Ear-witness to Lincoln’s voice #1

From *Hidden Lincoln* by Emanuel Hertz

“Lincoln's voice was, when he first began speaking, shrill, squeaking, piping, unpleasant; his general look, his form, his pose, the color of his flesh, wrinkled and dry, his sensitiveness, and his momentary diffidence, everything seemed to be against him, but he soon recovered.”

--William H. Herndon letter, July 19, 1887
Ear-witness to Lincoln’s voice #2

“But whenever he began to talk his eyes flashed and every facial movement helped express his idea and feeling. Then involuntarily vanished all thought or consciousness of his uncouth appearance, or awkward manner, or even his high keyed, unpleasant voice.”

p. 32
Ear-witness to Lincoln’s voice #3

From Washington in Lincoln’s Time by Noah Brooks

“The [second] inaugural address was received in most profound silence. Every word was clear and audible as the ringing and somewhat shrill tones of Lincoln's voice sounded over the vast concourse.”

p. 239