LINCOLN'S FIRST VOTE—FIRST PUBLISHED IN McCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Photographed from the original poll-book, now on file in the County Clerk's office, Springfield, Illinois. Lincoln's first vote was cast at New Salem, "in the Clay's Grove precinct," August 4, 1831. At this election he aided Mr. Graham, who was one of the clerks. In the early days in Illinois, elections were conducted by the "write your choice" method. The people did not vote by ballot, but the experiment was unpopular. It required too much 'book keeping' and in 1832 the write your choice method of voting was restored. The judges and clerks sat at a table with the poll-book before them. The voter walked up, and announced the candidate of his choice, and it was recorded in his presence. There was no ticket peddling, and ballot-box stuffing was impossible. To this simple system we are indebted for the record of Lincoln's first vote. Lincoln's first vote for President was not cast until the next year (November 5, 1832), when he voted for Henry Clay.