

The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

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THE SENTINEL.

WM. F. PELL, Proprietor.

THE DESPOTISM OF MAJORITIES.

Never in the history of Republics, has the doctrine of the "tyranny of majorities" been so fully and so wickedly illustrated, as in the history of this government for the last few years. The State governments perpetrated under this tyranny are likely to outstrip the dominant majority of Congress in the exercise of every device to rivet the chains upon, and to arrest the progress of, among the people, by stifling discussion and cutting off all appeals to argument of reason.

This tyranny is not the work of the majority of the people—the recognized Constitutional voters of the Republic. Far from it. There never has been a time, since the close of the war, when the principles and measures of the Radical party, fairly presented, could have received the sanction of the majority of the legal voters among the people of the United States. But the enemies of the Constitution, seizing upon the opportunity afforded them by the peculiar status of affairs arising from the exigencies of the war, and its results, forced upon the people a class of representatives unknown to the Republic in its better days, who, by manipulating the advantages growing out of the peculiarities of their position, and by studiously concealing their real designs, enjoyed many of the people, by little and little, to the enforcement of a set of principles and measures which, when taken as a whole, are lauded and lauded by the intelligent and trustworthy in all sections. It is not true, and coming events will show it, that the vicious and unconstitutional legislation of Congress, by which the constitutional voters of ten States are put under the ban, and holders of several franchises are put in their stead, as the governing power in the land, is the "higher law" or the *vox populi, vox Dei*.

Written Constitutions are essential to liberty, and in Republics are the safeguards of right of law and of justice. Without them, minorities are always oppressed, but, with them, when respected, all, whether individuals or communities, are protected. "The Constitution of the United States and the laws made in conformity thereto are the supreme law of the land," is a sentiment to which all true Unionists and patriots must subscribe. Those who hold to a "higher law" than these, are the real traitors in this government, and, unless the efforts of true liberty and freedom have an utter failure in this Republic, coming events will fasten the treason upon the true traitors.

We regret to see some gentlemen in the State Senate, who have had better teaching, who in other days were ready to support and defend the Constitution, now ready to desert that time-honored instrument, which they have but a few days ago sworn to support.

We were not surprised that no one in the Senate, on Monday, felt prepared to reply to the able, indeed irresistible, argument of Mr. Robbins, in support of sound constitutional principles. It was rather creditable to most of them, who, in days of yore, were defenders of that same Constitution and fond in their professions of devotion to it, that they did not attempt to reply; but there are several gentlemen in that body whose consciences, unless they have become seared, would have been more quiet, if they were dumb, rather than have voted against their own life-long, cherished principles. Alas! that party machinery and party despotism have made such use of their manipulators. Once, they were proud free men, who dared to hold the truth in sincerity, however unpopular or at any cost. Now they are but the slaves of principles they dare not attempt to defend, and of a party which will not brook the independence of free thought and free action!

LEGISLATURE, YESTERDAY.

In the Senate, the proceedings, it will be seen, were unimportant.

In the House, Mr. POU, (Republican) of Johnston, introduced a series of resolutions requiring Congress to remove political disabilities from all citizens of North Carolina, who might be laboring under them, and supported them in a liberal and forcible speech. Col. Sinclair, of Robeson, also advocated them with energy and ability. No one, as yet, we believe, except Gen. Abbott, of New Hampshire, *vis Nov Hanover*, the representative of the carpet-bag element, has lifted his voice, in the House, in opposition to them. We reproduce the words of the Charlotte Democrat:

"The fact that a man, who spent his past life at the North, and only became a resident of North Carolina after the close of the war, and obtained civil office by force of military law, should countenance, aid or assist in proscribing the old native citizens of the State, is contemptible."

It will be observed, by the report, that Gen. Abbott spoke of Mr. POU's resolutions as a step towards "debauching the politics" of the State. A fit speech, truly, from the representative of a class of men, who have done more to debauch and degrade the politics of the South than fifty previous years had been able to effect—who have brought among us all the mean and disgusting expedients of Yankee politics—who have manipulated the negro vote, in solid column, against the interests of the white race and the peace and dignity of our good old State,—and who have made familiar to our ears the name of "Rings" and such low party machinery! Pah! "An ounce of civet."

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

We have always regarded this institution as the noblest charity of the State. Founded in the spirit of benevolence, and owing its origin to purely philanthropic motives, it has, together with the Institution for the Deaf, the Dumb, and the Blind, been a monument of the pure benevolence, and the refined intelligence and humanity of the State. Under every change of administration, until now, the foot-touch of partyism has never been permitted to enter their walls. Even when under the control of Directors of one political faith, the high philanthropic purposes of both these institutions have never been disturbed by the cares and miseries of partyism.

The superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum was, at its inception, placed in the hands of Dr. Edward C. Fisher, then of Virginia, from no unworthy or sinister motives. His skill in the management of Lunatic Asylums had been tested by his long connection with similar institutions in Virginia, which, together with his eminent attainments as a Physician and his qualities as a gentleman and Christian, peculiarly fitted him for that post. For many years he has maintained his high reputation, without taint or suspicion, and to day he is, perhaps, the only man in North Carolina, who, in all respects, is fully prepared to manage the institution. Next to him is that worthy gentleman, Dr. Fuller, who, at an early age, after completing his medical studies, with commendable sacrifice relinquished the tempting allurements of position and profit, as well as the close environment of society, in the true spirit of philanthropy, and has spent years of toil as the assistant of Dr. Fisher, devoting himself, on inadequate pay, exclusively to the good work of relieving and promoting the welfare of the demented and insane, that most unfortunate class of all our afflicted people.

More than two years ago, in order to secure a more efficient supervision, to correct and prevent abuses, and to throw, in the outset, the spirit of partyism, then for the first time seeking to control the institution, the General Assembly adopted, what we then thought and what we still think, if carried out in the proper spirit, the very best plan for its management, by placing the entire control of the institution in the hands of the Governor, and five Supervisors whom he might select, residing in this city. Gov. Worth, at once, called to his aid five of our best citizens, gentlemen of elevated social position, of the highest integrity and of unquestioned business character. Without reward, the Governor and these gentlemen have assiduously devoted themselves to the interests of the institution, and we unhesitatingly say, that the Asylum has never been better provided for and never has become so efficient, as within the past two years. At the time alluded to, the General Assembly started the designs of "Gov. Holden" to make the institution a political machine, by the appointment of his friend, Dr. Grison.

The resignation of the old excellent Steward, on the expiration of the new regime, two years ago, led to the selection of J. Harvey Moore, Esq., as Steward. The ravages of war and of the hostile army had despoiled the institution of almost every out-door comfort, and under the auspices of the Steward, and the intelligent supervision of the Board, and by Mr. Moore's prompt assiduity and skill, the grounds, farm, garden, stables and various kinds of stock, have been repaired, greatly improved and replaced, and everything presents the most encouraging aspect. There is no position more difficult to fill than that of Steward. He should be a good accountant, capable of conducting an intelligent correspondence, a good tradesman, capable of buying and selling, a good farmer and gardener, and mechanic, a man of unshaken integrity, having the disbursement of some \$30,000 per year, a man capable of governing servants, and, withal, a man of a kind, benevolent spirit, and of great industry and energy. Such a man Mr. Moore has proven himself to be. There cannot be found one white man out of a hundred, if one of a thousand, capable of filling the office well, and we are quite sure there is not a negro in the State, nor any fifty of them combined, who can discharge properly the duties of the office.

On yesterday, we announced the new Board of Supervisors appointed for the Asylum, by "Gov. Holden." For the sake of humanity and for the honor of the State, we could have wished better things of him, but we certainly did not hope or expect it. Not one of the appointees is competent for the high duties pertaining to the office. He might have done far better in his own party. And then the appointment of a *Canadian negro* promoter to the oversight of the most noble charity of the State, is an outrage upon public decency and propriety, and an insult to the people of the State. The appointments on the Board show that the "Gov." intends to control the whole affair himself, for not one of them would dare differ with him. It is a mere family concern, under such management.

We learn that the new Board of Supervisors have removed Dr. Fisher, and appointed Dr. Eugene Grison, of Greenville, Superintendent. We regret that Dr. Grison should allow himself to be placed in such a position. He is a good country physician, but his devotion to politics, for the last seven years, has not improved his medical knowledge. We may be in error, but we are strongly impressed with the belief, that no ordinary Physician is at all qualified for the position. Why is not a writ of Habeas Corpus applied for the medical treatment of the insane?

a specialty, and who has not experience in the management of such institutions. Our objections to Dr. Grison are neither personal nor political; they are wholly professional. Had he the qualifications of Dr. Fisher or Dr. Fuller, we should not say a word. One of the most intelligent and thorough-bred physicians in the State, whose American and European medical education is equal to that of any one of our acquaintances, would not, for a moment, think of bringing his qualifications for such a position into competition with those of Dr. Fisher.

