

Two days before the sitting Lincoln had arrived in New York, his clothes wrinkled, his address not fully prepared. Henry C. Bowen, editor of the *Independent*, who had promoted the speech but did not know the orator personally, met him and was jolted by the apparition. Carrying only "an old-fashioned comical-looking carpet-bag," the tall stranger was "travel-stained and looked tired and woe-begone." The following Monday when Brady put his camera eye on him, Lincoln was more refreshed, but his costume had not improved. His neck stuck out of his collar like a turtle's, and Brady had trouble shortening it.

The result shows that Brady not only knew how to take a photograph but how to retouch it. For although he caught Lincoln's left eye roving upward, he skillfully took out the harsh lines in the campaigner's face and yet kept all the intensity of his expression.

One of those who met with Lincoln on his arrival in New York was journalist Richard Cunningham McCormick. "We visited a photographic establishment [Brady's] upon the corner of Broadway and Bleecker streets," wrote McCormick in 1865, "where he sat for his picture, the first taken in New York. . . . From the gallery we returned to the Astor House, and found that the arrangements for his appearance at the Cooper Institute on the same evening (February 27th) had been completed."