

**ILLINOIS IN THE
FIFTIES; OR, A DECADE
OF DEVELOPMENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649230273

Illinois in the fifties; or, a decade of development by Charles Beneulyn Johnson

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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CHARLES BENEULYN JOHNSON

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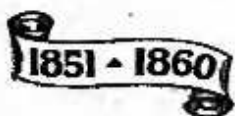


Lincoln in the Fifties.
(From historical collection of H. W. Fay, DeKalb, Ill.)

Illinois in the Fifties

OR

A Decade of Development



BY

CHARLES BENEULYN JOHNSON, M. D.
Author of *Muskets and Medicine*

Illinois Centennial Edition



There are no days like the good old days,—
The days when we were youthful;
When humankind was pure of mind,
And speech and deeds were truthful.

—*Eugene Field.*

Flanigan-Pearson Co., Publishers
Champaign, Ill.
1918

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TO THE MEMORY OF
THAT DEVOTED BAND OF ILLINOISANS,
WHO IN THE FIFTIES,
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
STEADFASTLY OPPOSED THE FURTHER EXTENSION
OF HUMAN SLAVERY,
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHOR.

There were Giants in Those Days.

FOREWORD

One hundred years ago Illinois became a State and began making history. In that history no period is of more interest and importance than the Fifties, which in the fullest sense was a *decade of development*. During that decade in wealth and population the State advanced from eleventh to fourth place among her sister commonwealths. Meantime railway construction increased more than tenfold and finally the total mileage in operation in Illinois was exceeded by Ohio alone. In 1860 the Prairie State distanced all rivals in the production of corn, wheat and oats.

But beyond and above all this in that remarkable decade Illinois became the arena upon which was staged one of the world's great forensic contests—the Lincoln-Douglas debate of 1858.

In this volume the author has endeavored to describe things, people and conditions as he saw and knew them in the Fifties.

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, 1918.

C. B. J.

