

Lincoln's Interview

LINCOLN INTERVIEWED.

Why the Mention of His Name as a Presidential Candidate Annoys Him.

Gratified at the Kind References to Himself He Is Opposed to the Lincoln Movement.

Lincoln's Relations to Logan in 1864—The Story of an Historic Interview.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Aug. 30.—*Special Telegram.*—The Blade publishes to-day an interview with Robert T. Lincoln on the Presidential question. This interview is spoken of as an informal talk which took place in Mr. Lincoln's office in Chicago. The writer claims simply to present correctly the utterances on that occasion. After expressing his gratification at the kind tone of the references to himself, as an independent matter, Mr. Lincoln said:

"I greatly regret the use of my name in connection with any public office whatever. I say to you sincerely that if there were any way possible by which I could stop that sort of thing entirely and forever I should be happy. I have written to several persons authors of such articles, to say so, but they go right along regardless of my protests. It seems to be difficult for the average American to understand that it is possible for any one not to desire the Presidency, but I repeat certainly do not."

A shadow passed over Mr. Lincoln's usually pleasant face as he went on. "I have seen too much of the wear and tear of official life to ever have a desire to re-enter it. Though I was but a boy when my father became President I can well remember

was remembered to bear. True, the conduct of the war made the cares of office seem infinitely more exacting; but I have seen enough of the inside of Washington official life to have lost all desire for it. The Presidential office is but a gilded prison. The cares and worry outweigh to my mind the honor which surrounds the position. All official life is infinitely wearisome. I had my fill of it while a member of Mr. Arthur's cabinet and I made up my mind at that time that when my official term was completed, I should return to Chicago and end my days there in the practice of my profession.

"I am now forty-four," he continued, re-

one man who had no political opinions.
This bit of retrospection awakened a train of thought in Mr. Lincoln's mind, and he spoke with emphasis of the newly determined condition of our vessels and our absolute lack of an efficient navy. "During my term as Secretary of War," said he, "you recall there was a diplomatic difficulty with China. I was in trepidation for some time, but she should send an ironclad up the coast and coast a heavy tribute—millions of dollars in fact—from San Francisco, under threat of laying the city in ashes, which she would easily have done. Any of the great naval powers of the world could do such a thing. Along our Atlantic seaboard, for instance, in case of trouble. Of course, had we entered upon war with China she would have got the worst of it in the end, but it would have taken time enough to down a navy before we could have even begun offensive operations. In point of fact, there is much latent hostility against us among foreign nations, and it would often be easy to bring on a war. But we are not in condition for it, and all the world knows it. Hence our foreign policy looks self-respect and a proper assertion of our Nation's dignity and power. We would be at first at the mercy of foreign states in case of hostilities, and our government has to be humble in its diplomacy in consequence."

The conversation drifted naturally from the foreign policy of the United States to the protective policy on which Mr. Lincoln was emphatic. Said he:

"I AM A THROUGH PROTECTIONIST.
In all the political speeches I have made, I have dwelt upon this theme chiefly. There is no doubt in my mind that it is the only policy for the country to pursue, and it is growing in popular favor as the people more clearly understand the issue."

A suggestion was made by the reporter that this issue of protection might eventually break the power of the Democratic party in the South.

Mr. Lincoln replied:
"It will hardly do that as matters now stand. The fact is that the Democratic party is not a unit for free trade. Randall and Democrats of his school are as good protectionists as are the Republicans. The Southern leaders can trust to the protectionist element in their own party in Congress uniting with the Republicans to prevent anything being done by the free trade wing of their party to injure Southern manufacturing interests, and meanwhile will keep a sure grip upon the people."

This led naturally to the matter of the silent colored vote in the South, upon which Mr. Lincoln thus expressed himself:

"There is a general belief that there is a limitation on freedom in the South on the part of the greater portion of the Democratic press. There is perhaps no bulldozing, no kicking out, no absolute proscription upon negro voters; but this is because the latter understand that they are not to be kicked out and that they will have their share of the spoils if they would be sensible and a recognition of the situation would be made. There are some who would have the negroes kicked out and the spoils given to the whites."

that this is the actual state of things, but they create themselves by declaring that the man who held property will not allow himself to be taxed, nor will the whites allow themselves to be taxed by indirect means. They also want the same representation in Congress by men elected solely by white votes, and that is unfair to the rest of the Nation, but they throw the burden back upon the Republican party and the plea that it is the legislation giving citizenship and the right to the freedmen.

"There is much race prejudice still existing in the South, and those people will not submit to be ruled by a class of voters whom they regard as utterly inferior. The Southern problem is a most difficult one, and the process of education through education and enlightenment is very slow. There is a feeling, too, that to allow the negro his equality of rights as a citizen will involve his social equality, and there is nothing more repugnant than this to the Southern whites. Of course there would be nothing of the sort if we had the same thing here in the North during the war, among the anti-war Democrats."

