



Photograph by Brady in National Archives

LINCOLN'S PREDECESSOR



Carte-de-visite photograph by Brady, Ostendorf collection



O-94

*Above, left:* JAMES BUCHANAN, outgoing President, looked tired and woebegone when, after four years of vacillation and compromise, he turned over his great office to Lincoln. Buchanan had failed utterly to meet the challenge of South Carolina's secession. *Left:* ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the new President, was determined to fight, if necessary, to save the Union. In the Presidency he saw "a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington." *Above, right:* HANNIBAL HAMLIN, Lincoln's first vice-president, missed becoming the nation's leader by only six weeks. Had Booth carried out his earlier plans to kill Lincoln, Hamlin would have been the seventeenth President.