

**LINCOLN'S CAMPAIGN:  
OR, THE POLITICAL  
REVOLUTION OF 1860**

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Lincoln's Campaign: Or, The Political Revolution of 1860 by Osborn H. Oldroyd

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# LINCOLN'S CAMPAIGN

OR

The Political Revolution of 1860

BY

OSBORN H. OLDROYD

Author of "A SOLDIER'S STORY OF THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG," Etc.

PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED

"Fun and Furore of the Canvass;  
Song and Sentiment of the Party."

With Fourteen Portraits and Biographies of Presidential Possibilities  
for 1896



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## CHAPTER I.

**Early Movements in Illinois for Lincoln.**

The "Central Illinois Gazette," in 1859, hoisted the name of "Abe Lincoln" for the Presidency, with the following editorial:

"All men who have the success of the great cause at heart, and who are able to divest themselves of local feelings and personal predilections, seem to see clearly the force of the element of which his strength consists, and to recognize in him, in an unsurpassed degree, that availability which will be stronger than all other considerations in determining the Chicago nominations. With 'Old Abe' for President, and some sound and strong man from Pennsylvania or New Jersey for Vice President, the Republican party could carry the West in one unbroken sweep."

\* \* \*

The "Chicago Press and Tribune" advanced the claims of Mr. Lincoln in the following article, February, 1860:

"Illinois claims that Mr. Lincoln, though without the ripe experience of Seward, the age and maturity of Bates and McLean, or the fire of Fessenden and Wade, has that

rare and happy combination of qualities which, as a candidate, enables him to outrank either. The movement in his favor is spontaneous. He will enter upon the contest with no clogs, no embarrassment; and this fact is a guarantee of a glorious triumph.

"In all the fundamentals of Republicanism he is radical up to the limit to which the party, with due respect for the rights of the South, proposes to go. But nature has given him that wise conservatism which has made his actions and his expressed opinions so conform to the most mature sentiment of the country on this question of slavery, that no living man can put his finger on one of his speeches or any one of his public acts as a state legislator or as a member of Congress to which valid objection can be raised. His avoidance of extremes has not been the result of ambition which measures words or regulates acts, but the natural consequence of an equable nature and a mental constitution that is never off its balance.

"Mr. Lincoln is a man of the people. For his position he is not indebted to family influence, the partiality of friends, or the acts of the politician. All his early life a laborer in the field, in the saw-mill, as a boatman on the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi, as a farmer in Illinois, he has that sympathy with the men who toil and vote that will make him strong. Later a valiant soldier in the Black Hawk War, a student in the law office, bending his great powers to overcome the defects of early training; then a legislator, and at last a brilliant advocate in the highest courts, and a popular leader of the great movements of the age, there is enough of romance and poetry in his life to fire all the land with shouting and song. Honest Old Abolition himself an outgrowth of free institutions, he would die in the effort to preserve to others, unimpaired, the inestimable blessings by which he has been made a man."

\* \* \*



The Sangamon County Republican Convention met at Springfield, April 28, 1860, and passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That our distinguished fellow-citizen, the tall pioneer of Sangamon County, Abraham Lincoln, is our first choice for candidate for President of the United States; that we deem ourselves honored to be permitted to testify our personal knowledge, in every-day life, as friends and neighbors, of his inestimable worth as a private citizen, his faithful and able discharge of every public trust committed to his care, and the extraordinary natural gifts and brilliant attainments which have not only made his name a household word in the Prairie State, but also placed him among the wisest statesmen and most brilliant orators in the Union."

\* \* \*

The Illinois State Republican Convention was held at Decatur, May 9 and 10, 1860. The "Illinois State Journal" of the next day narrates graphically the welcome given "Old Abe" by his fellow-citizens:

"No feature of the Republican State Convention was more clearly marked than the unanimity of sentiment which was manifest there for the Hon. Abraham Lincoln. The delegates from every part of the State vied with each other in exhibitions of their unbounded admiration for him. However they differed about other matters of party expediency—however they conflicted in their views about this or that candidate's claim for official honors—in 'glorious Old Abe' they found a common rallying point, and they joined hands and hearts with fervent zeal in awarding to him their distinguished consideration. In their speeches, in their conversations and in every act, they singled him out as the greatest popular champion of Repub-

licanism, as the embodiment of their principles, and the extinguisher of Douglas doughfaceism in the State.

"Mr. Lincoln's presence in the 'Wigwam' as a spectator of the proceedings of the Convention was the occasion of a particularly interesting episode. He had, in pur-



**ABE LINCOLN.**

(Engraved from a Photo taken in 1860, and very much used in the Campaign.)

suance of the courtesy extended to him, hardly taken his seat upon the platform, amidst the wildest demonstrations of enthusiasm, when Mr. Oglesby, of Decatur, announced to the delegates that an old Democrat of Macon county, who had grown gray in the service of that party, desired

to make a contribution to the Convention, and the offer being accepted, forthwith two old time fence rails, decorated with flags and streamers, were borne through the crowd into the Convention, bearing the inscription:

\*.....\*

: ABRAHAM LINCOLN :  
: The Rail Candidate :  
: For President in 1860. :  
: :  
: Two rails from a lot of 3,000 made :  
: in 1830 by Thos. Hanks and Abe Lin- :  
: coln—whose father was the first pio- :  
: neer of Macon County. :  
\*.....\*

"The effect was electrical. One spontaneous burst of applause went up from all parts of the 'Wigwam,' which grew more and more deafening as it was prolonged, and which did not wholly subside for ten or fifteen minutes after. The cheers upon cheers which rent the air could have been heard all over the adjacent country."

In that memorable Convention John M. Palmer (now U. S. Senator from Illinois) offered the following resolution, which was enthusiastically adopted:

"Resolved, That Abraham Lincoln is the choice of the Republican party of Illinois for the Presidency, and the delegates from this State are instructed to use all honorable means to secure his nomination by the Chicago Convention, and to vote as a unit for him."