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In an article from Shelbyville, there is an interesting account of the old Tallman Tavern, which was standing at the time this article was written. and it was here Lincoln always stopped on the circuit. It was on the stage route between Springfield and Vandalia and famous for its "biled" dinners, for which it is said Lincoln always asked.

At Shelbyville was a debate of importance in 1856, between Anthony Thornton and Lincoln. This article gives an account of this debate by Col. D.C. Smith, who is said to be then living (1912) in Normal, Illinois. Smith said: "Lincoln had few political admirers in Shelby Co. and they arranged with the political friends of Mr. Thornton for the joint debate mentioned above. The day was warm and the speakers met in the court house a hour before the debate was to begin and spent the time in telling anecdotes and the reminiscing, much to the enjoyment of the goodly number of men gathered there. # *****

At the appointed hour he opened the debate substantially in the exact following words: 'Fellow Citizens: I rarely arise to address my fellow countrymen on any question of any importance without experiencing conflicting emotions within me. I experience such at this hour as I have never experienced before. It is a matter of great regret to me that I have so learned, so able and so eloquent a man as my friend Anthony here to reply to what I say. On the other hand I take some comfort from the fact that there are but 16 Republicans in Shelby County and therefore, however poorly I may defend my cause, I can hardly harm it if I do it no good.

Anthony and I were always old line Whigs and we stamped parts of Illinois and Indiana together in 1844 in advocacy of the election of Henry Clay. We have always been in substantial agreement on all public questions up to this time, but we have had sometimes crossed swords in court and you know 'Anthony', that whenever we have, you have always cut me as a fire cuts soap! Then after a few more complimentary allusions to his friend 'Anthony' he entered into a clear, logical and forceful discussion of the issues of the campaign, which was listened to by all present with rapt attention.

According to Mr. Smith's story, Mr. Thornton in his reply said that if the Republican Convention had nominated Abe Lincoln of Illinois and John McLean of Ohio, instead of Fremont and Bacon, he would have felt

constrained to vote for them, despite the Republican platform.

Smith concludes,

'Mr. Lincoln's speech, as I think, was the only Republican speech made in the county during the campaign. Yet so profound and so lasting was the impression it made on the minds and hearts of those who heard it, that the 16 known Republicans in the county, before it was made, swelled into a chorus of 150 odd at the polls in November.'