No man exerted a more decisive influence upon the career of Abraham Lincoln, or during his
early and critical days of his administration shared his confidence in larger measure than did
Edward energetic, the great war governor of Pennsylvania, who died in 1894. For these reasons
Lieuweney's recollections of Mr. Lincoln, with which in his latter days he was most delight;
ious friends, had more than ordinary value and interest. He never found because to put them on
paper, but the following is the result of several lengthy interviews which I had with him in the
winter 1863, and as they later received the benefit of the revision and correction, can be "accepted
accurate and authentic. I, said I, at the outset, "It is a matter of record that you were
one of the two men who in the Republican national convention of 1860 brought about the nomination of


An "Early Appearance of the "
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States in the "

Mr. Lincoln. Will you tell me the story of that convention from your own point of view?" To which
sain, as the

said Mr. Austin

I will first have to explain the political conditions existing in Pennsylvania and Indiana.
Now, says, have been nominated for governor in the latter and I had been named for the same office in
the former state. Republican was elected

in both of these states was doubtful, but it was absolutely essential that both should elect
Republican governors in October to secure the election of the Republican candidate for president in Nov.

There were strong hopes of success in both states, but it was still an unsettled question whether the rank and file of the old Whig party would join the new Republican party. For this reason the strength and availability of the Republican nominee for president were felt by the more foreseeing Republicans both in Indiana and Pennsylvania to be matters of the first importance. A strong presidential candidate would add greatly to the prospects of Republican success in these two pivotal states.

A victory at the state elections in October would have an insurmountable effect upon the November contest.

Upon the other hand, weighted with a weak presidential candidate both Mr. Lane and myself would probably fail of an election, and our defeat would react most disastrously upon the national ticket. Before the assembling of the national convention, called to meet in Chicago on May 16, 1860, all indications seemed to point to the nomination of Senator Seward, of New York. His great abilities, his moral character, and his long and conscientious public service easily placed him in the lead of all the other candidates.

cast a demand for his nomination from the majority of his party; despite these facts and though not a delegate, I went to Chicago resolved to do all in my power to prevent the nomination of Mr. Seward.

I had no personal tie in the matter for I had never met either Mr. Seward or Mr. Lincoln, who had been formally put forward as a candidate by the Republicans of Illinois a few weeks before.
He had been formally put forward as a candidate by the Republicans of Illinois a few weeks before.

Knew, however, that in my own state at least a part of those who would support Bell and Everett if Mr. Seward was nominated would under other circumstances come to me. Therefore, my sole opposition to Mr. Seward was based upon his want of strength in Pennsylvania, as the natural and logical result of defeat which state in October would have been a national defeat in November. On my way to Chicago I rode for some distance with Henry D. Foster, my Democratic opponent in the gubernatorial campaign. Though people in politics we were otherwise warm friends, and the conversation I had with him was a lengthy one. I asked him what he thought of the political outlook, and he replied that if Mr. Seward were nominated for the Republican presidential nomination, as he seemed confident would be, Democratic success was certain.

In the state campaign I then asked Mr. Foster, if he thought he could be elected if some other man were nominated for president by the Republicans. His reply was that such a contingency would make the state contest a close and doubtful one and he could not predict its outcome. This conversation strengthened my previous conviction that the nomination of Mr. Seward would be suicidal of the first gentlemen. I met after my arrival in Chicago was Henry S. Lane, the Republican candidate for governor of Indiana.

I told him what were my fears as to the consequences that would follow the nomination of Mr. Seward.
told him what were my fears as to the consequences that would follow the nomination of Mr. Seward, and be replied that the choice of the New York Senator as a candidate would prove equally fatal to Republican chances in Indiana, and that the delegation from that state would vote solidly for Mr. Lincoln as long as there was hope of his nomination. We then visited the delegates as they arrived and advised them as to what, in our opinion, was the best course to follow. However, we found the majority of them inclined to Mr. Seward, and when the convention met on Wednesday it was plain to be seen that he was the favorite. An adjournment was taken over night; but on Thursday the situation had changed but little, and had the convention proceeded to ballot on that day Mr. Seward would have been nominated beyond the question of a doubt. Fortunately for those of us who opposed his nomination the business men of Chicago had tendered the delegates a ride on the lake. The temptation to enjoy the excursion proved stronger than the desire to ballot, and this, coupled with some delay in the delivery of the ballots, caused which I have now forgotten, postponed the voting until Friday. Thursday night Colonel Long

and I again saw all the state delegations and told the delegates that with Mr. Lincoln as the candidate we could carry Indiana and Pennsylvania in October by handsome majorities, but that if Mr. Seward was nominated our defeat was almost certain. These interviews produced a marked effect and as one of the res
ominated our defeat was almost certain. These interviews produced a marked effect and as one of the re-

sults of our labors it was agreed among the Pennsylvania delegates that after giving a complimentary

vote to Simon Cameron on the first ballot their entire strength on subsequent ballots should go to Mr. Lincoln.

