

Lincoln

Old Abe's Son

Inter Ocean

Aug. 20th 87

OLD ABE'S SON.

How the Sentiment in Favor of
Robert T. Lincoln Is
Growing.

A Veteran Politician, of New York
on the Novel Situa-
tion.

Mr. Lincoln Pushed to the Front in Spite
of His Pretext by the
People.

THE SON OF LINCOLN.
New York, Jan. 10. To the Editor.—One of the most striking things in modern politics is the growth of public sentiment in the Republican party in favor of Robert T. Lincoln as its next Presidential candidate, during the past two months. It seems to have developed in spite of his disqualification, and in direct opposition to the desire of those claiming to be his especial friends. A Chicago journal recently declared somewhat apologetically that "in case of a deadlock" the Republican convention of 1888 "would make no mistake," if it should nominate the son of Abraham Lincoln, and there seems to be an especial effort on the part of many in his own State who at least assume to be his particular friends, to thrust him into the place of the "dark horse," while a spontaneous movement of the people outside the State is urging him into a foremost place. In 1884, he undoubtedly occupied that position, but even then there were many thousands of Republican voters who would have greeted his nomination with more confidence in the result than the name of any other man could give. Twenty-five years of uninterrupted victory had, however, generated a confidence in Republican success which induced its representatives in convention assembled to indulge in the

EXERCISE OF PERSONAL PREFERENCE
They exercise the power intrusted to their hands with careful regard for the interest of the whole party.
Before the convention of 1884 assembled it was evident to any careful observer that the nomination of Mr. Blaine would awaken discord and antagonisms which might imperil the suc-

cess of the party. It was then and is still bootless to inquire whether the objections urged against him were well or ill-founded. They existed and were entertained by men whose opinions were not likely to be affected by argument, nor was it expected that they would be changed by anything that could be said in the premises. The simple fact is it was believed that all objections to the candidate would give away before the alternative of Democratic victory, and that the fear of political excommunication would deter even the most dissatisfied elements of the party from actual schism. The hope proved unfounded and the election demonstrated the folly of these enthusiastic admirers of the candidate who insisted upon his election in spite of acknowledged burdens he would have to bear. It proved, too, that when the Republican party puts forth all its strength, even with a "world South" against it, victory is assured; but that no man can be elected as its candidate who is unable to master to his support every man who belongs in its ranks.
There is little doubt that Mr. Blaine was the preference—the heavy first choice—of a very large majority of the Republican voters of the North. Of the South this can not be so safely predicted, though that is not a matter of prime importance to a Republican candidate, since there is little probability that any Southern State will give a Republican electoral vote during the present century. Of the active workers of the party probably two-thirds were his enthusiastic supporters. This sufficed for a nomination, and if a nomination had been as heretofore equivalent to an election, it would have been enough. But Mr. Blaine came into his candidacy.

AT THE TURNING OF THE TIDE

The chances were pretty nearly even against his party if thoroughly united, and became well nigh desperate when actual defection occurred.

The rally which the Republican party made about its fated leader is one of the finest spectacles in our political history. The men who declined to support the ticket were not all—nay, they were not a tithe of those who regretted his nomination. Thousands who were not followers of the "knight," whose plumes had never been soiled by conflict, regarded the defeat of the party as a far more serious matter than the election of a candidate they disapproved, and Mr. Blaine had no more earnest supporter than those who fought without hope of victory, but none the less stubbornly. It is due to their activity and faithfulness that the struggle was so close, and the Democratic victory not one that gives any assured hope for tomorrow. To the stand-point these men occupied during that campaign, the masses of the party have been steadily coming ever since. It is generally admitted that the nomination was an unwise one, however well signed and well deserved by the recipient. There are few who do not now

admit that if the ticket had been reversed the result might have been different, and fewer still who do not believe that a ticket headed by Mr. Lincoln, having associated with him some unembroidered Eastern leader of unquestioned ability, like General Hawley, would have been certain to succeed.

It is this almost universal conviction that makes the present situation so entirely different from that of 1864. There will be no "dead-lock" in the convention of 1868, and no approach to a "dead-lock." Before the convention meets there will have arisen an almost universal demand for a particular result, and the nominee will be the man whom the masses of the party believe will poll the most votes. The exigency is no longer that of individuals, but of the party. The question is not who best deserves the party's favor, but who best can serve the party's need. The people will nominate the President, and not the politicians. If Mr. Lincoln is nominated, it will not be the result of any design, nor as the way out of an uncomfortable position, but because the rank and file of the party are satisfied that he is the safest man to have at the head of the ticket.

