Col. J. W. ROBINSON
CONCORD, N. H.

1860

It was my good fortune to be present and listen to the powerful and convincing address of Abraham Lincoln in this our Capitol City. On March first 1860, at first I thought he was about the most awkward and ungainly man I had ever seen, but that impression soon passed away under the influence of his eloquence and logic, as I said above

Digital Image 2009 The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

9

E. Mayor Moses Humphrey now nearly ninty (90) years old. recently said in newspaper article

Lincoln was invited here by the state central Republican committee on the suggestion of George H. Hutchins and others who had heard him in Chicago in his Douglas campaign. It was known at that time that he intended to visit his son at Andover academy.

I well remember the great meeting at Phenix hall convening at one o'clock in the afternoon. The settees were all removed except two in front of the stage and they were occupied by elderly people and among the number was a gentleman by the name of Brooks who was a violent Democrat and a proslavery man. The crowd was packed in like sardines in a box. I had a standing position close to Mr. Brooks who was very nervous as Mr. Lincoln spoke and poured hot shot into the Democratic party. Mr. Brooks hardly could keep quiet, taking off his spectacles every few minutes and wiping them with a slip of paper and seeming to act as though every word was intended for him. Although I had heard many able speakers on that subject I had ever heard any one Lincoln's equal. The speech had a wonderful effect on the people of Concord and the surrounding towns. They were present from about every section in the state in fact. The address made New Hampshire a solid Republican state.

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

3

After his address while waiting a short time for the train which was to take him to Manchester, accompanied by his son Robert, he was taken into my office at the station, when I was introduced to them by Hon. Geo. G. Fogg, whom Prest. Lincoln sent to Switzerland as minister. In March 1862 I called on Mr Lincoln at the white House in Washington, when he at once said I know you, I met you in Concord, and then enquired about my friend Fogg

J.W.R.

Digital Image, 2009, The Rare Book, Manuscript, Special Collection, 1800-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library