“Charge him with being pro-slavery all over.
Shoot into his hull between wind and water.”

wrote Joseph Medill to Abraham Lincoln. The year was 1836,
the fury against was provoked for the Lincoln-Douglas debates by a
“Proprietors” of the youthful Chicago Press and Tribune.

About the same time, two young Scotchmen left their jobs
with Robertson, Laidla, Ferguson and Co. Ltd., in Belfast, Ireland. “Display
merchandise in windows!” their employer shouted. “Price tickets
attached to goods! Fantastic! You can take your wild ideas elsewhere.” So the
two hardy young men with nothing but their youth and their
inspirations, sailed off to America. Within six months they had established a
small dry goods store in Illinois, to which they applied their progressive
ideas. The names of the two young men were John Pirie and Samuel Carson;
their revolutionary principles were those which have since made
department store history. That was a turbulent era in the history of
America. It was an era which encouraged men of ideas and integrity;
treasure men whose strength of principle and determination to
follow through, laid the foundations for some of today’s most respected
institutions. It was the era which fathered Joseph Medill and John
Pirie and Samuel Carson—the founder of a great newspaper,
and the founder of a great department store.

WE GREW UP TOGETHER

Chicago Tribune: 1847-1947
Carsen Pirie Scott: 1854-1947