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Freeport, Ill., July 6<sup>th</sup> 1895

Oda M. Tarbell

Your favor of July 4  
to hand. The grounds and  
surroundings where the joint debate  
between Mr Lincoln and  
Mr Douglas in 1858 was held  
~~was so completely covered~~  
that I think it unlikely that  
you could secure desirable  
illustrations. Mr. F. W. S. Brawley,  
now residing in Chicago, but  
then a resident of Freeport,  
secured a splendid carriage  
(the only one for hire) to take Mr  
Douglas from the Brewster House  
to the grounds, a couple of blocks  
away - and the Republicans se-  
cured an old fashioned, <sup>Pennsylvania</sup> six horse  
team, with a hay rack, to take  
Mr Lincoln to the grounds.  
It produced great merriment  
and cheering. The debate in

Frederick determined the  
political career of Mr Douglas  
and produced the split in the  
National <sup>Convention of the</sup> Democratic party in  
Charleston, resulting in one  
wing nominating Douglas for President,  
and the other Breckinridge. I  
wrote a couple of editorials I  
recently printed in my paper, the  
Freeport Journal. Should you  
visit Meigs you would  
find scores of people who  
listened to the debate, and  
you might secure something  
valuable

Truly yours  
Wm. B. Atkinson