

Chicago Democrat. by J.O. Cunningham

Fourth Great Debate between Lincoln and Douglas at Charlestown.--Lincoln Strips the Giant Dry.

Charleston, Sept. 18, 1858.

The fourth meeting between Lincoln and Douglas took place in this town

to-day, and was attended by a very large crowd--estimated variously at from ten to fifteen thousand persons. And here, we may say, that the great reason urged by the Douglasites against the canvas as proposed by Mr. Lincoln, that he, (Lincoln) would be indebted to Mr. Douglas for all the crowd, is proven to be a complete fallacy, by contrasting the numbers here, at Ottawa and Freeport, with those at Jonesboro. At the three former places Mr. Lincoln's friends are supposed to be equal, or to predominate over those of Mr. Douglas, while at the latter few in comparison are claimed for Mr. Lincoln. At the former places immense gatherings have characterized the meetings, while at the latter the crowd was very meagre.

The meeting here to-day was inaugurated at Mattoon last evening, by speeches from men on both sides of the question. Robinson, Douglas candidate in the 8th District for congress, the man who a short time since at Paris, said he "would rather sleep with a nigger than a republican," sought out a goods box in a street and commenced a harrangue in his peculiar Fish-market style, announcing that he would be followed by Cole of Champaign, and other gentlemen. At the close of the remarks by Robinson, the audience showed a desire to have an antidote accompany the poisonous speech, by calling for Hon. W. B. Craddock, Republican candidate for the legislature; accordingly he was almost unanimously called for. Robinson arose, filled to overflowing with wrath, and announced that this was his appointment, and he would allow no Black republican crowd to drive him off. Accordingly the crowd adjourned to a convenient locality, where Mr. Robinson would not be disturbed, leaving him alone on the box, apparently not well pleased, and then called for "Crad," from whom they had a good speech, done up in his best style. He was followed by James W. Somers, of Urbana, and by Mr. Chapman of Indianapolis. This morning the procession formed at Mattoon for the purpose of escorting Lincoln to the county-seat. It was led by a band of music from Indiana. Following the carriage of Mr. Lincoln was a wagon filled with young ladies, thirty-two in number, each representing a state. The wagon bearing this precious burden of beauty, bore this significant motto:

"Westward the star of empire takes its way,

The girls link-on to Lincoln,

Their mothers were for Clay."

Immediately following was a young lady on horse-back representing Kansas bearing the motto,--"Kansas will be free." In front of the procession was a banner inscribed, "Support Abraham Lincoln, the Defender of Henry Clay."

Arriving at Charleston, a vast throng was found awaiting the procession, and welcomed it with cheers and huzzas. From the Capitol House to the Court House, on the opposite side of the street, a banner was stretched on which was sketched an emigrant wagon, drawn by two yoke of oxen, driven by a young stripling, and over the caricature the words, "Abes entrance into Charleston thirty years ago." When it was remembered that thirty years ago Mr. Lincoln emigrated to this place from Kentucky, driving his father's team, a la the design on the banner, this had a peculiar significance. It attracted much attention during the day.

In front of the Capitol House the ceremony of the reception took place in the most imposing style. The reception speeches was made by Hon. H. P. H. Bromwell, and is conceded to have been a very appropriate and neat speech. It was well received by the crowd, and elicited excessive cheering. Lincoln responded in a few remarks, well timed and to the point, which inflamed the audience with the greatest amount of enthusiasm.

After dinner the crowd moved to the ground of the Agricultural society to witness the great attraction of the day--the intellectual contest between the two great front leaders in Illinois. It proved an occasion

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long to be remembered by both speakers and audience;--the former because it was the turning point which was to decide important points in the campaign, and to the latter because they were to witness a great intellectual ~~contest~~ encounter. Mr. Lincoln was introduced to the audience by Dr. Chamberlain, and received intense applause. After a few remarks by way of introduction, he proceeded to answer a question propounded by a citizen present, as to his position in favor of or opposed to extending to negroes the right of citizenship. Mr. Lincoln said he did not believe the constitution of the United States gave them the rights of citizenship, which settled the matter so far as the country at large is concerned; further, he had ever been opposed and was still opposed to admitting them to those rights in Illinois.

