

Sample Chapter—  
7. May 18: Day Three- For President.

**Abraham Lincoln's  
Convention:  
Chicago 1860**



***The First Reports -  
Compiled and presented by  
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History Shorts / Original Voices

*7. May 18: Day Three- For President.*

From the *New York Tribune*, May 18, 1860.

**THE LATEST NEWS.**

Received By  
**MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.**

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**THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.**

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Naming of Candidates.

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***INTENSE ENTHUSIASM.***

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The Struggle between Seward and Lincoln.

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**LINCOLN NOMINATED.**

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ONLY THREE BALLOTINGS HAD.

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***THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.***

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Hon. Hannibal Hamlin Nominated.

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**HOW THE NOMINATIONS ARE RECEIVED.**

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Salutes, Bonfires and Pyrotechny.

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**GREAT JOY AND ENTHUSIASM.**

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**REGULAR REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.**

*Chicago, Friday, May 18, 1860.*

*The Wigwam was closely packed for a full hour before the Convention assembled this morning. The interest in the proceedings appears on the increase as the time for balloting*

*approaches. A crowd numbered by thousands has been outside the building since 9 o'clock, anxiously awaiting intelligence from the inside. Arrangements have been made for passing the result of the ballots up from the platform to the roof of the building, and through the skylight, men being stationed above to convey speedily the intelligence to the multitude in the streets.*

*A large procession was formed by the various delegations to march to the hall, preceded by bands of music, New-York being by far the most numerous.*

*As the delegates entered on the platform the several distinguished men were greeted with rounds of applause by the audience.*

*The opening prayer was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Treen of the Tabernacle, Baptist Church.*

*Three or four meetings were held at a distance outside and during the silence of the prayer in the Convention, the roars and shouts of these meetings could be distinctly heard in the Wigwam.*

*The PRESIDENT, on opening the proceedings, begged the audience to refrain as much as possible from applause, and to preserve, as far as consistent, the decorum and dignity of the meeting.*

*The PRESIDENT announced an invitation for an excursion over the Chicago and Galena Railroad; also a communication from the workingmen of Brooklyn, Williamsburg, and Greenpoint, New-York, in favor of bestowing the Government lands on actual settlers, and for arresting the further sale of the public lands.*

*Both communications were ordered to be entered on the record.*

*The PRESIDENT announced the motion pending to be to take a ballot for a candidate for President of the United States.*

### *Another quarrel over Maryland*

*Mr. Blair of Maryland announced that, in consequence of the adoption by the Convention of the rule restricting the vote of Maryland to the number of delegates present, the delegation had last evening filled up its number, and asked leave to present the credentials of five new delegates to fill the number from that State.*

*Mr. Sargeant of Chicago inquired whether the five additional votes now added would increase the vote to sixteen, or leave it at eleven, which was the number of votes assigned to that*

*State by the report of the Committee on Credentials. If it desired to increase the vote above eleven, he was opposed to it.*

*W.T. Cole of Maryland said that his State had been entitled to eleven votes only, because the necessary number of delegates for the sixteen votes were not present. The delegation had power, by the action of the State Convention, to fill vacancies. They had now done so, under that authority, and claimed the right to and a full vote.*

*The PRESIDENT said he understood the rule adopted in the report of the Committee on Credentials to have restricted Maryland to eleven votes. The additional delegates would not entitle them to a greater vote.*

*Mr. Blair of Maryland desired to correct the error of the Chair. As he understood, the number was only limited because the delegates were not present. The delegation had a right to fill vacancies, and had done so in consequence of the rule adopted yesterday by the Convention.*

*Mr. Armour of Maryland protested against the reception of the credentials of new delegates. Eleven representatives only were present from his State. The delegation had met without his knowledge and without the knowledge of at least more than one delegate, and filled up their numbers with men who lived God only knows where. A resident of the State had been refused admission to the delegation, and what object his colleagues had in filling the delegation with non-residents he did not know. He hoped the motion to admit these delegates would be voted down.*

*The motion to admit the extra delegates was lost amid applause.*

### *Nominations for President*

*The Convention then voted to proceed to ballot for a candidate for President of the United States.*

*Wm. M. Evarts of New-York did not rise for the purpose of making a speech, but only to ask if at this time it is in order to put candidates in nomination.*

*The PRESIDENT – The Chair considers it in order to name candidates without debate.*

