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II.

CHICAGO, March 11.—The "plan of campaign" which paved the way to Mr. Lincoln's first nomination for the presidency was laid out in the Illionis state central committee and in the office of the Chicago Tribune. Mr. Medill was secretary of the committee and editor of the newspaper.

It was arranged that Lincoln's name was to be first "mentioned" by the Illinois country newspaper press, but the Tribune, though the leading republican paper of the west, was not to take the initiative. A dozen county papers down in the old whig belt of the state were to broach the subject; then the Journal in Springfield was to copy what they said and the Tribune also, with some editorial indorsement. A Rock Island paper was the first to open ~~out~~ for the presidency. This plan was duly carried out and it worked like a charm. The people of Illinois ~~took kindly~~ to the idea.

The committee had little to do with Lincoln's trip to New York and his Cooper Union speech. Mr. Lincoln wrote that speech in Springfield in response to the invitation to make a speech in New York. He brought it to Chicago and left it over night with Mr. Medill and Dr. Ray for examination, saying: "You boys read that through and note such changes as you think ought to be made in it."

"We went over it carefully," says Mr. Medill, "and made a number of marginal and separate notes, suggesting changes. He took our notes to his hotel before he left Chicago for New York and examined them at his leisure. A very few of them he adopted; ~~the others~~ he threw away. He generally had his mind made up before he asked for advice, and he was not ~~an easy man to move~~."

MEDILL IN WASHINGTON.

When the time came for the Tribune to take up Lincoln's name for the presidency in downright earnest Mr. Medill went to Washington with the view to start the boom from the capital. His picture of a newspaper correspondent's life at Washington thirty-five years ago may be instructive to the corps of today.

"Telegraph tolls to Chicago," says Mr. Medill, "were 5 cents a word. As we were not very rich most of my 'dispatches' went by mail. My office was under my hat and my headquarters were at the Washington house, where many of the western congressmen and some of the easterners were living. Among them were John A. Bingham of Ohio and Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, and members from ~~a dozen~~ other states.

"Before writing any Lincoln letters for the Tribune I began preaching Lincoln among the congressmen. I urged him chiefly upon the ground of availability in the close and doubtful states with what seemed like reasonable success. At length I sent to the Tribune a ringing Lincoln letter, making his availibility my strong point. It was the first letter written east of the Allegheny mountains in any leading newspaper urging Lincoln for president in preference to the great and overshadowing Seward.

"When the Tribune came back to Washington with that Lincoln letter I realized that I was in for trouble. Before that time there had been a mild Seward party ~~at the~~ Washington, but the line was not ~~sharply~~ drawn. But now ~~the party~~ was sharply defined, and all the Seward congressmen on the Seward side, among them even Owen Lovejoy ~~himself~~, Farnsworth of Chicago, was for Lincoln, though he loved Seward.

RESENTS THE LINCOLN BOOM.

"I had been invited to a grand reception which Seward was giving to the British minister at that time. I had hardly entered the drawing room when Seward saw me. He tapped me on the shoulder, saying: 'Medill, I want to see you.' He took me into his wine room and commenced at once: 'Medill, you have stunned me. I've read that letter of yours in the Tribune in which you advocate Lincoln for president in preference to me, giving reasons—availability—that are wide of the truth; saying I haven't the strength Lincoln has in states like Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois, and would be defeated, as Fremont was defeated, and that your ~~man,~~ Prairie Statesman Lincoln, can carry ~~the~~ essential states, which I cannot. Do you mean that?'

"I assured him that I did believe it.

by

in beginning "the boom"

in the winter of 1859-60

for the Presidency

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~~not~~ in the habit of accepting it when it was offered to him.

Gen Farnsworth of Chicago,

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or I would not have said so in the letter.

"'Well,' he retorted, 'I consider this a personal insult. I had always counted on you as "one of my boys." You appealed to me from Cleveland (referring to the letters written by Mr. Medill in 1854) about changing the name of the party, etc., and I trusted you,' etc. He ended by saying in anger: 'Henceforth you and I are parted. The golden chain is broken. I defy you to do your worst. ~~I know~~ three daily papers in your city that are ~~with~~ me (this was true; the Tribune stood alone in Chicago for Lincoln), and I shall never regard you again as a friend of mine.' And he turned on his heel and strode out, while I said ~~sharply~~ in reply: 'Success next fall I esteem of more importance than any man's friendship.'