It is rumored, that Messrs. Patterson, an old negro man in this City, is to succeed Mr. Moore as Steward. Another rumor is that Forney Whitaker is to be the Steward. In either case, the institution will be seriously damaged. We wish further developments. It is understood that, under such a regime, the removal of Dr. Fisher is the signal for the leaving of Dr. Fuller, Mr. Moore, (if not himself displaced), the matron, and every attendant who can find employment elsewhere. If these things be so, what must be the condition of the unfortunate lunatics in the institution? Will the friends of the poor creatures allow them to remain a day longer than they can effect their removal, if these changes are made?

The impression prevails that the partisan knife is also to be applied to the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and the Blind.—We hear that old Handy L. Eckhart (negro) is to be a Supervisor of that Institution.—Old Handy is a good fellow-maker, and we should not be surprised if under the new regime, he will be needed as an under-taker.

Let Gov. Holden reconsider his plans and purposes before he designs to make the noble charities of the State. He has ample scope for the use of his partisan scalpel on the Railroads, &c. We pledge ourselves not to open our mouths, if he supports forty negroes, apiece, to manage the Railroads, if he will just spare the charitable institutions of the State from the ravages of the vandals. We have no expectation, however, that he will do so. We know that he is utterly incapable of humane or generous considerations, when their exercise would interfere with his own selfish schemes of personal or political advancement.

OUR REPORTS AND REPORTERS.—The Sentinel is the only paper having regular reporters in both Houses, or which furnishes the public with correct proceedings of the General Assembly. The reports were never more faithful or better, in this city. We are pleased to know that many of the Opposition endorse the correctness and propriety of our reports.

We see it is stated that complaints are made of our Reporter in the House, because he employs the term "negro" simply as a matter of information to the public. There is no impropriety and necessity that the public should know who are the representatives of the people, and what they are doing. If the negro members of the body exhibit any capacity for legislation, they are entitled to the credit, and the public should know it. There is nothing derogatory to a man of the African race, if at all mixed with it, to be termed a negro. It is a simple designation of race, and is no more derogatory than the use of the words Caucasian, Indian, Mongolian or Malay, when applied to those races; and those who complain only show a miserable want of sense.

We have acted from a deliberate conviction of its propriety, and shall not be deterred from it by the threats of any one. Our reports shall be fair, faithful and decorous to the General Assembly, but we shall not yield to the miserable, disheartening, self-degrading course which some adopt, to please any one. Any attempt to remove our Reporters on that account, we shall charge to the low, mean, base designs of the friends of the *Nakedard*, who are too stingy to pay Reporters to report for that paper, but who, with the Reporters of the *Sentinel* expelled, in order to persuade the General Assembly, as they did the Convention, to pay Reporters for the benefit of the *Standard*. Let them do their worst. We defy them.

One word more. It is not stated by whom these complaints are made. If by the negro members, it is an indication that they are ashamed of their race and color,—a very bad sign; if by white men, it is a indication that they are ashamed of the company of the negroes,—a poor compliment to the latter, which they should properly appreciate.

ARE WE "PIG OR PUPPY"—PROVISIONAL OR PERMANENT?

We don't know. It would take forty Philadelphiawyers, and a dozen political-military Straps, with several "Governors" and "Lieut. Governors," to decide. All that we do know is that Gen. Canby, on Tuesday, issued an order, as we learn by a telegram received on yesterday, "restoring civil rule in North Carolina, WHEN the President shall have proclaimed the ratification of the Constitutional amendment.—The functions of the military officers are THEN to cease. Prisoners in custody, under charges of a violation of the Reconstruction acts, then to be discharged; those in prison for other offences to be turned over to the civil authorities."

The latter clause of this order will have the effect of turning over Capt. Tolar, and his unfortunate fellow sufferers, and others similarly situated, to the "tender mercies" of a county jail under the new regime.—Why is not a writ of Habeas Corpus applied for the medical treatment of the insane?

THE NOMINATIONS.

We have only time and space to say, this morning, that we raise, with pride and honor, to our mast-head, the names of Horatio Seymour, of New York, and Gen. Frank P. Blair, of Missouri, as the National Democratic nominees for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States. We have in them both, and in the admirable platform adopted by the Convention, the best guarantees that in the event of their success, which we believe certain, the Government will be restored to its Constitutional moorings. That is all we ask or desire, and to that end, we hereby pledge our zealous and unflinching efforts. We are unhesitatingly pleased with the nominations, and believe that they combine the elements of victory over the enemies of the Republic.

