Executive Mansion,  
Washington, 1861

How scoar and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal."

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. Thus we may, in all propriety, do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, to be dedicated...
ted to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by the people, shall not perish from the earth.
My place for those who serve here. They are the men that have sought right here. This we may, in all propriety, but in a larger sense, we can also dedicate—we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor, second thoughts. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it is the living, the ages to come who will laugh at us here. It is rather for us to fit ourselves for them who live to aftermath.
Executive Mansion.

Washington, 15th

Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal."

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, to be dedicated here.

The Gettysburg Address
First draft.
First copy written in Washington, in ink:
"The Gettysburg Address"

The first Library of Congress draft of the Gettysburg Address is in two parts. The first sheet was almost certainly made in Washington. If Lincoln finished this draft, the second sheet is lost. Apparently the ending did not satisfy him and he pencilled a new one on the second sheet.
First autograph copy of the
Fellows' Address.

The first page written in ink
on Executive Decision paper,
duplicated in Washington, Aug.
during the Fellows' meeting; the second
on legal paper, white, with
narrow spaced blue lines, written
in pencil on Fellows' meeting
at the Heist's; delivery.
Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place for some of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to this unfinished work which they have, thus far, so nobly carried on. It is rather—

for us to be here dedication to the great task remaining before us from those honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion.

The second Library of Congress draft is almost certainly that which Lincoln held in his hand when he delivered the Address, and is that which John G. Nicolay saw him writing in the home of Judge Wells in Gettysburg on the morning of November 19, 1863.

Lincoln did not follow it literally but inserted the words "Under God" and made some other verbal changes in the actual delivery.
2. The Second Antepth Day of
The Gettysburg address and the
one which Lincoln held in
this hand when he delivered
the address. It was written
in ink, on white paper,
blue-laid, like the one
which he had written the
second page of the first
draft. This was written
in Gettysburg on the
morning of the delivery of
the address.
Executive Mansion,

Washington, 1863

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal."

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that this nation might live. It is rather for us, the living, to stand here.
ted to the great task remaining before us—
that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which
they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that a
dead shall not have died in vain; that the
nation, shall have a new birth of free-
dom, and that government of the people by
the people, shall not perish from the earth.
Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedica-
ted to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, test-
ing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting

for

place of those who here gave their lives that

that nation might live. It is altogether fitting

and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we can not dedicate—

we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this

ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled

here, have consecrated it far above our power

to add or detract. The world will little note,

nor long remember, what we say here, but

can never forget what they did here. It is

for us, the living, rather to be dedicated

work

here to the unfinished work which they left,

thus far, so nobly carried on. It is rather
for us to be here dedication to the great
work remaining before us from the
honor of those who have increased devotion
to the cause for which they gave the best full measure of devotion—
that we here highly resolve that these deeds shall not have died in vain:
that the nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that this government of the people, by
the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.
Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct. 3, 1863

Mr. George Bancroft,
My dear Sir:

I write this note to express my deep respect for the history and dedication of the nation.

Yours truly,

Abraham Lincoln.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is we who must here raise a living, fitting memorial to the brave deeds of the past. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

Lincoln
Address delivered at the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg.

Your forefathers seven years ago our fathers bought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we can not dedicate— we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far advanced, and which we, as their successors, are about to complete. It is rather for us to be dedicated here to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain— that the nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.
Address delivered at the dedication of the
Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent a new na-
tion, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated
to the proposition that all men are cre-
ated equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether that nation, or any nation
so conceived and so dedicated, can long
endure. We are met on a great battle-field
of that war. We have come to dedicate a
portion of that field, as a final resting
place for those who here gave their lives
that that nation might live. It is alto-
gegether fitting and proper that we should
do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedi-
cate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this ground. The brave men liv-
ing and dead, who struggled here, have con-
secrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor
long remember what we say here, but it can
ever forget what they did here. It is for us
the living, rather, to be dedicated here to
the unfinished work which they who fow-
ght here have thus far so nobly advanced.
It is rather for us to be here dedication to
the great task remaining before us—that
from these honored dead we take increased
devotion to that cause for which they gave
the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall
not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of free-
dom—and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19, 1863.
Note. This is the copy of the Gettysburg Address from which the reproduction was made for "Harry from Our Country's Authors." A photograph from the original copy in possession of Prof. J. A. Bliss of Baltimore is embedded in these pages, and from that photograph, dated Aug. 14, 1923, this photostat is made at the request of the writer. November 20, 1923.

Please photostat the foregoing note on same or similar letter on separate sheet.
Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is we, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining be-
for us—that from these honored dead we take inc
creased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measures of devotion—that we here high
ly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.