

KARL HEINZEN.

Centennial of a Great German-American. Tribute by
Louis C. Elson in the Boston Daily Advertiser
of February 22.

Probably among the hundreds of thousands who today celebrate the birthday of Washington, few but advanced Germans are aware that February 22 is also the birthday of a German hero who devoted his life to the cause of human freedom and who worked out the larger part of his task in America and in Boston.

Today is of especial significance to those who reverence the memory of this radical, the companion and friend of Phillips and Garrison, for it is the centennial of his birth.

Karl Heinzen was born in a little village not far from Cologne, Germany, February 22, 1809. His uncle was a bishop of the Catholic Church, and to him the lad was sent to be educated when five years of age. The worthy churchman little thought that he was training one of the boldest of iconoclasts and radicals. During the early stages of education nothing indicated the independence which afterwards became a leading characteristic of the reformer.

But after he had graduated from the seminary and attended the University of Bonn he entered the civil service department of the German government, and here at once the radical nature of the youth burst forth. Finding irregularities and dishonest practices in his department, he at once attacked them in a pamphlet which was sufficiently important to cause the government to ostracize him and to force him to leave the country.

America now became his field of operations. Here he became an advanced socialist and espoused the cause of human liberty with an ardor that seemed to come from the free soil that he trod. No form of tyranny was spared from his attacks, and both black and white slavery were denounced by him with a vigor that soon made him an important influence among the German radicals in this country. It was a very unpopular role to assume in those early days, and he was persecuted, as Phillips, Garrison and Thompson had been. He was obliged to undergo the greatest privations for the sake of his cause. He became editor of the "Schnellpost," preaching the doctrine of revolution against tyrants with no uncertain tones.

He predicted that the people would soon arise against their oppressors, and in 1848 his predictions were fulfilled in many parts of Europe. He at once returned to Germany to fight for the cause. But the uprisings of that epoch were doomed to general failure and the reformer was again obliged to fly his native land. Menial labor was now his lot, and he was obliged to support himself and wife and child on the pitiful

wages of three dollars a week. But nothing could subdue the stern spirit of the man, and he continued his writings, which were often enough printed, but seldom paid for. Soon afterwards, however, the "Schnellpost" was again given to his leadership.

The most influential Germans were then in the Democratic party, but Heinzen fearlessly advocated abolition, sometimes at his personal peril. The Free Soil party, to which he adhered, afterwards became the Republican party. Not content with advocating its obnoxious principles in the East, the bold fighter soon went to Louisville, where his outspoken advocacy of the black race caused his printing office to be sacked and himself to be stoned by a mob.

In Boston, where he next settled, he had at least the companionship of fellow-martyrs, and Garrison and Phillips welcomed him warmly.

His writings were always in German, but they were frequently translated (generally by Miss Julia Sprague) and they often appeared in Wm. Lloyd Garrison's paper, "The Liberator." He also founded his own journal here in this city, "The Pioneer," and in this his essays and editorials (in German) were as true to the cause of human advance and liberty as the needle to the pole. In addition to his co-workers he found appreciative friends in the well-known art publisher, Mr. Louis Prang, and the famous physician, Dr. Marie Zakrzewska.

His later years were spent in Roxbury, where he lived in modest retirement, revered by all who knew his noble and manly nature. His last years were clouded by paralysis, but the indomitable will remained with him to the last.

On this, his centennial day, it is fitting to remember a man who was greater than a lover of country, more than a patriot, for Karl Heinzen fought for the oppressed of the entire human race. It mattered not whether it was an Italian suffering through the bigotry of ecclesiastical laws, a German under the heel of military tyranny, a Negro under the lash of the task master, he fought for all, and he fought well and against overwhelming odds. It is fitting that on Washington's birthday the German liberator should be remembered also.

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LINCOLN AS AN ORATOR.

From the Address by William Jennings Bryan at the
Lincoln Centennial Celebration, Springfield,
Illinois, February 12, 1909.

In analyzing Lincoln's characteristics as a speaker, one is impressed with the completeness of his equipment. He possessed the two things that are absolutely essential to effective speaking—namely, information and earnestness. If one can be called eloquent who knows what he is talk-