

THE EPOCH-MARKING CAMPAIGN OF 1860

THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES

BY HON. JESSE MACE, XVII. The National Democratic nominating convention met in April at Charleston, S. C. every state in the Union sending delegates.

whoever which could make slavery legal in any territory; demanded the adoption of Kansas, the adoption of a protective policy (this secured the adherence of Pennsylvania) and the passage of a homestead law while any change in the naturalization laws was opposed.



THE UNITED STATES IN 1861.

were deeply affected by what they saw; while the treatment which they received from the rich and haughty Carolinians in their own home showed them how little there was in common between Northern and Southern Democrats.

out. The Eastern States were disappointed; the Abolitionists were grieved. But the Middle Western States and Pennsylvania, by which Seward was particularly desired, were silent. All saw that this was no time for party divisions upon personal or minor issues, and the Republican campaign was speedily organized.

The members of the committee on resolutions (most of whom) were from the first irrevocably divided as adherents of Douglas or Jefferson Davis. A previous caucus of the Southern members had committed them to the position taken by Lincoln's convention.

The Douglas Democrats held their adjourned convention June 18. There was wrangling over the composition of the body over the seating of certain delegates who had been among the seceders at Charleston.

The other faction of the convention also organized, adopted a platform and adjourned to meet at Richmond, Va. in June. "The party is split forever," said Alexander H. Stephens, "in less than 12 months we shall be at war, and that the bloodiest in history."

The four Presidential tickets having been fully launched, the most memorable campaign of our history was inaugurated. One sole question was involved. It was a fight for union or disunion. In the North, the Republican ticket, Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, for Vice-President, received a large popular vote throughout

the country—second only to that of Lincoln—but actually carried only the single state of Missouri. A strong effort was made in the North, and especially in New York, to fuse all the elements of opposition and effect the defeat of Lincoln in the election.

The election was an unusually quiet one. No disturbance occurred at the polls. Voters were oppressed with a sense of the solemnity, the solemnity of the crisis and the momentous results to be expected from their choice. There was no possible question as to the decision at the ballot-box. The vote had been fair and honest, and Lincoln was the choice of the people over any other candidate.

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John Cabell Breckinridge.

of the Douglas' wing, met in Richmond June 26. They put forth an extreme Southern platform and induced the non-adherents of the Baltimore seceders.

The four Presidential tickets having been fully launched, the most memorable campaign of our history was inaugurated. One sole question was involved. It was a fight for union or disunion.

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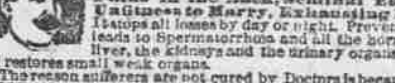
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