Regarded from this point of view, it is unquestionable that Mr. Lincoln presents a singular array of desirable attributes. The fact that he is the son of Abraham Lincoln, though in itself enough to endear him to the hearts of the American people is but one, and in truth, one of the least—of the qualities which would make him

A SINGULARLY SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

First among the others may be noted the entire absence of assumption and undue ambition. The son of the most noted character of the age, if not of our Nation, he has never builded any demand for recognition or preferment upon that fact. Quietly, cheerfully, and without arrogating to himself any superiority, he has lived an honorable life, won for himself an enviable place in his profession, and faithfully discharged the duties of the citizen with unostentatious faithfulness.

It is the universal belief, a belief well founded in fact, too—that he alone of all those whose names are mentioned for the Presidency, in serious earnest does not wish the nomination. Not that he would not feel honored by a nomination to the place his illustrious father adorned, but he has been taught by abundant opportunity how grave are its responsibilities and how great are the perils and how few the enjoyments which attend the exercise of power in our republic. He has seen the heart-burnings, jealousies, and petty intrigues that infest the public life of the capital. The two most tragic scenes of our history were enacted almost under his eyes, and those most closely connected with his life were the victims. He is strongly domestic and loves the place of an honored and honorable citizen. Because of these things he does not yearn for the pomp and responsibility of place. Of this the people are assured. They look upon him as one of themselves, and do not believe that the

Presidential bee will ever be found buzzing in his bonnet. The spectacle is a rare one, and because of its rarity is all the more likely to prove attractive to his party and the people.

Added to this quality is his exquisite temper. Except his father, no public man of our day has been his superior, perhaps hardly his equal, in this respect.

AN ACTIVE AND EARNEST PARTISAN

A man of decided convictions, he was placed in a most responsible and difficult position, acquitted himself therein with distinguished success, and during a period when his party was so torn by factional discord as to embrace the greater portion of its rank and file in bitter controversy, so demeaned himself as to retain the confidence of his superiors and the country, and without fawning or servility avoid enmity and command the respect and admiration of even his political opponents. This peculiar attribute is one of the highest and rarest among our public men. Few men grant without subserviency and refuse without offense, and fewer still have the power of self-decision united with a due and reasonable deference for the opinions of others. Yet no one ever imagined that as President, Mr. Lincoln would be the tool of any man or set of men. No kitchen-cabinet or private secretary would peddle his prerogatives. No rival aspirant will bargain with him for place or power. Like his great father he has no throng of greedy followers who hang upon his heels inspired by the hope of public plunder. Yet there will never be any doubt as to his Republicanism. It would never be said in an administration of his, "the Senate is Republican, the House Democratic, and the President a tie." He is recognized and admitted to be, not only a man of tact and ability, but of conviction and decision. His patriotism is not of the negative kind which values the National glory only when it reflects himself, but one which makes him willing to be anything or nothing for the country's sake. These are qualities of which the Republican masses have a keen appreciation. It is to such qualities that its successful candidates have owed not a little of their success. They brought the elder Lincoln close to the popular heart.

MADE GRANT THE PEOPLE'S IDOL

were hoped for in Hayes, and confidently anticipated in Garfield. The need of a candidate in 1888, who can be elected as well as nominated, will give such considerations great weight.

Added to these is the potent fact that Lincoln will win back more Mugwumps, restrain more labor men from schism, be regarded with greater favor by the Prohibitionists who were originally Republicans, and be more likely to carry one or more Southern States than any other candidate the party can name. These things are already affecting the public mind. Men say of others named for the place, "I am in favor of Blaine or Sherman, but—" Then there is an ominous shake of the head or the frank confession, "I am afraid he cannot be elected." That is the rub with every one whose public life has gener-

and antagonisms. The candidacy of such an opponent always be canvassed with a "but" and the friends of each are afraid of the friction of established relations, of the hostility or indifference of others. This the people know, and the members of the party fully realize the perils arising therefrom.

It is impossible, of course, to say what a year may bring forth, but it is not too early to predict that there will be no "dead-lock" in the convention of 1888. No man will be nominated because he has "a claim" upon the party, but that man will be chosen whom the party believes can serve it most effectually. This choice the people will make known in unmistakable terms long before the convention meets, for the candidate will not be the creature of the caucus but the clearly designated selection of the people. It may be Mr. Lincoln or it may be another, but it will be no "dark horse" Jack-at-a-pinch substitute for a favorite who seeks to kill his enemy while assenting to his own death.