He then proceeded to say that at Jacksonville Mr. Douglas had thrown upon him the responsibility of Mr. Trumbull's charge concerning the alteration in the Toombs bill. Mr. L. said he had intended to leave that matter between those gentlemen; but inasmuch as Mr. Douglas had given fair notice that he should hold Mr. L. responsible for it, he would boldly meet the responsibility and prove the charge. He then proceeded to the task. The record, plain as Holy Writ, was produced--the bill introduced by Senator Toombs, and as referred to Mr. Douglas' committee, and the bill as perfected by that committee,--proving that Mr. Douglas was a leading conspirator to enslave Kansas. The record, the bill as introduced and amended, were held up before the audience, and the proof was all so plain that no man could deny, and the audience, covering many square rods, attested to the complete proof by the most hearty applause

During the time of this hour's speech, which was almost entirely devoted to this branch of the subject, hitherto untouched by Mr. Lincoln, Douglas trembled. Like Felix, before Saint Paul, when his sin and corruptions were exposed, he could not maintain himself. It was evidently too much for his fortitude and temper, the latter of which got his senatorial dignity under foot and abused it most shamefully. In the course of his speech, Mr. Douglas insinuated the oft exploded charge that Lincoln voted against supplies to the soldiers in Mexico. This Mr. Lincoln rebutted in an entirely original, but, it must be conceded, very effective manner. Referring to the subject he explained in a concise manner his position upon the war question as being the same as that of the Whig party of that day. To prove his statements true, he turned to Hon. O. B. Ficklin, who was sitting upon the stand, and seizing him by the collar, dragged him by main force before the audience, saying, "Now, Mr. Ficklin you sat by my side the whole of the time I was in Congress, and know very well every speech and vote given by me. Now, sir, I want you to tell to this audience the whole truth of the matter." Mr. Ficklin was an unwilling witness, but was in a tight place and could do no better than go forward and do as he was bidden. He said he was a friend to both contending gentlemen and esteemed them both. He further said that Mr. Lincoln gave no material vote different from his own on the war question, except to declare it unconstitutional. The effect of this performance, as will be readily be seen by the reader, was electrical upon the audience. Douglas made the charge, and instead of getting out of temper and giving the lie, Lincoln seized Douglas' right hand man, made him a witness, and at once nailed the libelous charge to the counter. The effect was most powerful; cheer after cheer rent the air, testifying the complete triumph of Lincoln over the calumny. "Fick" was not a little discomfitted, but could do no better than meet the issue with fortitude. He had been the unwilling instrument in the hands of Lincoln of robbing the Douglasites of their chief weapon.

After this Mr. Lincoln continued a few moments touching upon some minor points, and closed amid deafening applause. The tempestuous enthusiasm continued many moments. Mr. Lincoln was greeted by many, upon his descent from the stand, who had been wavering, but had now determined to yield him their support. The effect upon all parties has been of the most satisfactory character. The prejudice awakened against our party by the cry of "abolition," has been wiped out.

It is now admitted that both the republican candidate for the senate, T. S. Marshall and for the house, W. W. Craddock, in this district, will be elected. Set them both down for good majorities. The Douglasites have once backed down in the race by drawing off their candidate for representative, and putting up another man. Consternation and indecision characterizes every movement. An apprehension of defeat has evidently sunk deeply into their minds.

In the evening speeches were made in the court-house yard by R. J. Oglesby, candidate for congress, and by H. P. H. Bromwell. In the court house Linder, (for God's sake Linder, help me,) and others spoke to meagre audiences.

Coles, Edgar, Clark, Cumberland Moultrie and Champaign were largely represented in the audiences.

Yours,

Rasco.