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Miss. Ida. M. Tarbell
McClures Magazine
N.Y.

Some years ago I came upon a copy of the Congressional Record of some where in the '50's

Judah P. Benjamin Senator from Louisiana was speaking of Senator Douglass something in this style:—

" The people of the South and the Black Republicans agree that Congress has power over Slavery in the territories; and Mr Douglas

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when were with us in the Senate, agrees with us also. But when he gets before his Constituents he faces the other way &c &c —"

Then Mr. Benjamin reads a newspaper report of the joint debate in Illinois — and says in Effect:

"I do not know this man. I am told he was in the lower house for a term some years ago. But I will say this for him, Black Republican as he is, that it clearly appears that he is an honest man, and and able man, and further that if all the opponents of slavery should come to be led by a man like Lincoln, their fate would be sealed —"

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In case you have not noted this speech of Mr Benjamin, I am sure you would be interested in it

Mr. Benjamin Evidently uses Lincoln to thrash Douglas around the stump, but he does it so well, and the speech contains such a fine and prophetic statement about Lincoln that I have always remembered it.

I cannot remember the year but I think it was in 1858.

Yours very truly

H J Plough

Elizabeth

NJ.

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