*A delegate from Pennsylvania drew attention to the fact that delegates' seats were occupied by outsiders.*

*A Voice – The same here in Ohio.*

*The PRESIDENT – This affords an opportunity to the Chair to read a communication just received from the doorkeepers. The communication stated that delegates, as soon as they got into the hall, passed their tickets out to friends. The officers therefore found it impossible to prevent the admission of outsiders, but the fault rested with the delegates. [Early that morning, David Davis reportedly had packed the Wigwam with Lincoln supporters by printing thousands of tickets, handing them out to friends, and instructing them to come early and crowd out the Seward men who were busy that morning marching through Chicago with their brass band.]*

*The PRESIDENT suggested that the only method to pursue would be for each delegate to claim his own seat with vigor.*

*After some delay, occasioned by the clearing of the platform and distributing ballots, the Convention proceeded to ballot.*

*Wm. M. Evarts rose and said – I beg leave to offer the name of Wm. M. Seward as a candidate before this Convention for the nomination of President of the United States. [Evarts, in 1860 still a rising New York lawyer and former district attorney, would later become Secretary of State under President Rutherford Hayes, a United States Senator from New York, and chief counsel to President Andrew Johnson during his 1868 impeachment trial.]*

*This nomination was received with loud and long continued applause.*

*Mr. Judd of Illinois rose and said: Mr. President, I beg leave to offer as a candidate before this Convention for President of the United States the name of Abraham Lincoln of Illinois.*

*The crowded audience greeted this nomination with perfectly deafening applause, the shouts swelling into a perfect roar, and being continued for several minutes the wildest excitement and enthusiasm prevailing. At the close of the applause some hisses were heard, but the pressure for Lincoln was tremendous.*

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From Joe Howard Jr. of *The New-York Times*:

*Mr. Judd, of Chicago, begged leave to suggest the name of Abram Lincoln, of Illinois.*

*If Mr. Seward's name drew forth thunders of applause, what can be said of the enthusiastic reception of this name Lincoln? I have never seen anything which compares with it.*

*The greetings which Jenny Lind or Grisi or La Geange [famous actresses of the time] at Castle Garden or the Academy of Music did not begin to equal that which I now record. Ten thousand people were in the Wigwam, and the crowd without could not be numbered. The vast throng rose simultaneously, hats and handkerchiefs were waved, cheers and hearty hurrahs were given, and the air seemed full of some magnetic influence, which moved all alike to exhibit to the full extent of their powers of lung and length of wind. The President rapped and ordered silence, but in vain. The audience, like a wild colt with bit between his teeth, rose above all cry of order, and again and again the irrepressible applause broke forth and resounded far and wide. The crowd outside took it up, and cheer after cheer from them indorsed the sentiments of their brethren within.*

*After this scene was concluded, the names of other gentlemen were mentioned, and received with some applause, but all was cold when compared with that which greeted the names of those above.*

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**REGULAR REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS – continued.**

*Mr. Dudley of New-Jersey presented the name of Wm. L. Dayton. [Light applause.]*

*Gov. Reeder of Pennsylvania. [Andrew H. Reeder, a Pennsylvanian, actually served as territorial governor of Kansas prior to 1860, not as governor of Pennsylvania.] The State of Pennsylvania desired to present as her candidate the name of Simon Cameron. [Applause.]*

*Mr. Carter of Ohio put forward the name of Salmon P. Chase of Ohio. [Loud Applause.]*

*Mr. Smith of Maryland – I am instructed by the State of Indiana to second the nomination of Abraham Lincoln. [Another outburst of enthusiastic applause from the body of the Hall, mingled with some hisses.]*

*Francis P. Blair of Missouri nominated Edward Bates of Missouri. [Applause.]*

*Mr. Blair of Michigan said, on the part of Michigan I desire to say that the Republicans of that State second the nomination of Wm. H. Seward for the Presidency.*

*Tremendous applause followed, thousands of those present railing and waving their hats and handkerchiefs, and swelling the applause to a thundering roar through several minutes.*

*This was followed by some hisses and loud applause for Lincoln, when the friends of Seward again rallied, determined not to be put down in applause by the friends of Lincoln. At this second trial of lungs, however, it was evident that the crowd was more divided than at first appeared, and the Lincoln men apparently had the majority.*

*Tom Corwin of Ohio nominated John McLean of Ohio for the Presidency. [Loud applause.]*

