

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

How He Was Nominated--Not by Abraham Jonas, but by Norman B. Judd--
Recollections of K. K. Jones.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune.

QUINCY, Ill., Sept. 26.--After reading the article in the *Century* for October, entitled "How Lincoln Was Nominated," I am reminded that it is asserted that the most vivid and readable account of the great fire was written by an attaché of the *New York Times*, who had never been within 500 miles of Chicago.

However, I did not set out to undertake to tell "how Lincoln was nominated," but to state some facts that are recalled by the letter of Mr. Edward Jonas in Monday's *Times*. In regard to his father, the late Abraham Jonas, so long a resident of Quincy and so well known during his lifetime as one of the good old anti-slavery men of this State. By the way, H. F. Jonas, United States Senator from Louisiana, is a son of his. Mr. Edward Jonas is somewhat mistaken as to what may have been published by me in regard to his father's connection with the National convention of 1860.

Abraham Jonas was an English Jew, who with several brothers early in this century settled in Kentucky, and about fifty years ago came to Adams County, Illinois, and settled at Columbus, which was then expected to be the county seat. Previous to removing from Kentucky he had been a Whig member of the Legislature, and known as strongly opposed to slavery. He was also a member of our General Assembly two or three times, and active, influential, and widely known as among the able men who were contemporary with Douglas, Lincoln, Trumbull, Duncan, Browning, McClurison, Honest John Wood, Archibald Williams, and others of the remarkable men of that period.

Mr. Jonas was not a delegate to the convention, because he urged that his fellow-townsmen and life-long friend O. H. Brownlee should be one of the delegates-at-large. The Decatur Convention of 1860 named Mr. Jonas at one of the Electors. What was known as "the Illinois delegation" to that convention (1860) was composed of nearly every representative man of the State, especially from Central and Southern Illinois. With that delegation "at large" Mr. Jonas exerted great influence, as he also did among delegates from every section of the country, and especially with those of his own faith, among whom he was a representative man greatly respected.

The evening before and the day of the nomination it had become apparent that the Seward forces, abetted by the then Chairman of the National Committee, had manipulated the "blue tickets" so that it was feared there would be a large majority of Seward men in the wigwam when the nominating speeches were made. They were prepared for a grand display of enthusiasm when William H. Seward should be named, and intended thus to "boom things." Abraham Jonas took it upon himself to counteract this nicely-laid scheme. Thursday night (as I afterwards learned) he say men from all parts of the State and had them agree to be on hand to show the gentleman from nway down by the sea "a thing or two." While on that eventful Friday morning the convention was settling down with subdued but rustling excitement to the preparation of the coming ballots, from where I sat in the small area in front of the centre of the platform I saw "Old Abe" Jonas working his way towards me, I knew from his manner that something was up. So there was. Said he in his quick, decisive, enthusiastic way: "Our 'Eastern brethren' have been setting up a job on us. They imagine they have got a large majority of their friends in this wigwam. But it is not as big as they think! Their game is to start their candidate with a rush. It is a good idea. But it won't work--won't win. Two can play that game. We must beat them--beat them," said he, emphatically, slapping his hands together, "at their own game." "How?" I said. "I have got the thing all fixed," he replied. "Our friends are stationed in every part of this wigwam, and when 'Old Abe' is put in nomination we will show our Eastern brethren what Western vim, Western endurance, and Western enthusiasm can do."

When Evarts named William H. Seward there was a grand demonstration, and the New York delegation looked complacent and self-satisfied. When Norman B. Judd closed by naming Abraham Lincoln we boys of the West just "waded in." The outburst of enthusiasm was grand because unexpected and sincere. It was comical to behold the astonishment of the Eastern brethren, and especially those from New York, when they realized that two had been playing the "blue-ticket" game. Respectfully,
K. K. JONES.