THE VETERAN.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCES.

THE FIRST CLUB.

BARTON, Wis., Aug. 18.—*Special Telegram.*—The first Lincoln Club of the United States was organized here last night for the campaign of 1888, and has come to stay.

A VOICE FROM AN IRISHMAN.

DECATUR CITY, Iowa, Aug. 16.—*To the Editor.*—Will you permit a voice from an Irishman in the columns of your paper? In 1884, seventeen of us failed to vote for Blaine and Logan. In 1888, if we are all alive, and Robert T. Lincoln and General P. H. Sheridan are the choice of the Republican party, we will vote solidly for Lincoln and Sheridan. This ticket will set in motion the battle of brains and politics, and a glorious victory for the Republican party in 1888.

C. D. D. KELLY.

A NEBRASKA VIEW.

RANDOLPH, Neb., Aug. 11.—*To the Editor.*—While others are expressing themselves about the available candidates for President I wish to say a word for Robert T. Lincoln. I am an admirer of James G. Blaine and he would be my first choice, but I feel that Robert T. Lincoln is the most available man for 1888. He is a man of the highest integrity and of acknowledged ability, and while other men would please one section of the country Robert T. Lincoln would be the people's choice from all sections. With Robert T. Lincoln at the head and Ben Harrison or some other good man as Vice, and a prohibition plank in the platform we are bound to win. Gives us Robert T. Lincoln and the prohibition plank and we will have patriotism and right on our side and are sure to win. Yours truly,

C. S. WITTHAM.

THE SON OF OLD ABE.

TRAGERSVILLE, Miss., Aug. 13.—To the Editor.—You can just tell the readers of THE LITTLE OCEAN, the colored people and Republicans are waiting for the nomination of the Hon. Robert T., the son of the immortal Lincoln, for President of the United States. I know hundreds of men who have not voted since they voted for Hayes and his infamous policy, that would vote for Bob Lincoln at all hazards. There is no use talking Blaine. Sherman is a great and good man who would if elected reflect honor upon the Nation, but he is too great to be elected. Give us R. T. Lincoln, a man whom Blaine, Sherman, Conkling, Edmunds, and stalwarts, half-breeds, Mugwumps, and in fact everybody can unite on and defeat Cleveland or anybody else the Democrats may nominate. Three cheers and a tiger for the son of Uncle Abe.

W. T. SPARKMAN.

LINCOLN AND VICTORY.

DELVAN, Wis., Aug. 14.—To the Editor.—

Dear Sir: I take the liberty to send to you the inclosed slip from the Lake Geneva News which was a communication from a few Republicans of Delvan, and I will say that speaks the sentiments of nine-tenths of the Republicans of Southern Wisconsin. Yours,

S. S. BARCOCK.

The following explains itself:

The News has said that Robert T. Lincoln could lead the Republican party to victory in 1888. It now says that he is the only man that can do it.

We clip the following from the Geneva News, and most earnestly do we endorse your views as therein expressed:

With Robert T. Lincoln as the Presidential nominee in 1888, we can win. His nomination would harmonize and bring together the entire Republican party.

He is a man of ability and integrity, without a stain upon his reputation. A man that has been tried and found equal to every demand made upon him. We can not afford for a second time to filter away the strength of the Republican party of this Nation to gratify the wish or ambition of one man, nor can we afford for another campaign to be placed on the defensive when we have good, true men like Lincoln, Allison, Green, Cullom, Harrison, and many others who need no defense.

We say Lincoln and victory.

SILAS W. MENZIE,
JAMES ARAM,
S. S. BARCOCK,
A. H. BARNES,
C. B. SUMNER,
D. B. DEVERDORF,
G. D. WOODFORD,
L. H. HOLLISTER,
L. F. WILLIAMS,
E. B. DRAKE,
W. E. TROW.

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MEMPHIS, TENN., MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1889.

Who is the strongest man in the party? This was the question asked by the *Leader* on Monday, after presenting a striking analogy between the positions occupied by the two candidates in 1860 and the present day. The question was the question the delegates to the Chicago Convention in 1860 were called upon to decide in the same way that to be decided by Republicans next year will be. "Who is the most available candidate?" in other words, "who is the strongest man in the party?" and make this responsible to the Chicago Convention in 1892, and weighing the matter with all the considerations the great popularity of Mr. Seward turned to Mr. Lincoln and the winds knew that the convention would wisely and well speaking of Mr. Lincoln, and referring to his position in the party, at the time noted, the *Leader* correspondent says:

"Ohio preferred Chase; and New York stood faithfully by Seward. Yet the friends of both were constrained to admit that there were certain fatal infatuations which would not only be neutralized but even converted into active elements of support by the nomination of Mr. Lincoln."