*Carl Schulz of Wisconsin, on the part of his State, here seconded the nomination of Wm. H. Seward.*

*Upon this, another scene of the greatest enthusiasm and simultaneous excitement ensued.*

*Mr. North of Minnesota also seconded, on the part of Minnesota, the Nomination of Mr. Seward. [Tremendous applause.]*

*Mr. Wilson of Kansas – The delegates and people of Kansas seconded the nomination. [Renewed cheers.]*

*Mr. Delano of Ohio, on the part of a large number of people of Ohio – I desire to second the nomination of the man who can split rails and maul Democrats. Abraham Lincoln. [Rounds of applause by Lincoln men.]*

*A delegate from Iowa also seconded the nomination of Mr. Lincoln, on the part of that State, amidst renewed applause and excitement.*

*A Voice – Abe Lincoln has it by the sound now. Let us ballot.*

*Cheers and hisses.*

*Judge Lugar of Illinois – Mr. President, in order or out of order, I propose this Convention and audience give three cheers for the man who is evidently their nominee.*

## *The First Ballot*

[Ballots, then as now, were announced state by state as each state's name was called aloud. The *Tribune* reporters grouped the tallies by candidate for ease in transmitting them by telegraph.]

*The first ballot results are as follows*

*For Mr. Seward.*

<i>Maine . . . . . 10</i>	<i>Wisconsin . . . . . 10</i>
<i>New-Hampshire . . . . . 1</i>	<i>Iowa . . . . . 2</i>
<i>Massachusetts . . . . . 21</i>	<i>California . . . . . 8</i>

<i>New-York</i> . . . . .	70	<i>Minnesota</i> . . . . .	8
<i>Pennsylvania</i> . . . . .	11/2	<i>Kansas</i> . . . . .	6
<i>Maryland</i> . . . . .	3	<i>Nebraska</i> . . . . .	2
<i>Virginia</i> . . . . .	8	<i>District of Columbia</i> . . . . .	2
<i>Kentucky</i> . . . . .	5		
<i>Michigan</i> . . . . .	12	<i>Total</i> . . . . .	173 1/2
<i>Texas</i> . . . . .	4		

*For Mr. Lincoln.*

<i>Maine</i> . . . . .	6	<i>Ohio</i> . . . . .	8
<i>New-Hampshire</i> . . . . .	7	<i>Indiana</i> . . . . .	26
<i>Massachusetts</i> . . . . .	4	<i>Illinois</i> . . . . .	22
<i>Connecticut</i> . . . . .	2	<i>Iowa</i> . . . . .	2
<i>Pennsylvania</i> . . . . .	4	<i>Nebraska</i> . . . . .	1
<i>Virginia</i> . . . . .	14	<i>Total</i> . . . . .	102
<i>Kentucky</i> . . . . .	6		

*For Mr. Bates.*

<i>Rhode Island</i> . . . . .	1	<i>Texas</i> . . . . .	2
<i>Connecticut</i> . . . . .	7	<i>Iowa</i> . . . . .	1
<i>Maryland</i> . . . . .	8	<i>Oregon</i> . . . . .	5
<i>Delaware</i> . . . . .	6	<i>Total</i> . . . . .	48
<i>Missouri</i> . . . . .	18		

*For Mr. Cameron* – *Pennsylvania*, 47 1/2; *Virginia*, 1; *Iowa*, 1; *Nebraska*, 1 – *Total* 50 1/2.

*For Mr. McLean* – *Rhode Island*, 5; *Pennsylvania*, 1; *Kentucky*, 1; *Ohio*, 4; *total*, 1 – *Total* 12.

*For Mr. Chase* – *New-Hampshire*, 1; *Rhode Island*, 1; *Connecticut*, 2; *Kentucky* 8; *Iowa*, 1; *Ohio*, 34; *Nebraska*, 2 – *Total*, 49.

*For Mr. Wade* – *Connecticut*, 1; *Kentucky*, 2; *Total*, 3.

*For Mr. Dayton* – *New-Jersey*, 14.

*For Mr. Read* – *Rhode Island*, 1.

*For Mr. Fremont* – *New-Hampshire*, 1.

*For Mr. Collamer* – *Vermont*, 10.

*For Mr. Sumner* – *Kentucky*, 1.

*Whole number of votes*, 465.

