

Hon. Carl Schurz
From
A. Lincoln

POLITICAL DEBATES

BETWEEN

HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN

AND

HON. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS,

In the Celebrated Campaign of 1858, in Illinois;

INCLUDING THE PRECEDING SPEECHES OF EACH, AT CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD, ETC.; ALSO, THE TWO GREAT SPEECHES OF MR. LINCOLN IN OHIO, IN 1859,

AS

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Alton, 25 July 1860

(My) Dearest,

I finally had news from you yesterday in Springfield.

The letter which you sent to Havana must have arrived after I left. They will forward it. You cannot imagine how glad I am to know at long last that you are all well and that everything is all right too in connection with that disturbing matter. I am indeed fortunate to have such a brave little wife, who puts up with the privations of these great times with heroic fortitude. I know better than you how strong you are. Most assuredly, your reward will be forthcoming.

Well, then, yesterday I was at Lincoln's. He is still the same genial old chap as of yore, just as simple and unaffected. The reception committee had engaged a room for me at the hotel, and Lincoln was one of the first to knock at my door. He wears a linen sackcoat and a hat of doubtful antiquity, but everything about him is clean and neat. We talked almost two hours in my room. I happened to be lying on the bed when he came, because I wanted to rest a bit, and he insisted that I should remain there. He talks about the presidential election with as much calm and easy unconcern as if the matter under discussion were a potato crop. He told me all about the letters and calls with which he was being overwhelmed, and said that he wasn't answering those letters at all that asked for jobs and that sort of thing. "Men like you," he continued, "who have real merit and do the work, are always too proud to ask for anything; and those who do nothing are the most clamorous for office, and very often get it, because it is the only way to get rid of them. But if I am elected, they will find a

tough customer to deal with, and you may depend upon it, that I shall know to distinguish deserving men from the drones." "All right, Old Abe," said I to myself.

In the evening I was at Lincoln's for supper. His lady had dolled herself up very prettily and already knows very well how to wave a fan. She chats quite nicely and will be able to adapt herself to the White House without difficulty. Lincoln's boys are regular fellows. One of them insisted upon going barefoot. After supper, to which a group of leading men had been invited, we lit our cigars and chatted. At eight the Wide-Awakes came to accompany me to the meeting at the Capitol. It was the biggest torchlight procession that Springfield had ever seen. Lincoln insisted upon going along, although he had not appeared in public since his nomination. He just had to hear that tremendous speaker. So the Wide-Awakes took Old Abe and me between them and together we wandered arm in arm to the Statehouse. The crowd was most enthusiastic. I gave one of the best speeches in German that I ever delivered. Then I spoke in ~~Eng~~lish and exerted myself a little more than usual too. Lincoln sat right in front of me the whole evening, watched my every movement, and applauded with ^{(unrestrained)?} great enthusiasm. When I had finished, he came and shook hands (autsch!) and said: "you are an awful fellow. I understand your power now." He gave me a copy of his debates with Douglas, and he and his wife urged me to bring my lady along on the occasion of my next visit and to be sure to stop with them.

This morning at five o'clock I left Springfield and arrived here at eight, well, in fine spirits, and ready for action as always. You received money from me twice, didn't you? In Belleville I expect to find a letter from Gov. Morgan dealing with that financial

matter. In any case, I shall see to it that the local state committee pays me well. I am drawing a draft on Judd here.

Goodbye for today, my darling wife. More tomorrow.

With a thousand kisses,

Your Karl.