No. 1.

In the Latter part of the year 1857. Mr Lincoln was invited by the young men of the Lecture Course of Clinton, Ill. to deliver an address for the benefit of the general public, leaving him to select his own theme.

The invitation was accepted & the date & place was made known.

A large & appreciative audiance convened in the Methodist Church to give the eminent Orator a patient hearing.

Mr Lincoln was at this date in attendance upon the Court holding its session in this city. which was within the bounds of his district.

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Judge Davis, then presiding over the courts of the district; subsequently he was appointed by Mr Lincoln, Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr Lincoln at this time had not gained a national reputation, but in the courts of his State was regarded a strong counselor & pleader in the courts.

There were many in the community who were quite anxious to hear the Illinois Statesman.

Entering the church, he approached the pulpit with an old fashioned pasteboard under his arm, folded together & holding his address written

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upon common foolscap paper.

Meeting him at the altar, I remarked, "Mr. Lincoln, you will please exercise your own choice, & address the audience from the pulpit, or from the altar platform."

On reply, he said, "My speech is written, & I think I can best get my talk off from the pulpit."

He thoughtfully surveyed his congregation, a serious attention was observable upon the part of the auditors: & Mr. Lincoln looked as tho he was somewhat out of his latitude standing in the pulpit.

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He began by saying, "My friends, I am before you to night, through the courtesy of the young men of the Lecture Course to talk to you for a little season.

I appear before you somewhat out of the usual order for me.

My address is written, but it is without a head! It is rather unfortunate to appear before a waiting audiance in such a predicament:" and then thoughtfully studying the criticism of his congregation, with a playful smile resting upon his countenance. He continued, "We will read the address by calling

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it scattering." He began with the history of the human race, & for over an hour & a quarter, he held his audience with marked attention.

The congregation were impressed that they had been listening to the utterances of no ordinary lecturer.

When the speaker closed, they felt that they had been under the inspiration of an intellectual giant.

Mr Lincoln showed a wonderful art in collating history & incidents all along the path of the ages, & presenting his combination of intensely interesting

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facts in the most vivid and
impressible manner.

Returning to his family,
the writer remarked, "This man
Lincoln, has given our people
a remarkable, a profound
address.

We will certainly rise to
National proportions. I never
listened to such a lecture".

From Rev
Thos Hendree McElfresh.
Jacksonville
Ill.

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