

Colby



Colby Quarterly

Volume 6
Issue 11 *September*

Article 6

September 1964

Epilogue

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Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 6, no.11, September 1964

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◆ *Editor's Epilogue* ◆

The Cup and the Lip: It is a fireside epic in Maine now—the story about native son Hannibal Hamlin and how he would have been president of the United States had John Wilkes Booth timed his mad act a trifle sooner. Less well known is the fact that, but for a leer of fate, Colby College could today point to one of its own graduates as occupant of that high seat.

As Lincoln's first vice president, Hamlin had been adequate but drab. Contemplating re-election, Honest Abe cast about for a running mate with instant voter appeal. He settled on Ben Butler—dynamic field general, Eastern man, with a pronounced flair for political maneuver—as his first choice. An emissary was appointed and duly approached Butler with the proposition. Contemptuous of the then inane office and already harboring certain aspirations of his own, the General twitted: "Ask him what he thinks I have done to deserve to be punished at forty-six years of age by being made to sit as presiding officer of the Senate and listen for four years to debates more or less stupid in which I could take no part or say a word, or even be allowed to vote. . ." He proclaimed his desire to remain with his army in the closing operations of the War, and uttered these amazingly prophetic words. "Tell him that I said laughingly that with the prospects of a campaign before me I would not quit the field to be Vice-President even with himself as President, unless he would give me bond in sureties in the full sum of his four years' salary that within three months of his inauguration he will die unresigned."

Within *six weeks* of Lincoln's inauguration, his vice president, Andrew Johnson, succeeded him.

Who's Who: Before joining the faculty of Colby College, where he is now an associate professor of history, Harold B. Raymond took his bachelor's degree at Black Mountain College, his master's and doctor's at Harvard, and taught for a spell at the University of Delaware. His particular academic dish is the vagaries of English political parties in the mid-19th century.

Ernest C. Marriner has been student, Librarian, Dean of Men, Dean of Faculty, and Professor of English at Colby. He is currently Historian of the College. His contribution to this issue is extracted from his *History of Colby College*, published during its sesquicentennial year, 1963.