*Necessary to a choice*, 233.

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From Joe Howard Jr. of *The New-York Times*:



*The balloting, as telegraphed, was then commenced. At the close of the first ballot, it was evident that something was in the wind not known to outsiders generally. Quietly I wandered toward the Pennsylvania delegation. There I heard "Drop Cameron," "Defeat Seward," "Unite on Lincoln." "Perhaps get REEDER or HICKMAN [two popular Pennsylvanians] as Vice President." I heard enough to warrant me in saying to a distinguished member of the New-York delegation that "Pennsylvania would change front on the next ballot." He shook his head and smiled so complacently that I was at sea again, and not knowing what to think, I kept still and didn't think at all.*

[Shortly before this vote, David Davis had promised a key leader of the Pennsylvania delegation that Simon Cameron, Pennsylvania's candidate, could have a cabinet seat in a Lincoln presidency in exchange for Pennsylvania's vote on the second ballot.]

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**REGULAR REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS – continued.**

*Second Ballot*

*The second ballot was then taken.*

*Mr. Cameron's name was withdrawn.*

*For Mr. Lincoln.*

<i>New-Hampshire . . . . .</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Delaware . . . . .</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Vermont . . . . .</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Kentucky . . . . .</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Rhode Island . . . . .</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Ohio . . . . .</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Pennsylvania . . . . .</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>Iowa . . . . .</i>	<i>5</i>

*The whole vote for Lincoln was 181.*

[This report of the tally left out several key state votes for Lincoln: 22 from Illinois, 26 from Indiana, 14 from Virginia, so on. The total of 181 is correct.]

*For Mr. Seward.*

<i>Massachusetts . . . . .</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Kentucky . . . . .</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>New-Jersey . . . . .</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Texas . . . . .</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Pennsylvania . . . . .</i>	<i>2 1/2</i>	<i>Nebraska . . . . .</i>	<i>3</i>

*The whole vote for Mr. Seward was 184 1/2*

[As with Lincoln's, the tally for Seward leaves out several key individual states: 70 from New York, 12 from Michigan, 10 from Maine, 8 from Virginia, so on. The total of 184 ½ is correct.]

<i>Bates</i> .....	35	<i>Cameron</i> .....	2
<i>McLean</i> .....	8	<i>Dayton</i> .....	10
<i>Chase</i> .....	42 1/2	<i>Cassius M. Clay</i> .....	2

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From Joe Howard Jr. of *The New-York Times*:

*The call of the [second ballot] roll proceeded – “Pennsylvania, 2 ½ Seward, 1 Cameron, 2 ½ McLean and 48 for Abram Lincoln,” was the announcement from the Chairman of that delegation, and then I knew that Lincoln was nominated ....*

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#### REGULAR REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS – continued.

##### *Third ballot*

*The third ballot was taken amid excitement; and cries for “the ballot.” Intense feeling existed during the ballot, each vote being awarded in breathless silence and expectancy.*

*For Mr. Lincoln.*

<i>Massachusetts</i> .....	8	<i>Maryland</i> .....	9
<i>Rhode Island</i> .....	5	<i>Kentucky</i> .....	13
<i>New-Jersey</i> .....	8	<i>Ohio (Applause)</i> .....	29
<i>Pennsylvania</i> .....	52	<i>Oregon</i> .....	14

*This gave Lincoln 231 ½ votes, or within 1 1/2 of a nomination.*

[This telegraphed tally of the Third Ballot vote for Lincoln again leaves out several states, though the total of 231 ½ is correct. Seward still held on to 180 votes, including all 70 from New York. Bates had 22, and Chase 24 ½.]

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From P. Orman Ray, 1916 address to the Chicago Historical Society.

*“As the contest narrowed down, the crowd became silent. Most of the delegates and many spectators had tally sheets in order to keep track of the balloting as it progressed. When*

*the roll of the states [on the Third ballot] had been called and every state had voted, the ballot stood Seward 180, a loss of four and a half, while Lincoln had 231 ½, and lacked only one and a half of the number necessary to nominate. While these totals were being footed up, a profound stillness suddenly fell upon the Wigwam; the men ceased to talk and the ladies to flutter their fans; one could distinctly hear the scratching of pencils and the ticking of telegraph instruments on the reporters tables.*

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**REGULAR REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS – continued.**

*Mr. Andrew of Massachusetts then rose and corrected the vote of Massachusetts, by changing four votes, and giving them to Lincoln, this nominating him by 2½ majority.*

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This, too, was a reporting error by the *Tribune* in its telegraphed report. Publisher Horace Greeley explained the error in a signed editorial on May 22: “... it was not till after the roll had been called through that Mr. Carter of Ohio (not Mr. Andrew of Mass., as the telegraph reported) rose and changed the four votes to Lincoln which gave him a majority of the whole number.