LEGISLATURE, YESTERDAY.

The length of our reports on yesterday precludes other than a very brief notice of what transpired, in either House, although the proceedings were unusually interesting.

In the House, the carpet bag and malignant element triumphed over the moderate and decent wing of the party, by laying Mr. POU's resolutions, invoking Congressional "clemency" for all disabled citizens, on the table. This is supposed to advance Abbott's prospects for the U. S. Senate, as it would really seem, from the way the scalawag act, that a Yankee's nod to their favor in exhibitions of hatred to the white people of the State, and especially that portion of them who have been distinguished for their public services and private worth, and who have illustrated the annals of North Carolina.

Col. Sinclair's resolution, calling for an investigation into the misconduct of "Judge" Jones, was indefinitely postponed. So be it. It would have been a spirited arraignment of wrong, if the Radicals in the House had ordered such an enquiry "Judge" Jones, probably, stands higher with them than ever.

In the Senate, Mr. Love, the excellent Senator from the 4th District, threw a bomb-shell into the Radical camp, in the shape of a resolution arranging the action of the Senate, and its Presiding Officer, in restraining Mr. McLaughlin, of Ireland, of the seat in that body, to which his loyal white constituents have elected him. Every Radical in the Senate knows, and no one knows it better than the "Lieut. Governor," that Mr. McLaughlin is not only not under disabilities, but that he can take the test-oath, and yet, because, with inviolable independence and a just self-respect and regard for his constituents, he refused to succumb to an inquisitorial exaction, he has been unlawfully deprived of his rights and prerogatives! We refer to the resolution to the proceedings, without further comment, at present.

THE GREAT CONVENTION.

The pressure upon our columns is so great, that we cannot give as full particulars of the great National Democratic Convention, now in session in New York, as we could desire, though we will endeavor to furnish such abstracts as will give our readers a general idea of what is done. Thus far we have only received the detailed proceedings of the first day, which were devoted mainly to the preliminaries of organization. On our first page will be found the opening address of Hon. August Belmont, Chairman of the National Democratic Executive Committee, and an interesting epitome of the first day's doings in the National Soldiers' and Sailors' Convention.

The Committee on Platform being very important, we give it as follows:

Charles C. Langdon, Alabama; A. H. Garland, Arkansas; A. H. Rose, California; Tilton E. Doolittle, Connecticut; James H. Bayard, Delaware; Wilkinson Call, Florida; Henry S. Pritch, Georgia; William J. Allen, Illinois; J. E. McDonald, Indiana; John B. O'Neil, Iowa; Colonel G. W. Chick, Kansas; William Preston, Kentucky; Jas. B. Eustis, Louisiana; R. D. Rice, Maine; Steven Archer, Maryland; Edward Avery, Massachusetts; Charles E. Stewart, Michigan; E. A. McMahon, Minnesota; Charles Mason, Missouri; M. E. Burkhead, Mississippi; C. F. Porter, Nebraska; J. A. St. Clair, Nevada; J. R. Wortendyke, New Jersey; Henry C. Murphy, New York; Robert Strange, North Carolina; W. J. Gilmore, Ohio; A. D. Fitch, Oregon; Francis W. Hughes, Pennsylvania; Thomas Steere, Rhode Island; Wade Hampton, South Carolina; E. J. Mound Cooper, Tennessee; George W. Smith, Texas; Chas. N. Davenport, Vermont; Thomas S. Hoock, Virginia; John J. Davis, West Virginia; Jas. A. Mallory, Wisconsin.

Gen. W. R. Cox, of this city, was on the Committee on Credentials, and Hon. W. N. H. Smith, of Hertford, on the Committee on Permanent Organization.

In numbers, character and ability, this great Convention surpasses any ever held before in this country. It has attracted to New York immense numbers of persons from all parts of the country, and it is estimated that fully 200,000 negroes are in the city. This fact is significant, of the absorbing interest which is felt in the deliberations of the Convention, and of the intensity of popular feeling which has been awakened by the infamies of the Radical usurpationists.

We await, simply with curiosity, the names of the nominees. Now that so admirable a Platform has been adopted, the selection of a candidate, provided he has some of the elements of availability, is a matter of secondary consequence.

Mr. Johnson thinks the railroad family must be very large, since it has so many connections all over the country.

Forney says that Chief Justice Chase is "showing his teeth in a published statement. He must be fishing for you, Forney."

