

D. M. Coleman Tells 'Inside' Play Story

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ern) wrote a pamphlet on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary (1908) of the debate, interviewing some people who had actually heard the debate. His pamphlet and Mr. Coleman's Abraham Lincoln and Coles County are my basis for the actual procedure.

The play itself deals with a mythical family who discuss among themselves and their neighbors the issues which brought on the Civil War. The hiding of a runaway slave in their home and his description of slavery change the viewpoint of at least one member of the family.

The play has an excellent cast. Mr. Lincoln is portrayed by Rex Syndergaard, a member of the social science department at Eastern, who is tall, dark and (I am afraid) a little too handsome to be the famous Illinoisian. Mr. Douglas is Glenn Seymour, head of the social science department and an all-time Douglas enthusiast, his doctoral thesis having been written on that gentlemen.

The other two principals in the

play, Mrs. Henry Hofacker and Wayne Thurman, have both had professional experience. Mrs. Hofacker in the Cleveland playhouse and Dr. Thurman in the Cape Girardeau theatre.

The two student actors, Greg White and Bill Buckles, are well known to Charleston audiences. Nat Brown, who plays the runaway slave, runs away with the part, although he has had no previous acting experience.

The rest of the cast has Lucy Gabbard as Sarah Bush Lincoln, Rex Darling as Thomas A. Marshall, Harold Marker as Usher F. Linder, William Wood as Dr. Hiram Rutherford, Elwood Popham as Joe Ellison, and Jack Ensign as the narrator.

These people make up the cast of a play which, it is hoped, will prove to be an interesting experience in the theatre.

I cannot give too high praise to "Gabby" (Dr. E. G. Gabbard), the producer. It has been my privilege to watch the play that I have written come to life under his skillful direction—a great experience.