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The first time I saw Mr. Lincoln was when he made the speech at Columbus above mentioned, and I stood on the stone pavement on the esplanade on the east side of that Capital within ten feet of him during the nearly two hours of its delivery. I shall never forget the opening sentences of that address, and in brief they are a miniature of his characteristics. The democratic newspaper "The Ohio Statesman" had said of him the evening before, that Abraham Lincoln of Illinois would speak on east side of Capital on the following day, and added "that it was the same Lincoln who had advocated negro equality in the debates with Senator Douglas in Illinois last year; 'When Mr. Lincoln appeared he had a copy of the newspaper in his hand, and upon being introduced, began by saying--'I was somewhat at a loss for a topic for my speech to-day, but it has been supplied by the following allusion to myself'(he then read the notice from the paper) and continued, 'I mention this for three purposes. The first I have stated, it furnishes me a topic for my speech to-day, secondly I wish to show the gentleman is mistaken, and thirdly to give him an opportunity to beg my pardon.' The public men of Ohio of that day including Chase, Ewing, Sr., Dennison, Thurman and many others were of distinguished appearance, and the ungainly figure, and homely face of Mr. Lincoln however was forgotten in five minutes after he began and no one will remember except his logical argument."

(Signed) C. B. Mason.