discovered that she was in an enemy's country. She was the wife of a man who had made himself especially obnoxious to the Confederate leaders.

P 25-26 Johnson As Military Governor of Tennessee.

On the thirteenth of the same month (December 1862) he issued another proclamation which was fiercely resented by the social class of which he had so long been the avowed enemy. He declared a special assessment upon the property of well-to-do secessionists "in behalf of the many helpless widows, wives, and children in the city of Nashville, who have been reduced to poverty and wretchedness in consequence of their husbands, sons, and fathers having been forced into the armies of this unholy and nefarious rebellion."