"And he was as good as his word," Mr. Medill continued. "I met him ~~several times~~ afterwards in Lincoln's chamber when he was secretary of state to the 'man out on the prairies,' but he ~~never~~ gave me more than a formal bow. Lincoln knew all about the episode, for I had told him, but he never referred to it by word or look."

Mr. Medill kept on writing Lincoln letters from Washington, and the Tribune made "Old Abe" the issue. Once or twice he met Mr. Lincoln after returning home, and the candidate said:

~~DOUBTFUL OF HIS OWN NOMINATION.~~

"See here, you Tribune boys have got me up a peg too high. How about the vice presidency—won't that do?"

At one of these encounters the correspondent said to Mr. Lincoln: "We are not playing second in this dance to any musician. You're an apt man at telling apropos stories. Now let me tell you one that ~~my schoolmaster used to tell me.~~ 'When you go to a theater,' ~~he would say~~, 'always buy a box ticket, because with that you can sit anywhere in the house; but if you buy a pit ticket you must sit in the pit or go out.'"

"How do you apply that?" asked Lincoln.

"Easily. Start in for the vice presidency and you have lost all chance of the higher place. If you must 'come down a peg,' as you say, it will be mighty easy later on. The Seward fellows would jump at such a ~~chance~~ to get ~~rid of~~ you. But now it is president or nothing. Else you may count the Tribune out. We are not fooling away our time and ~~science~~ on the vice presidency."

"But," persisted Mr. Lincoln, "how am I going to get the nomination? What states can I carry in the convention after Illinois?" And he took cut paper and pencil to figure it up.

"You will get your own state, solidly, to start with," answered Mr. Medill, "and Indiana. Do you doubt that?"

"No—o, I guess not. I've lived in both states."

"Well, those are the two pivotal states in the west that Fremont lost; and you can get Pennsylvania."

"Pennsylvania? Why, that's Cameron's state."

"Yes, its Cameron's state—to trade on. ~~Our men~~ don't expect Cameron to get anything but a cabinet position. Now, if you can carry the Keystone state in the convention you can carry it at the polls. New Jersey goes with Pennsylvania. Other states will flock to your roost. Now, you can't show me how you can be beaten if you carry those four states."

"There's Chase—he holds Ohio," mused Mr. Lincoln.

"Chase is not formidable for president."

"Iowa is for Seward—and Wisconsin."

~~"That's doubtful."~~

"There's Michigan."

"Yes, Michigan is the daughter of New York, and is for Seward. But you'll get Missouri, Kentucky and Nebraska. As for Ohio ~~—leave Ohio to me.~~ You will get part of its vote at least. I am sure of that."

"Aren't you an optimist?" Mr. Lincoln finally asked.

"A man ought to be in a fight of this kind," was Mr. Medill's retort, "and you must be an optimist, too."

And before the campaign ended Mr. Lincoln was as optimistic as the most hopeful of his party.

There are four

of the Republican party

once

no

He also ~~said~~ asked me what Lincoln had done to justify bringing him out for the presidency, and remarked that Lincoln had made no mark when he was in Congress: and a very slight one it was.

~~[illegible]~~

from Washington

fiddle

I read in my school Reader:

out of Seward's way.

proposition

work

The Pennsylvania politicians

in the Convention as at the polls.

You will get votes in Iowa. Wisconsin is for Seward I admit.

&

In the Convention Lincoln got all the ~~States~~ he told Lincoln would support him

In the Convention Lincoln got all the States that Medill

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REPUBLICAN CONVENTION OF 1860.

The republican convention of Surey 1860 was held in a great wigwam temporarily erected for the purpose on Market street, Chicago. Mr. Medill co-operated with the chairman of the state central committee, Mr. Norman B. Judd, in arranging the delegates' seats. This allottment was one of the minor circumstances leading up to Mr. Lincoln's nomination, and Mr. Medill tells of his share in it with an irresistible look of mock contrition. "It was," he says, "the meanest political trick I ever had a hand in in my life."

