Preston Ontario March 22' 1896

Ed McClures Mag.

Sir

As a reader of your popular Magazine and a great admirer of Abram Lincoln and deeply interested in the Biography being now published I think I can give a little interesting thing that occured in the summer of 1859.

I had been living in Council Bluffs Iowa since 1855 and at that time the city so called was made up almost entirely of southerners from different states and of course all democrats Some time during the summer named it was reported that Abram Lincoln was in the city and myself and a very few other Republicans was anxious and curious to see him. It appears he was there on business and not for the purpose of delivering a speech but being strongly persuaded by us of his political belief to deliver a political Speech and very reluctantly consented to do so. A large hall was procured day and hour fixed and notice properly given in the one Republican paper printed there called "The Nonpariel." When the hour arrived the hall was filled and a large majority of Democrats was in attendance and Omaha Nebraska being just across the River

sent a large delegation of Democratic officials ready to argue their side of the question.
When the speaker Mr L. was introduced by the chairman he arose in his usual style and I will repeat here his opening remarks. "Mr Chairman and fellow citizens of this city. When I came here I did not come to deliver a speech but was on business but I have been urgently requested to deliver a speech but they did not name the subject they wanted me to speak of and I do not hardly know myself but I think I will take the "Eternal slavery question" He spoke about two hours and then some democrat had a speech then some local speaker and so on until the Republicans had the last speech by blowing out the lights and the meeting broke up in confusion as usual when democrats had any thing to do with a political meeting at that time.
I presume I am the only one who remembers or ever kept in their mind this occurance
Should you deem this worth printing in your Mag. do so if not stick it in the waste basket and it will be all the same to me

Truly yours
M. A Abbey

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