

The First Meeting of Lincoln and Hamlin.

"Mr Hamlin was for many years a member of the Board of Trustees of Waterville College, now Colby University, Waterville, Me. On one of the annual Commencement occasions I found him one afternoon seated on the piazza of the "Elmwood," for the moment alone unoccupied. Taking a chair by his side, I said, "Mr Hamlin, when did you first meet Mr Lincoln?"

"Well, said he, "I very plainly recall the circumstances of our first meeting. It was in Chicago. Sometime before the Inauguration, I received a letter from Mr Lincoln, asking me to see him before I went to Washington.

" So on ~~my way to the latter city~~ ^{where I was to meet Mr Lincoln} I took ^{but}
 " ^{to} in Chicago. Sending my card to
 " Mr Lincoln's room, I received word to
 " 'Come right up'. I found the door open
 " and Mr Lincoln approaching with
 " extended hand. With a hearty welcome
 " he said, "I think I have never met
 " you before, Mr Hamlin, but this is not
 " the first time I have seen you. I have
 " just been recalling the time when in
 " '48 I went to the Senate to hear you
 " speak. Your subject was not new
 " but the ideas were sound. You were
 " talking about slavery, and I now
 " take occasion to thank you for so
 " well expressing what were my own
 " sentiments at that time."

" Well, Mr President," said I, "this
 " is certainly quite a remarkable

"Coincidence. I myself have just
 "been recalling the first time I ever
 "saw you. It must have been about the
 "same time to which you allude. I was
 "passing through the House and was
 "attracted by some remarks on the sub-
 "ject of slavery from one of the new
 "members. They told me it was Sin-
 "coln of Illinois. I heard you through
 "and I very well remember how
 "heartily I endorsed every point
 "you made. And, Mr President,
 "I have no doubt we are still in
 "perfect accord on the main
 "question."

The result of the Chicago interview was a
 cordial understanding between the two men & through
 co-operation throughout their administration.
 This was to be expected for they were not unlike
 in character & experience. Hamilton as Lincoln had
 been born poor and had had a hand-to-hand