A pleasant example of the growing pride which the West is taking in its own history is the celebration to be held on Oct. 7th at Galesburg, Illinois, in honor of the Fifth of the Lincoln and Douglas Debates. There has never been in the history of the United States a more distinguished political contest than that held in the summer and fall of 1858 on the prairies of Illinois. The issue was a vital one. Should slavery be extended or confined in that portion of the national domain where it then was allowed? Douglas declared that slavery could be carried into the territories if the inhabitants wanted it. Lincoln contended that the admission of slavery into the territories was in direct opposition to the intention of the founders of the country since it extended the institution instead of putting it where it would be in course of ultimate extinction. For 3 months the two contestants who were rival candidates for the United States senatorship had been speaking almost daily through the length and breadth of the state. Four times already they had met in joint debate. By October the state was aroused to a point of intense excitement. There was
not a hamlet, a corner, a school district in which the tremendous question was not agitated. The issue had ceased to a degree to be political and had become moral. Hundreds of men who in the beginning were ardent Democrats had joined the Republican under the force of Lincoln's arguments. Not only had the debates stirred the whole state of Illinois, they had gone into the East and rumors had come back that they were making a sensation there. Strangely enough as it seemed to Illinois it was not Douglas—who up to this time had been the great man of the State—who attracted the most attention. It was Lincoln all these facts made a special interest in the debate of October 7th. Galesburg was the center of a strong Republican district. It was, too, an educational center, Lombard University and Knox College being located there, and the people turned out in tremendous numbers to hear the.

The scenes of the day as described by the local papers and by the few men and women still living who remember the event, were highly picturesque and they give us an excellent notion of the prairie hustings of 40 years ago. At dawn the "gunners" announced that something important was afoot and almost as soon people began to pour in from the country. At Galesburg as at other points where joint debates had been held the people came in wagons, on horseback, and on foot from long distances, sometimes riding all the night before and on arriving going into a regular camp where they cooked their breakfasts. They came in time to see one of the great events of the day, the arrival of the speakers. Douglas came to Galesburg on the train from the West. He was escorted to the hotel where the students of Lombard University presented him with a banner and various speeches were made, two of which, according to the local paper were "symbolic addresses"
whatever that may mean, delivered by "young ladies."

Hardly were these ceremonies finished before Lincoln came riding into town in a lumber wagon filled with rails. He was escorted by a delegation which is described as "like one of Cobb's tails, of monstrous length and to be continued," a reference, of course, to the interminable serials which Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., was writing at that day. Lincoln, like Douglas, had to go through with the ceremony of receiving a banner. The performance seems to have been more than usually elaborate. The banner itself was an extraordinary creation in the form of an American shield. It was handsomely embroidered and upon one side was the inscription "Presented to the Hon. A. Lincoln by the Republican ladies of Galesburg, Oct. 7th, 1856." On the reverse was the Declaration of Independence done in ink. At the dramatic moment in the reception a troop of equestrians rode up the street headed by a young woman of "queenly appearance." This young woman was none other than Miss Ada Hurd, now Lady Van Horne of Canada, wife of Sir John Van Horne, President of the Union Pacific Railroad. Miss Hurd presented the banner in a "very neat and well spoken address" then Lombard University presented another banner. But by this time Galesburg was so full of delegations from all the surrounding counties that street speeches were out of the question and the visitors gave themselves up to examining the mottoes on the banners. There were hundreds of these if we are to believe the reports of the day and some of them epitomized the issues at stake in a very concise and pointed way.

Among others the local paper described the following:
A representation of the Capitol, and over the Senate room door Douglas' complaint, "He's got my place." Douglas is turning away while Lincoln is coming in.

A representation of a two donkey act, or Douglas attempting to ride Popular Sovereignty and Dred Scott. His straddle is remarkable but not equal to the task as both animals kicking up their heels send him sprawling.

"Know College goes for Lincoln," stretched across the south front and north end of the College building.

"WE WILL SUBDUE YOU" Stephen A. Douglas.

"Abe Lincoln the Champion of Freedom." Upon this banner was also a portrait of "Long Abe."

Republican Sovereignty

A well painted banner with a terrible Lion on one side and Ditto Dog on the other, with the inscription "Douglas the dead Lion, Lincoln the Living Dog."