A first ballot showed 17342 votes for Seward, 102 for Lincoln, 50.42 for Cameron, 49 for Chase and

77 for Bates. On the second ballot, as had been previously arranged, the Pennsylvania delegation changed

from Cameron to Lincoln, which caused an immediate and fatal break in the lines of the Seward men.

Before the ballot closed, the Vermont and New Jersey delegates, among whom we had done effective work, shifted

done, deserted Seward for Lincoln and the announcement of the vote showed 18442 votes for Seward and

1831 for Lincoln. Changes to Lincoln followed each other in rapid succession during the progress of the

third ballot, and before it was ended Lincoln had 25142 votes, 233 being required to nominate him. Few

were four votes from the Ohio delegation to Lincoln, assuring his nomination, and before the ballot

closed 554 out of the 446 delegates had declared in his favor. Need, Evarts and Raymond, the Seward

leaders, who until the last had been confident of the nomination of their favorite, were amazed and de-

bounced at the result, but Mr. Evarts promptly moved that Lincoln's nomination should be made
and with the enthusiasm that usually attends a motion of this kind, the motion was carried. In Penn-
sylvania Mr. Lincoln secured half of the democratic faction upon which the Bell and Everett leaders had com-
dpletely relied, and his nomination praised, as I had all along believed that it would, the very strongest that
Mr. Grint's account of Lincoln's journey from Harrisburg to Washington in 1861,
could have been made. When did you first meet Mr. Lincoln, governor? President Lincoln on his way to Wash-
ington to take office arrived in Harrisburg on February 22, 1861, and it was then that I met him for the
first time. He addressed the state legislature in the afternoon and later held a public reception. At
the reception a private conference was held in the parlor of the hotel at which the presidalential party was
attended. There were present beside Mr. Lincoln, Norman B. Judd, Ward H. Lamon, David Davis, Col.
Ford, E. V. Sumner and one or two more of those who were travelling with the president-elect. Mrs. Jeff-
son was sent from two different sources - Allen Pinkerton in the first and a party of New York detectives.

The second instance - information had been received of a plot to assassinate Mr. Lincoln during his
message through Baltimore, and to guard against danger, it had been arranged that he should rejoin
by a special train to Philadelphia that evening and take the night express on the Philadelphia,

Washington and Baltimore railroad, thus throwing the conspirators, who expected him to go to Washington
Washington and Baltimore railroad, chose the route of the conspirators, who expected him to go to Washington
due to the northern central railroad, off the secret. Encouraged by Mr. Lincoln's zeal and collected leisure,
But first opposed the idea of a secret journey, advising the President-elect to travel by daylight, sole,
leaving to go with him in person. But when full and convincing proof of the plot was laid before us,
by Mr. Judd, knowing that the assassination of the head of the government would bring national ruin,
I instantly changed my mind and joined in devising means to secure his safety. In the evening a public
dinner was given the President-elect, and at the close I invited him to go and spend the night at my place.
He accepted the invitation, and to allay suspicion, all the members of his party except Colonel d'Eustis
left behind at the hotel. We were at once driven in a closed carriage to the outskirts of the city, where a
special train, consisting of an engine, tender and passenger car, was standing. I stood on the street, waiting
until I saw Mr. Lincoln and Colonel d'Eustis enter the car and then went home. The curve between Harris-
burg and Washington, and between the former city and Philadelphia had already been cut to prevent
any news of their movements getting abroad; and, with Colonel d'Eustis as his only companion, Mr. Lincoln
started on the journey to the capital. Early the next morning we received word that the trip had been
made in safety and that Mr. Lincoln was in Washington. What were your first impressions of Mr. Lin-
coln?
made in safety and that Mr. Lincoln was in Washington. That were your first impressions of Mr. Lin-

coln? I asked. "Mr. Lincoln," said the governor, "when I first met him did not impress me as being a

great man. The greatness was then in a measure still dormant. The war developed and brought out the full

the greatness within him that would never have become manifest save under such trying con-

ditions. As a judge of men and as a gauger of public opinion and sentiment he was almost infallible.

His gifts in this respect were truly nonhoned and have never to my knowledge been equaled. Every time

that I met him, and for four years I was with him almost weekly, I was more and more impressed with

the grandeur of his character, brought into strong relief as it was by the lights and shadows of the war.

