

Interview with Senator Shelby M. Cullom on Chicago Convention of 1860.

Senator Cullom recalls little about the Chicago convention of 1860 that has not already been published. He was not a delegate to the convention, nor was he a prominent worker for Lincoln; for he was then a young man, and was there only as an interested spectator, though of course he did his share of shouting for Lincoln.

"The night before the convention", says Senator Cullom, "the Seward men made demonstrations in the streets and in all the hotels. By making a tremendous racket they sought to create the impression that everybody was for Seward. At the Tremont House a crowd of Lincoln's friends, myself among them, forced their way in and took possession of the stairway. We out-yelled them and eventually drove them out.

"During the balloting I was in the gallery with Mrs. Cullom. The excitement was intense. ~~Both Seward and Lincoln had~~ ~~friends among the~~ ~~followers among the spectators~~ Every movement on the floor of the convention was watched with the profoundest interest. Seward, as well as Lincoln, had many devoted followers among the spectators. An enthusiastic Seward man stood near me. He was a resident of Michigan, but ~~had formerly~~ ~~was~~ a native of New York. As the balloting proceeded, and it became perfectly apparent that his idol had fallen, he broke down and wept like a child. I do not believe the convention was *unfairly 'packed' in Lincoln's interest. True, Lincoln's friends had charge of the wigwam, and I have no doubt that the tickets of admission were judiciously distributed by them.

2--Cullom.

and Lincoln had the galleries with him; but the Seward men, too, were inevitable, well represented in the galleries. It was ~~natural~~ owing to the ~~at~~ location of the place of holding the convention, if for no other reason, that Lincoln should have an advantage in this respect. But the cheering for Lincoln was not the result of any ~~prearranged~~ prearranged plan; it was spontaneous; it was infectious, too, and it captured the convention.

"I think the men to whom credit was chiefly due for Lincoln's nomination were Norman B. Judd, David Davis, Stephen T. Logan, B. C. Cook, O. H. Browning and Leonard Swett. His campaign was managed by these men with a tact and adroitness that has never been surpassed in the history of political conventions."