Reference was made by the reporter to the fact that at Democratic meetings in Ohio during the Walden campaign at various places large signs filled with maiden dressed in white were drawn in the processions with the legend "Widows, brothers, save us from negro husbands!" and Mr. Lincoln recalled that Senator Douglas had originated that in the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858.

At this point Congressman Mason called on Mr. Lincoln on a matter of business, and when the latter gentleman was again at leisure the reporter brought the conversation back to the Presidential question. Mr. Lincoln went on:

"I do not think there is any likelihood of my receiving the nomination. The men who make the tickets would hardly do so without

HARRY DAY ENTERPRISE
Kider Hildgett was one of the old timers who used to preach in a town in the southern part of the Territory. On week days he carried on a prosperous literary stable business. There was a good deal of competition between him and the justice of the peace on marriage ceremonies, and they had out the former in the matter.
George murmured something about people who could not have been George's father. The remaining wife told him all the things she knew. A little later George returned and the father and child and bowed down and kissed the mother. He repeated the name Harry Day. He bowed out half and hid up the corner. He stepped to the front of the house and found of disapproval it seemed of the town. He took up a bottle and started to drink. He appeared in the morning in the morning with a smiling light to the man's eyes there.

one man who had no political ambition.
This bit of retrospection awakened a train of thought in Mr. Lincoln's mind, and he spoke with emphasis of the utterly defenseless condition of our coast, and our absolute lack of an efficient navy. "During my term as Secretary of War," said he, "you recall there was a diplomatic difficulty with Chili. I was in trepidation for some time lest she should send an iron-clad up the coast and exact a heavy tribute—millions of dollars in fact—from San Francisco, under threat of laying the city in ashes, which she could easily have done. Any of the great naval powers of the world could do such a thing along our Atlantic seaboard for instance—in case of trouble. Of course had we entered upon war with Chili, she would have got the worst of it in the end; but it would have taken time enough to obtain a navy before we could have even begun offensive operations. In point of fact there is much latent hostility against us among foreign nations, and it would often be easy to bring on a war. But we are not in condition for it, and all the world knows it. Hence our foreign policy lacks self-respect, and a proper assertion of our Nation's dignity and power. We would be at first at the mercy of foreign states in case of hostilities, and our government has to be humble in its diplomacy in consequence."

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"There is a general feeling that there is intimidation or fraud in the South on the part of the greater portion of the Democratic press. There is perhaps no bull-dozing, no kicking entrées, no arbitrary practice upon negro voters; but this is because the latter understand that they are not to exercise the right of suffrage, and dare not attempt it. If they did, there would be trouble and a recurrence of the abuses and ill-treatment of the negro with Southern Democrats, and that is the reason."

THAT THIS IS THE ACTUAL STATE OF THINGS, but they excite themselves by declaring that the man who holds property will not allow himself to be taxed, nor will the whites allow themselves to be taxed, by ignorant colored voters. They also admit that these reactionary sentimentalist Democrats are represented in Congress by men elected solely by white votes, and that it is unfair to the rest of the States; but they throw the burden back upon the Republican party, and the plan which suggested the legislation giving citizenship and the ballot to the freedman.

There is much race prejudice still existing in the South, and those people will not consent to be ruled by a class of voters whom they regard as utterly inferior. The Southern problem is a most difficult one, and the process of education through education and enlightenment very slow. There is a feeling, too, that to allow the negro his equality of rights as a citizen will involve his social equality, and there is nothing more repugnant than this to the Southern whites. Of course there would nothing of the sort follow, but this confusion of ideas is not strange, as we had the same thing here in the North during the war, among the anti-war Democrats.

Reference was made by the reporter to the fact that at Democratic meetings in Ohio, during the Vallandigham campaign, at various places large masses filled with soldiers dressed in white, were drawn in the processions, with the legends, "Peace, brothers, save us from negro husbands!" and Mr. Lincoln recalled that Senator Douglas had originated that in the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858.

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STANLEY CANTON FIELDS
—and those pledges I would not give. I think that would soon and all talk of myself. I doubt whether there has been for years a Presidential candidate for whom personal pledges were not made, either by himself or by his friends. Perhaps it is not true of Garfield, his nomination was peculiar."

The suggestion was here made by the reporter that the people would, perhaps, have something to say about the next Presidential nomination, and that for the first time since 1860, the Republican party would make a nomination without having the managers make a prominent part therein.

"However that may be," resumed Mr. Lincoln, "the fact remains that I do not desire the nomination, and if I could I would step all the more to my home in that connection, and I hope it will occur."

But suppose the nomination is made of Lincoln?

"That is a hard question to answer," returned he. "But I believe in my own mind, and I believe in the minds of the people, that I have made up my mind to be a candidate for the Presidency."

"Most certainly," was the emphatic reply. "And in fact, as the nomination of Mr. Lincoln's name would be a serious matter, as was the nomination of Mr. Lincoln's name, and the only man who has no personal ambition to be considered in connection with the nomination."

"Well, I believe in my own mind, and I believe in the minds of the people, that I have made up my mind to be a candidate for the Presidency."

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