An Important Conference with Lincoln at the Beginning of His

administration

Soon after Mr. Lincoln's inauguration I received a message from him requesting me to come to Washington

without delay, as he wished to confer with me. I went and found the President desirous that some of the

States should take action recognizing that civil war existed. Months before, from trusted special agents, whom

I had sent through the South, I had learned that the leaders of the South were in secret planning to set up

an independent confederation of states, based upon the principle of human overrule and in the hands of

and I had also recognized that Pennsylvania lying on the border ground of the war certain to follow such

an attempt, would be especially subject to danger, and to all the evils growing out of a great military
to attempt would be especially subject to danger and to all the evils growing out of a great mortal

onfend, when the president asked me to make the declaration he had in mind, I at once accepted the

responsibility. I returned to Harrisburg on a Monday morning determined to send a message to the legis-

lature that day, but some of my friends urged me to postpone action for the time being and I finally yielded
to their advice. Tuesday morning, however, brought me a message from the president with this note: Here you

and nothing yesterday, I think, if your action is to have any value you ought to come out without delay.

On receipt of this message I resolved to act forthwith and before noon sent to the legislature a message

in which, in the strongest terms at my command, I placed before the people the doctrine that no State or com-

bination of States could voluntarily secede from the union nor absolve themselves from their obligations, but

the preservation of the union was the first thing to be considered and that to secure it too great a sacrifice

would not be made. Events showed that this message, as suggested and urged by Mr. Lincoln, could not have

been better timed. A bill was at once introduced into the lower house of the legislature giving me power to raise

and equip troops and appropriate half a million dollars for the purpose. Stated at this proof of the

frontiers of secession of the friends of the union, the members of the legislature who leaned to disloyalty joined

hands in a desperate attempt to prevent the passage of the bill. Their efforts, however, were in vain and fully
in a desperate attempt to prevent the passage of the bill. Their efforts, however, were in vain and forty-eight hours after its introduction the bill was a law. After it had passed the house and while it was on its final passage in the Senate, news of the firing on Fort Sumter was read from the clerk’s desk, silencing for once and all the enemies of the bill. I made prompt use of the authority granted me, and when the President issued his call for 75,000 men for 100 days the Pennsylvania soldiery were the first to reach the imperilled capital. From that time until the close of the war I was one of those Mr. Lincoln called into council in my critical emergency. It was one of the shining traits of Mr. Lincoln’s greatness, Governor Austin continued, that new demand, however, delicate or trying, ever found him unequal to it. The action in 1862 when the first army draft was made in Pennsylvania was a striking case in point. Volunteers no longer came forward to fill up our depleted armies, and there being then no national conscription law, a draft under the state law became necessary to fill a requisition made upon Pennsylvania for troops. There was instant and pressing need for reinforcements and the draft under the state law was, therefore, executed with all possible speed.

Within sixty days nineteen regiments were organized and sent to the front. Opposition to the draft had
town only in a few sections, but in one place, Bass township, Schuylkill county, open revolt against the
threatened. Bass township was a Molly Maguire centre and infested with a lawless and criminal element. Sixteen murders had been committed in the district in the short space of five years and not a single
indictment had followed. The secret organization which prompted these crimes cut federal as well as
State bonds at defiance and it was only with extreme difficulty that the draft was made in the town.
Worse still, when the time came for the conscripts to leave for Harrisburg, the bolders ones not only
themselves refused to leave home but gathered at the railroad station and by force prevented the others from
leaving. The emergency was a critical one and called for prompt and courageous action. Without
The emergency was a critical one and called for prompt and courageous action. Without delay the facts were reported to Secretary Stanton. That official, with equal promptness, replied that the draft must be enforced at all hazards, and instructed me to send two regiments, which he placed at my disposal for the purpose, one being stationed at the time at Philadelphia and the other at Harrisburg, at once to the scene of revolt. I clearly realized the probable consequences of a conflict between the soldiers and citizens, and therefore telegraphed a more detailed account of the situation to Mr. Stanton, urging him to give the subject further and more careful consideration. He replied as before that the law must be enforced, and ordered the two regiments to move at once. The soldiers in turn reached Potosi the following day.