The best banner upon the ground was a painting of the locomotive "Freedom" with a long train of Free State cars rushing round a curve, with the warning, "Clear the track for Freedom," while sticking upon the track a little in advance of the train was Douglas' ox cart laden with cotton. His negro driver had just taken the alarm and springing up in terror exclaims "Pore God, Massa, I y bleves we's in danger!"

Another ludicrous banner had a representation upon one side of Douglas going down to Egypt pail in hand, to bring Abe to his milk. On the other, "How he succeeded." - Like Mr. Sniggs in his first effort at milking a cow, he gave the customary command to "histe" the foot. Abe histed and Douglas and his pail are seen "laying around loose."
The debate was held at the east end of Knox College. A platform for the speakers was erected close to the college hall and the auditors arranged themselves as best they could to hear. They crowded the campus, driving in their loaded wagons and carriages. Small boys and agile men climbed into the trees, hundreds swarmed over the roofs of a building which stood not far away and in front of the speakers stand, and a favored few leaned from the windows of Knox College or were seated on the platform. It was estimated that not far from 20,000 persons heard the debate which by all accounts was one of the greatest of the series. The impression Lincoln made was profound. Never had he been more logical, never more dramatic and descriptions of the scenes of the encounter found their way even as far from Illinois as Boston, where indeed the whole debate was watched with interest. The Boston Transcript on Oct. 13th, not a week after the encounter at Galesburg published a letter from "a College President, well-known to our readers" who had been present and who had written back a letter describing the two contestants. As it has never been republished, so far as we know, we quote it:

"The men are entirely dissimilar," says the writer, "Mr. Douglas is a thick-set, finely-built, courageous man, and has an air of self-confidence that does not a little to inspire his supporters with hope. Mr. Lincoln is a tall, lank man, awkward apparently, diffident, and when not speaking has neither firmness in his countenance nor fire in his eye." Of Douglas the writer says further: "Though not a pleasant speaker, his sentences are all compact and strong; his points are all clear, and every word he utters bears upon the doctrines he wishes to establish. He has no flights of fancy, no splendid passages, no prophetic appeals, no playful turns; he deals only in arguments and addresses
only the intellect. Mr. Lincoln had a rich silvery voice, enun-
ciates with great distinctness, and has a fine command of language. For about 40 minutes (the last 40 minutes of his speech) he spoke with a power that we have seldom heard equalled. There was a grandeur in his thoughts, a comprehensiveness in his arguments, and a binding force in his conclusions which were perfectly irresist-
able. The vast throng were silent as death; every eye was fixed upon the speaker, and all gave him serious attention. He was the tall man eloquent, his countenance glowed with animation, and his eye glistened with an intelligence that made it resplendent lustrous. He was no longer awkward and ungainly; but graceful, bold, commanding. Mr. Douglas had been quietly smoking up to this time; but here he forgot his cigar and listened with anxious attention. When he rose to reply, he appeared excited, disturbed, and his second effort seemed to us vastly inferior to his first. Mr. Lincoln had given him a great task and Mr. Douglas had no time to answer him even if he had the ability."

The debate at Galesburg was for those who heard it an event of their life-time, and reminiscences of it have always been carefully preserved throughout the country. One of the historic treasures of Monmouth a town near Galesburg which sent a goodly delegation there, on Oct. 7th, is a daguerreotype of Lin-
coln, made in the town four days after the debate. Knox College considers the day of the debate one of the proudest in her history and recalls with enthusiasm that the banner across her walls was

KNOX COLLEGE FOR LINCOLN.

Holding the occasion in such honor it is fitting that town and college commemorate it in some permanent way and this is to be done on Oct. 7th, of this year. A tablet is to be placed
in the wall of the building by which the speeches were made.
It's unveiling will furnish the occasion for the celebration of this
particular anniversary day by the college. The building stands
as it stood then, and on the very spot from which Lincoln and
Douglas spoke Dr. Chauncey M. Depew, of New York, will pronounce
the oration of the day. Among the other speakers whose presence
is expected are: Ex-Minister Robert R. Lincoln, ex-Governor Boise
of Iowa, and Congressman Hitt, who was present at the debate in
1858 and made a stenographic report of it.