Thirty years later, *Chicago Tribune* publisher Joseph Medill, a strong Lincoln ally, would take credit for this final step, telling the *Saturday Evening Post* (August 5, 1899) that he was standing with the Ohio delegation on the convention floor next to Carter at that moment and told him “[Ohio Senator Salmon P.] Chase could have anything he wants” if Ohio put Lincoln over the top to seal the nomination, prompting Carter to switch the four votes.

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**REGULAR REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS – continued.**

*The Convention immediately became wildly excited.*

*A large portion of the delegates, who kept still, at once said the struggle was decided,*

*and half the convention rose, cheering, shouting, and waving hats.*

*The audience took up cheers, and the commotion became deafening.*

*State after State rose, striving to change their votes to the winning candidate, but the noise and enthusiasm rendered it impossible for the delegates to make themselves heard.*

*Mr. McCrillis of Maine, making himself heard, said that the young giant of the West, is now of age. Maine now casts for him her 14 votes.*

*Mr. Andrew of Massachusetts changed the vote of the State, giving 18 to Mr. Lincoln and 8 to Mr. Seward.*

*Intelligence of the nomination was now conveyed to the men on the roof of the building, who immediately made the outside multitude aware of the result. The first roar of the cannon, soon mingled itself with the cheers of the people, and the same moment a man appeared in the hall bringing a large painting of Mr. Lincoln. The scene at the time beggars description; 11,000 people inside and 20,000 or 20,500 outside were yelling and shouting at once. Two cannon sent forth roar after roar in quick succession. Delegates bore up the sticks and boards bearing the names of the several States and waved them aloft over their heads, and the vast multitude before the platform were waving hats and handkerchiefs. The whole scene was one of the wildest enthusiasm.*

*Wm. M. Evarts, of New-York, having obtained a hearing, said: "Mr. Chairman, can New-York have the silence of the Convention? [Cries, yes; yes.] I ask if the vote has yet been announced. [Cries Not yet.] Then, sir, I wait to be in order."*

*Mr. Brown, of Missouri, desired to change 18 votes of Missouri for the gallant son of the West, Abraham Lincoln. Iowa, Connecticut, Kentucky, and Minnesota also changed their votes. The result of the third ballot was announced:*

*Whole number of votes cast . . . . . 465*

*Necessary to a choice . . . . . 233*

*Mr. Abraham Lincoln received 354, and was declared duly nominated.*

*The States still voting for Seward were Massachusetts, 18; New-York, 70; New-Jersey 5; Pennsylvania, ½; Maryland, 2; Michigan, 12; Wisconsin, 10; California, 3 – total, 120½.*

*Mr. Dayton received one vote from New-Jersey and Mr. McLean half a vote from*

*Pennsylvania.*

*The result was received with renewed applause.*

### *Concession.*

*When silence was restored, Wm. M. Evarts came forward on the Secretary's table and spoke as follows:*

*Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the National Convention: The State of New-York, by full delegation, with complete unanimity in purpose at home, came to the Convention and presented one of its citizens, who had served the State from childhood up, and labored for it and loved. We came here, a great State, with, as we thought, a great statesman [applause]; and our love of the great Republic from which we are all Delegates. ... Gentlemen, it was from Gov. Seward that most of us learned to love Republican principles and the Republican party. [Cheers.] His fidelity to the country, the Constitution, and the laws, his fidelity to the party and the principles that majorities govern, his interest in the advancement of our party to its victory that our country may rise to its true glory, Reduces me to declare that I speak his sentiments, as I do the united opinion of our delegation when I move, Sir, as I do now, that the nomination of Abraham Lincoln of Illinois as the Republican candidate for the suffrages of the whole country for the office of Chief Magistrate of the American union be made unanimous. [Applause, and three cheers for New-York.]*

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From Joe Howard Jr. of *The New-York Times*:

*The various states changed their votes so that, with the exception of New-York, all voted for Lincoln. Mr. Evarts claimed the floor. Mounting a table, with grief manifest in his countenance, his hands clenched nervously, and every nerve quivering with excitement, he delivered one of the most interesting and able speeches I have ever heard from him or anyone else. As he feelingly and affectionately described his friend and leader, detailing his efforts in the cause of the Republican Party, and claiming for him the credit which is so eminently the due of Mr. Seward, the spectator could not fail to be impressed with the idea that a man who could have such a friend must be a noble man indeed, and that this token of unswerving devotion to*

*principle and friendship was preeminently honorable in the eloquent speaker. In conclusion, he moved that the nomination be made unanimous. This was carried, and after some delay the Chair announced feebly and not with much spirit, that Abram Lincoln was the choice of the Convention for their candidate for the office of President of the united states of America.*

*I have described one*

#### *SCENE OF APLAUSE*

*and cannot described another. It was like the first, only more so. A huge cannon was wheeled up to the door, and bang it went every half minute for seventeen minutes steady. Some one brought in a large crayon portrait of Mr. Lincoln and carried it like the Host, up and down the platform. The Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio delegates seemed wild. They acted like madmen. One smashed his hat on another's head, who returned the compliment, which was followed by a mutual embrace. Henry G. Lane teetered up and down on a chair, not saying a word, but grinning all over his expressive countenance, while he waved in a huge circumference a pole, damaged somewhat from its frequent contact with the head of a fellow delegate. At every discharge of the cannon, the cheering would break out anew, and the wildest confusion reigned, which occasionally would reach such a pitch as to send the blood tingling through one, and stir up the fountains of his sympathies as the storm arouses the seas of the great deep.*

*No human body could attend to business after such scene, and the Convention adjourned to 5 o'clock this afternoon.*

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#### **REGULAR REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS – continued.**

*A life-size portrait of Abraham Lincoln was there exhibited from the platform amid renewed cheers.*

*Mr. Andrews of Massachusetts on the part of the united delegation of that State, seconded the motion of the gentleman of New-York, that the nomination be made unanimous. After declaring the devotion of Massachusetts to the principle of freedom and equality, he extolled Gov. Seward as a statesman and patriot, and pledged the State to roll up over 100,000 majority*

*and give its 18 electoral votes to the candidates.*

*Eloquent speeches, endorsing the nominee, were also made by Carl Schurz, F. P. Blair of Missouri, and Mr. Browning of Illinois, all of which breathed a spirit of confidence and enthusiasm.*

*At the close, three hearty cheers were given for New-York, and the nomination of Mr. Lincoln made unanimous.*

*With loud cheers for Lincoln, the Convention adjourned till 5 o'clock.*

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From Joe Howard Jr. of *The New-York Times*:

*Since the adjournment, there has been a grand Lincoln demonstration – a Lincoln mass-meeting and serenades without number. The rooms of the Massachusetts Delegation are directly opposite mine, and Gilmore's band is now in there playing "When Swallows Homeward Fly." The rooms of the Pennsylvania Delegation are "round the corner," and the Pittsburgh band strokes up "Hail Columbia," after which the "Light-guard band" of Chicago, which is stationed in the hall below, gives us the benefit of the "Star Spangled Banner"; so you see we have pretty lively times, and all that quiet which is so desirable when a man is sleepy and tagged out as I am, or when he has a letter to be written and mailed in half-an-hour as I have. The halls are filled with politicians, all laboring for an end. Everybody has been or is drinking, but I have not seen a drunken person since my coming here. Though there is great confusion and a great deal of loud talk, there is no ill-nature visible and no single row has occurred since the Convention sat.*

*I should be glad to continue, but for three good reasons I must close:*

- 1. The mail closes in five minutes.*
- 2. Convention meets in twenty minutes.*
- 3. I am physically exhausted.*

*As old Plumb Gut used to say, when he wrote those tearfully and wonderfully made Republican leaders in 1856, "That'sall."*

*--Howard*

*P.S. It will be too late for me to send anything by this mail. The particulars of the nomination will be sent by telegraph and you will have written half a dozen articles thereon before this reaches you. Nevertheless, I shall for my own individual fun, take the liberty of guessing, and recording a bet made just now, that the ticket will be either Lincoln and Hickman or Lincoln and Banks. [Howard was wrong on both of his predictions. The ticket would be Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin.]*

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