New York came to the convention, under the adroit and able management of Thurlow Weed, solid for her favorite son, William H. Seward. From the Lincoln point of view it was highly desirable to isolate the Empire state delegation and place the delegates of the doubtful states as far outside of the sphere of its influence as possible.

Most important of the doubtful states for Lincoln was Pennsylvania and next Ohio. This circumstance furnished the key to the Lincoln committee's plan of arrangement. New York was seated at ~~one extreme~~ the east end of the vast hall, with no state for neighbor that was not already hopelessly for Seward. At the other extreme was placed Pennsylvania, at so long a remove that the voices of Seward orators of New York could barely he heard by the doubtful delegates of Pennsylvania. Close about the Keystone state, on the side toward New York, were packed the faithful Lincoln delegations of Illinois and Indiana, and also the New Jersey delegation, which was accounted but a tail to the Keystone Kite ~~dog~~. There were convenient passages leading from the Pennsylvania seats to the ante-rooms which were also directly in communication with Illinois and Indiana, so that when delegates from Pennsylvania betook themselves from the hall for consulation they were reasonably certain to meet delegates from Illinois or Indiana primed with an argument for Lincoln. Judge David Davis waylaid many a "Quaker" in this simple fashion and expounded the truth as it was in him. Editor John Defrees and Gov. Lane of Indiana labored earnestly with the Pennsylvanians. The Ohio delegation was placed on the South ~~other~~ side of Illinois and Indiana.

~~LINCOLN'S NOMINATION.~~

"I took my seat," part of the time says Mr. Medill, "among my old friends of the Ohio delegation, as I personally knew nearly all of them, and did what missionary work I could. Joshua R. Giddings soon spied me and, without ceremony, ~~ordered me out~~ requested me to leave. He made ~~a bitter little speech~~ a few remarks for my benefit and for the edification of the Ohio delegates within hearing. It was to the effect that Lincoln didn't amount to anything and had but a limited acquaintance, and Seward was the natural leader of the party. My friends among the Ohioans came to my rescue and told me to stay, and I did, ~~and we had a nice little argument~~ & I remained with the Ohio men for two ballots.

"After the second ballot I whispered to Chairman Carter of Ohio: 'Now is your time. If you can throw the Ohio vote for Lincoln, Chase can have anything he wants.' 'H-how d-d'ye know?' stuttered Carter. ~~I know, and you know I wouldn't say so if I didn't know.~~ I replied I knew he had large discretionary power. Ask Judge Davis. He holds ~~the authority~~ Carte blanche from Lincoln.'

"So Carter got up and boldly announced eighteen or nineteen Ohio votes for Lincoln, though the delegation had not been polled. Giddings challenged the vote, but after an acrimonious wrangle on the poll it was found that Carter hadn't 'nigged' more than ~~one~~ ~~or~~ two & or three votes. That Ohio vote put ~~him~~ Lincoln up alongside of Seward. The next ballot brought the victory, and the haughty, lordly Seward's goose was cooked." *

Mr. Medill's estimate of the importance of this missionary work he states thus:

"I don't know that this arrangement of seats in the convention was potential for the nomination of Lincoln; but I have always believed that if Pennsylvania had been placed within the sphere of Thurlow Weed's influence we shouldn't have come within fifty votes of success, as he would have kept her from voting for the "Prairie Statesman," and that would inevitably beaten him. As for Ohio, if that state had been near New York, it would never have broken for Lincoln as it did, and the result would have been Seward's nomination, and defeat at the polls, for all the pro-slavery and conservative elements would have combined against the 'irrepressible conflict' man and crushed him, thus electing Douglas" to the presidency.

* Insert at the *

Before the second ballot was taken the chairman of the delegation Col ______, who was a warm Lincoln man asked permission of the Convention for his delegation to retire for consultation. They were in a big Committee room for about ten or fifteen while breathless suspense prevailed in the Convention. The delegation returned and the tall chairman announced an almost solid vote for "~~Abraham~~ Lincoln of Illinois". Then broke forth with the suddeness and force a cannon discharge a cheer that was terrific from 10.000 strong throats: and it was long continued. The triumph of Lincoln was felt to be certain from that moment.

Miss Tarbell please fill this blank as I have forgotten his name J. M.