THE MALICE OF PARTY.

There is no duty imposed on the Executive of the State more sacred than that of protecting from neglect or bad influences, of any kind, the charitable institutions of the State. Mere partyism cannot be justified at any time, in reference to any individual or thing. Its indulgence, under any circumstances, must always be charged to the gratification of the lower, sensual or selfish attributes of our depraved nature, and can only be practiced or justified by the selfish and depraved among mankind.

The pecuniary interests of the State, and of our people, ought to receive his constant attention and his most sober consideration. While he may receive his appointments to office, and duties, in those of his own party, yet, in no instance, in our judgment, can he discharge a good officer from any position, without supplying his place with one, having him to be equal for that position to the one displaced, without violating his solemn oath of office. The State and people are not only injured by it, but the Executive, guilty of it, sins against God and right.

This responsibility and crime are vastly increased when, in the exercise of party feeling or malice, competent officers are removed from the control of the charitable institutions of the State, and incompetent ones put in their places. This becomes not only an act against Heaven, but also a crime against humanity, against the suffering objects of the sympathy and commiseration of the State, which the people ought not to forget to punish.

In all thanksgivings, we say "Gloria." Holden follow out his programme to restore to office, and the Constitution, do its sacred rights of the several Commonwealths, composing what was once in fact the Federal Union. Of such approval, in the present temper of parties, I can, perhaps, have no reasonable expectation.

All history proves that men who, in official position, oppose for any reason the cherished schemes devised by factions to acquire power, usually find more determined opponents than open and avowed defenders. Hence, in resisting measures, which, though sustained by Congress, I honestly believed to be encroachments upon the Constitution, my task has been made arduous and seemingly ungracious by an opposition powerful, well organized, and possessing a controlling influence in the halls of legislation unprecedented in the history of the country. Compelled to devote my entire time to the issues that have been forced upon me, and to contend against a majority represented by two thirds of each House of Congress, I have been enabled, while striving to protect and maintain the liberties of the people, to check extravagant expenditures for objects not contemplated by the Constitution, and to lighten the burdens of taxation which now rest so oppressively upon the nation.

In the midst of these embarrassments, I have not been discouraged. When from the public prints, or from some unusually frank and outspoken friend, I have heard that "I have no party," the suggestion has only served to remind me of a memorable remark, uttered when faction ruled high in Rome, that "Cesar had a party, and Pompey and Cæsar each a party, but that the Commonwealth had none." Aiming only, as the representative of the people, to stand by the rights of the Commonwealth, may I not pertinently make the application to my own case?

Constrained, in occupying my position as the Federal Executive, to abide in silence wings and encroachments of the most insidious as well as desperate character, or, sometimes, when incapable of arresting their progress, to be limited only to the privilege of remonstrance or the terrible alternative of counter-revolution, to resist revolutionary projects; obliged to stand in the attitude of a mere spectator, whilst the invaluable time of the nation has been wasted in cancellations upon myself and office for the benefit of a party, I cannot complain if the people, while witnessing these things, have not been able to make my cause their own, in the defence of the Constitution and their own battle.

Until, however, the people's representatives will recognize more plainly the imperative needs of the country, by lightening the burden of excessive and onerous taxation, and preventing successive impositions upon the same article, beginning with the credit state, and following it through its several stages of mortuaries to its final end, and cost—the people being thus made to pay extraordinarily and ruinously these exorbitant taxes, until the time approached in Congress to partition schemes is devoted more to legislating for the people's wants, the nation will have to be content with a party.

With the people, then, must rest the correction of whatever is wrong in the course indicated; and if their public servants did them careless of their responsibility—if the people will not do their duty in seeing that their representatives perform theirs, no Executive will ever have power successfully to defend their rights, and few will care to incur the obloquy consequent upon the attempt.

I am now, however, as I have ever been, in the hands of the people and at their disposal. My struggle for the Union and the integrity of the Government began long ago. Conscious of having honestly discharged my duty, and satisfied that the course in which I have been compelled to engage will in the end, at least, lead to the benefit, and, indeed, safety of constitutional liberty and human rights, I can well afford, I think, to look calmly on the present, and await patiently the verdict of the future.

While I know that the struggle for the rights of the people and for defence to the Constitution is not yet over, yet believing that, within the late palpable claims to the Executive office, the worst that faction can for the present do has been accomplished, I would only, in concluding this statement of my views and feelings, express the hope that, in the selection by the Convention of a candidate for the Presidency, whose duty it will be, if elected, to preserve, and execute the laws made in presence of its provisions, the public good, will not be sacrificed to the mere purpose of party ascendancy.

