

Lincoln and Richard Yates.

One of the speakers at the great republican jubilee on the evening of November 20, 1860, at Springfield was Richard Yates, who had just been elected Governor of Illinois. Yates had been in Congress at the time of the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill and the repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854. In the course of his speech he said:

"I had spoken and voted against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and when on my return home at the close of the long session of 1854, having published a card that I would not be a candidate for re-election, I was met at the depot in Springfield by Mr. Lincoln. He said I had taken the right course on this question and though he could not promise me success in a district so largely against us, yet he hoped for the sake of the principle I would run ("that's just like old Abe") and if I would he would take the stump in my behalf. I remember his earnestness, and so deeply did he implore me that the question was one worthy of our noblest efforts, whether in victory or defeat, that I consented. From the circumstances I believe that the only consideration ^{with} ~~that~~ Mr. Lincoln was a disinterested and patriotic desire for the success of correct principle. Little did he or I then dream that for the advocacy of that principle he was to be made the President of the greatest nation on earth and his humble friend at the depot Governor of one of the greatest commonwealths of that nation."

(Prolonged applause)

J. M. Can Davis