Though a man of no inconsiderable fame in his party, he was hardly to be regarded as one of the leaders. His acknowledged services had stopped him in the extent of regular fame of those who are equal. His public life had not been marked for great achievements, but he had made few mistakes and had no enemies within his party. Neither jealousy of his success nor distrust of his intentions had led to any denunciations. No other leader had accused him of treachery. He had made no attacks, offensive or de-

fective, and owed his nomination to no contract of bargain and sale. He had neither said nor done anything calculated to deter his party from giving him a hearty and cordial support and yet had so clearly defined his views upon all public questions that there could be no doubt as to their character. It was not because he was of the East or the West, it was not because his State was a unit in his favor, but because he could muster the whole Republican host, while it was at least doubtful if another could, and because it was believed that he would also draw to its support others who were in sympathy with its tenets but held aloof on account of antagonism with some of its leaders—it was these considerations that secured the nomination of Abraham Lincoln."

Any man not blinded by prejudice must admit that the conditions are the same today as in 1860, and that a certain man must be selected who will secure the nomination. Abraham Lincoln was selected in 1860 because he had no enemies in his own party, and for that reason he was able to arouse no jealousies. His nomination rallied to his support all the good men of the country, and the wisdom of his selection was witnessed in his triumphant election.

In view of the above and the following questions asked by the *Leader* / correspondent, require special consideration at the next Republican National Convention:

1. Who will awaken least opposition in the party? Who will be most completely embraced by the masses of the party? Who will rally with the least hitching and hawking, and the greatest degree of confidence and hope?

2. Who will give back the greatest number of messages, and hold the greatest number of peaceable men and laboring men from joining in third party organizations?

3. Who will make the most positive and effective inroads into the Democratic ranks in the South? Who will be most likely to rally any parts of the South? Who will unite the old body guard and enthu-

the new voters who are for the first time to wield the terrible weapon of ball-box power.

The Leader man concludes as follows:

There is no doubt that these questions are being seriously asked by all the thoughtful men of the Republican party, and we believe that two-thirds of them, if put upon their voir dire, would without hesitation answer, Robert T. Lincoln, of Illinois? He would poll as many votes in Ohio as Sherman; as many as Blaine in Maine; as many as Harrison in Indiana; as many as Allison in Iowa; and more in every other State than either!

If any Republican can carry a Southern State, Lincoln is the man. He does not ask preferment and has no organized following to create sentiment in his favor. He has no literary bureau and no clique of whippers in to shout and breathe life into him. Neither Congress nor country have any interest in his nomination; but the rank and file of the party are turning towards him, inquiring earnestly as to his fitness for leadership and the prospect of success under his hand. Should he be called, he will undoubtedly be found like the Georgia son of James, quietly attending to his own affairs, rather than looking after his Jones. Though his record is both honorable to the party and the country, and especially creditable to himself, he has never sought to make it the instrument of a personal ambition. If he is nominated, it will be because the party believes he can do more to assure success than any other man. He will come like his father untrammelled to the performance of the highest executive function, and give the party what it needs more than anything else, a leader from the ranks of leaders, of whom it has become in popular apprehension, if not in fact, more or less impatient for promoting their personal advancement. He will be a candidate for the people rather than for the poli-

A thousand pages might be written and the situation and conclusions could not be better expressed than in the paragraphs we have quoted.

The question before Republicans, as we stated Monday, is not a "personal or romantic" one. The Democrats are entrenched in the citadel of national power: unless they can be driven out in 1888 the Republican party cannot hope for success for many years, if ever, and right here comes home with renewed force, to every Republican, the question: "Whom can we select to lead us to victory?"

We have many able and experienced men in the ranks, men whom the people love and respect, and any one of whom should be selected by all Republicans, but the party must stand upon the views of the majority; the chances for success of any candidate must be carefully weighed and the prize awarded to him who promises to be the strongest at the polls.

The Tribune will abide by and labor for the choice of the Convention, but respectfully suggests that noise is not unity, and further suggests that the next Presidential nomination be dictated by sense and not by the "wreck" in the galleries.

We have no quarrels in common with the Straight party, nevertheless their voters count just the same as the Straightens, so we as they go, and so we cannot elect a Republican President unless the party is a unit; suppress we all that from our hobby horses and set up a man upon whom all can unite!