In compliance with this order, I felt that a conflict between the military and citizens must be averted if possible and so directed Col. A. K. McTelure, who had charge of the draft, to telegraph the President im
...phrased to give the matter immediate and careful consideration. This message was dispatched early in the day and our anxiety was keen when night came and no reply had been received from Mr. Lincoln. The following morning, however, brought to Harrisburg General Burnside of the United States army, with the verbal message from the president: "I am anxious that the laws should be executed, but it might be best, in an extreme emergency, to be content with the appearance of executing them." H. Burton and McCullum will know best what to do. With this hint from the president a course of action was instantly decided upon. The commissioner of draft for Schuylkill county was Benjamin Bannan, of Pottsville, a man fertile in resource and of resolute and upright character. Mr. Bannan was summoned to Harrisburg and reached the...
end of absolute and upright character Mr. Bauman was summoned to Harrisburg and reached the hospital the same day. Mr. Lincoln's message was made known to him and it was also explained to him that in many cases evidence had been presented, after the quotas had been adjusted and the draft proclaimed, to prove that the quota had been filled by volunteers who had enlisted in some town or city out of side of their townships, and that in all such cases the order for the draft had been revoked. Only by the production of such evidence from base townships, it was pointed out to Mr. Bauman, could a collision be avoided between the military and the citizen be avoided. He saw at a glance what was needed and left at once to Pittsburgh and returned to Harrisburg the following evening bringing with him a number of affidavits executed in proper form by citizens of base township to the effect that their quota was entirely filled. A critical examination of this testimony was not thought necessary under the circumstances and Colonel
declare at once in favor upon it that as the quota of base townships had been filled by volunteers, the draft was imperative in that district and its conscripts would not be held to service. Meanwhile, I had

advised the regiment put in motion by Staunton, and now stand on their face the cause had been

peacefully executed, they were or heard elsewhere. Staunton was never informed of the president's interference

in the affair, but I am fully convinced that had he secret agent been allowed to have had his way he would

have inaugurated an internecine conflict in Pennsylvania that would have proved most disastrous to

The True Story of the Conference of the War Governors at Altoona.

the loyal cause.
The loyal cause," "Governor," said I, "the conference of the 110 governors held at Altoona, Pa., in September, 1862, has been a subject of frequent discussion. Is it true, as has often been stated, that the president's emancipation proclamation came as a surprise to those participating in the conference?"

Most emphatically no; was the reply. "As a matter of fact there was a full and complete agreement between Mr. Lincoln and the gentlemen who took part in the Altoona conference. That conference had its inception in a dispatch which I sent to Governor Andrews of Massachusetts, early in September, 1862, telling him that my opinion the time had come to give the war a definite aim and end, and that it seemed to me that the governors of the loyal states should take prompt, united, and decided action in the matter. Governor Andrews replied that he shared the same views and a voluminous correspondence between us and the governors of the northern states followed. After the Governor Andrews and I went to see the President. He told us that he was preparing a proclamation emancipating the slaves, and asked us if it would not be advisable
in to wait until we had requested him to act before assuming it. He told him that by all means he should issue it first and we should at once follow it up with a strong address of commendation and support.

As a result of our interview with the president it was agreed that the course Andrew and I proposed should be followed. With that understanding the conference met at Altoona, September 24, 1862. Though the president's proclamation had already appeared we found several of the governors hesitating and doubtful. However, the majority favored unwavering support of the president, and after a conference of several hours Andrew and I were selected to draft the address. Governor Andrew wrote it that evening. It is...
hours. Andrew and I were selected to draft the address. Governor Andrew wrote it that evening, sitting by his side and making suggestions and changes as he went along. When it was finished he arose and walked the floor nervously. Both of us felt keenly the weight of the tremendous results that would follow our action; and I looked back with pride and pleasure to the fact that I was the first to sign an address. Governor Andrew signed next and the others an hour or so later. The following afternoon, having gone from Altoona to Washington for the purpose, we presented our address to the president. He pronounced it the time and the bold step and we had taken would cost us one election, but subsequent events showed that the president had struck while the iron was hot and had touched the popular chord. "Lincoln, the greatest man of the century."

"Governor, I asked in conclusion, "what is your matured and final estimate of Mr. Lincoln?" He was easily the greatest man of the century," was the carefully considered reply, "but his was a strange and conflicting personality, and one most difficult of analysis. No one ever fully understood him and no one.
for, without being distrustful, he was the most de voted, man I have ever known, and not con trary to
on he trusted most enjoyed his entire confidence. He hated deceit and falsehood, but trusted only as it
erved his purpose, and with studied regard for each man's usefulness. If a who knew him best would
at I say in this regard, Doro was that was the guiltless man many have represented him to be. His per
al and wise discrimination were without parallel among the public men of his time. He was
though not so, always willing to receive it, and had attained the object sought by the independent, in
mian of his foreseeing reason and the moment. Though singu larly self-reliant he was always a
and discomposing student of the popular will, and all his actions were governed and guided by it. This
and more than any other, made him, in the achievement of enduring results, the master politician
of this time. The portion of my own career to which I look back with the greatest pride and sati
faction is the part I took in seeing this wise and sagacious man placed at the head of the republic at
most trying and critical period in our history.