In conclusion, gentlemen, permit me to thank you most gratefully for the kind expression of your abiding confidence in me as a public servant, and to assure you that the approval of the people is all that is requisite to make me feel that the efforts I have made to restore the Union on the basis of justice and conciliation, have not been altogether in vain. Leaving my cause and myself in their hands, should the continuance and the conclusion of the contest to vindicate and preserve constitutional government be confided by them to able and more worthy hands, I shall cordially acquiesce, as has been my habit, in the decision of the American people.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, Very respectfully yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

To Messrs. F. W. Coggill, James Galloway, Thomas Morrell, Robert H. Berdell, Wm. H. Appleton, J. W. Gerard, Jr., Henry Grinnell, Francis Skiddy, N. A. Baldwin, Emil Sauer, New York City.

THAT "INADEQUACY."—The *Philadelphia North Star* contains a letter from Raleigh, which has the following relative to the Haytian "Inauguration" on the 4th. It is good:

"I shall not attempt a full description of the proceedings, and the audience, for they were indescribable. The crowd, however, consisted of about six thousand negroes, about three hundred white men, including the Legislature, the officers elect, and the office seekers, and just even white ladies, members of the families of the chief worthies. 'Only blacks to one white!' And this is the position in the Haytian General Assembly! I attended, though I should have done so any way,—for I don't it good strategy, when the enemy is near and in force, to look inside of his picket lines if you can. I took my seat in a few feet of the stand, and saw and heard the whole affair. Was I not—fallen amid it all! Far from it. How proud I felt at the thought that my countrymen were white! How from my soul I plied and contained these new officers, who have wriggled their slimy way up to so-called high places by negro votes, while the mass of white North Carolinians despise them! I felt more than philosophical. 'I think I was the most abused man there. Why? Because I was more forcibly than any other man, impressed with the delightful thought,—this immense majority,—this fantastic logicology and theology!'"

LETTER OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

We give below the letter of President Johnson, addressed to a number of citizens of New York, asking if he would allow his name to be presented to the New York Convention as a candidate for the Presidency.

CITY OF NEW YORK, JUNE 24, 1868.

To the Hon. Andrew Johnson:

Sir: The undersigned, citizens of the city of New York, having observed with satisfaction your administration of the highest executive office of the nation, and believing that the patriotism, fidelity to the Constitution, and fearlessness which have hitherto marked the performance of your official duties are the highest guarantees, as well as the essential qualifications, for the efficient and faithful discharge of a public office, and desiring, for the benefit of the people, to do so, respectfully ask whether it deemed desirable for the preservation and unity of the Conservative interests of this country, you will allow your name to be presented to the Democratic Convention as a candidate for the office of President of the United States?

Yours, with high respect,

F. W. Coggill, James Galloway, Thomas Morrell, Robert H. Berdell, Wm. H. Appleton, J. W. Gerard, Jr., Henry Grinnell, Francis Skiddy, N. A. Baldwin, Emil Sauer.

REPLY OF THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 2, 1868.

Gentlemen:—To your friendly inquiry whether "if deemed desirable for the preservation and unity of the Conservative interests of the country," I would permit my name to be presented to the Democratic Convention as a candidate for the office of President of the United States, I would respectfully reply that I am not ambitious of further service. I may say, indeed, of further service in that elevated and responsible position, unless by a call so general and unequivocal that it would be an endorsement by the people of my endeavors to defend the Constitution and the reserved rights of the several Commonwealths, composing what was once in fact the Federal Union. Of such approval, in the present temper of parties, I can, perhaps, have no reasonable expectation.

All history proves that men who, in official position, oppose for any reason the cherished schemes devised by factions to acquire power, usually find more determined opponents than open and avowed defenders. Hence, in resisting measures, which, though sustained by Congress, I honestly believed to be encroachments upon the Constitution, my task has been made arduous and seemingly ungracious by an opposition powerful, well organized, and possessing a controlling influence in the halls of legislation unprecedented in the history of the country. Compelled to devote my entire time to the issues that have been forced upon me, and to contend against a majority represented by two thirds of each House of Congress, I have been enabled, while striving to protect and maintain the liberties of the people, to check extravagant expenditures for objects not contemplated by the Constitution, and to lighten the burdens of taxation which now rest so oppressively upon the nation.

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