

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1115

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August 21, 1950

## POLITICAL PUNS OF 1860

The political campaign of 1860 introduced for discussion by profound statesmen serious questions of vital significance to the life of the nation, but many contributors in lighter vein also brought the main issues of the canvass before the people. The cartoonist found at least two of the four candidates for the presidency especially adaptable to their profession and possibly the Lincoln and Douglas drawings presented, as far as contrasts in physical appearance is concerned, has not been equalled in American politics.

The literary element of humorous vein were also very much alert to the great variance of the intellectual and cultural attainments of the candidates which invited the writers to practice the art of paronomasia, in plain English called punning. The fact that the pun was used as a scathing weapon for ridicule made it an important instrument for moulding public sentiment.

Most of the puns in the compilation presented in this issue of Lincoln Lore are from *The Railsplitter* (Cincinnati), *The Railsplitter* (Chicago), *The Pictorial Railsplitter*, and *The Campaign Plain Dealer*, a Democratic publication of 1860.\*

### PROPER NAMES

The punsters first pounced upon the names of the candidates and the fact that vice-presidential candidate Hamlin's name could be found within the name of his running mate ABRAHAM LINCOLN was one of their earliest discoveries. Here are a few puns selected at random on the names of the candidates, Bell, Breckinridge, Douglas and Lincoln:

#### Lickem

Proper pronunciation of Lincoln—  
Link-on, *Lippencott's Gazetteer*  
Link-un, *Webster's Unabridged*  
Ling-kun, *Worcester's New Dictionary*  
In Illinois they speak of the distinguished sucker as "Old Abe Lickem."

#### Bell doesn't ring

Bell can't manage to "ring in."

#### A-link-on

The Springfield News perpetrates the following political pun: The chain of American Presidents is not yet complete—the Republicans propose to add a link on.

#### Dugouts

"Man a hog! What small crafts have gone out of use? Little Dugouts."

#### Missing Link

A-link-on, and the chain of government to complete.

#### Broad is the lane

The Lane of Oregon leadeth to destruction.

#### Abe-ole-itionists

It does not follow because the candidate of the Republican party is "Ole Abe" that his constituents are "Abe-ole-itionists."

#### Root hog and die

The Democracy of the different states have nominated as electors—Major Root, Col. Hogg, and Capt. Dye. Root, Hogg, and Dye is the summary. We think that ticket will be elected.

### DOUGLAS DRAWS FIRE

Possibly the fact that Douglas drew fire from both the Republicans and the opposition element in the split Democracy, made him the most abused candidate of the four. There follows a few of a large number of puns directed at him.

#### Inn-disposed

When is the little giant most Inn-disposed? When he has been Ale-ing for a few days.

#### Hot Lye

"Senator Douglas made a powerful effort at Dubuque. He skinned the republicans as though he had poured hot lye over them." (Exchange). There was doubtless plenty of lie in his speech.

#### Still

"Judge Douglas is still in New York." Tel. Dispatch. He wasn't still in Boston.

#### In Vain

"Mr. Douglas' speech at Bunker Hill monument was in his happiest vein." *Free Press*. It was in vain. The degree of LL.D. wouldn't come.

#### Stronghold

At a Douglas meeting in Monmouth, Ill., a large transparency was paraded on which was painted the figure of a white man hugging a fat negro wench, and the words, "The stronghold of the Republicans."

### PROPHECY

With the possible exception of the community weather prophet, the political party dopster is the champion crystal gazer. Here are a few of his prophecies for 1860 put in puns.

#### Turnout

"Democrats, let there be a general turnout." (Evening Exchange). There will be next March.

#### Home of Friendless

It would be a charitable act to send the Breckinridge party to Chicago, to the "Home of the Friendless."

#### Coming Man

"Gen. J. Lane is the 'coming man.'" (Dem. Exchange). He is coming out at the little end of the horn.

#### Douglas Invincibles

The Douglas wing of the split-tail Democracy have organized a campaign club and call it "the Douglas Invincibles." After the election its members will be "Douglas Invisibles."

#### Wide-Awakes Asleep

The "Chloroform Boys"—a club of Douglas boys in Indianapolis, has been formed with the above titles, whose mission is, as their names implies, to put the "Wide-Awakes to sleep."

#### Preservatives

The Bell and Everett men are busily engaged in preserving the Union—neither sugar or salt will preserve them.

#### Dead Letter

"Lincoln is a dead letter in this country" says the *Eastern Argus*. To which the Croton Mercury adds: "Like all dead letters he will be sent to Washington."

\*Lincoln Lore #1104 inadvertently left out from the list of 1860 Republican campaign papers, *The Wigwag*, published at Ottawa, Illinois. See the *Lincoln Herald* for June, 1945. The *Wide-Awake* published at New York might also be included.