

MEMO. OF JOHN BUNN'S RECOLLECTIONS OF LINCOLN.

April 6th, 1909

Dr. Fritchett tells me of the unusual recollections of John Bunn, a banker of Springfield, about Lincoln. He was a young man in business in Springfield at the time that Lincoln began to be interested in <sup>the</sup> slavery question. He says that Lincoln took great interest in young men and liked to talk over with them their plans, and to advise them and to help them whenever he could. He says that almost every year Douglas used to speak in Springfield, and it came to be a custom to announce at every lecture that one week from that night, Mr. Lincoln would reply. Bunn said that he went one night to hear Douglas, who at that time was the great man of the country. He was much carried about by his arguments and his eloquence, and when it was announced that Abraham Lincoln would reply next week, he felt that it would be quite useless. The next morning Mr. Lincoln stopped at the store, as he Bunn was sweeping it out, to chat, as he often did. Bunn said to him, "Mr. Lincoln did you hear the lecture last night?" and he said, "Yes." "Are you going to attempt to reply to that lecture?" and Mr. Lincoln said "Yes." Bunn said, "You cannot do it, Mr. Lincoln, that was the greatest lecture I ever heard and Mr. Douglas is a great man." Mr. Lincoln said, "You are wrong, young man, that was not a great lecture, and Mr. Douglas is not a great man; three times in that lecture he lied, and each time he knew he lied. No man who knowingly tells lies is great."

Dr. Fritchett said incidently, that Mr. Bunn said that Mr. Lincoln often left home without his breakfast. This probably is a reference to the well known Springfield notion that Mrs. Lincoln drove him out of the house without breakfast.