



# Letters and recollections of John Murray Forbes

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## **Letters and recollections of John Murray Forbes** John Murray Forbes

This historic book may have numerous typos, missing text, images, or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1899. Not illustrated. Excerpt: ... writes in his notes: "I had never taken any recognized part in public affairs, and I cannot now remember why I was made one of the electors at large and so had a hand in electing him president. Perhaps it was because the Free-Soil party wished to ally themselves here with the business men that they chose me for that position. I still have somewhere, as a relic, the pen with which I signed the certificate of our election of Lincoln. about the beginning of 1861." What my father thought of the coming president's self-reliance, before he came in personal contact with him, will appear from the following letter to Mr. Senior: -- J. M. FORBES TO NASSAU WILLIAM SENIOR. Boston, June 18, 1860. My Dear Mr. Senior, -- Thinking you may be interested in the antecedents of our promised ruler Lincoln, I send through my bookseller a copy of his speeches (and Douglas's) during their great fight for the Illinois senatorship -- which form his chief record. From such of them as I have read I get the idea that he is an earnest, rough, quick-witted man, -- persistent and determined, half educated, but self-reliant and self-taught. These speeches, made before Seward's, show that Lincoln originated in these latter days the utterance of the "irrepressible conflict," -- and what is more, stuck to it manfully. Those who know him assure me that he is honest and straightforward and owned by no clique of hackneyed politicians. Seward was killed by his association with the politicians who joined in the plundering of the last New York legislature, and by his speech in the Senate ignoring the irrepressible conflict and smoothing over his supposed radicalism. The first evil lost him the confidence of the right sort of men, not because they believed him corrupt, but from the bad company he...

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