

[CANDIDATE.]

Hon. Alexander Rives, of Virginia, being loudly called for by the Convention, spoke as follows:

Gentlemen: After the very eloquent addresses that have been made, it is with great diffidence that I rise to respond to the call that has been made upon me to say that I feel that if I should fail to respond it would indicate a want of fidelity to that Commonwealth which I honor and revere. Mr. President, permit me to say that Virginia has the honor of originating the noble band of patriots by whom I am surrounded. Sir, at a very early period of this campaign a small band of Virginia Whigs met in the Capitol of that State; and what a scene was presented to them! It was a scene calculated to move the anxious solicitude of every patriot and freeman who respects the Government and the law. And, sir, was rousing upon our borders, and mob-law prevailing in another State of this Confederacy. Sir, what was the duty of the Whigs convened under circumstances like these? What could they look for protection to—the interests dearest to the heart of the Whig? [Cheers—] Sir, had they any thing to expect of that party which seeks to perpetuate its power in hands similar to the dynasty that now holds it? I can not what are the qualifications, as a statesman, of James Buchanan; the moment that he accepted the nomination of the Cincinnati Convention he ceased to occupy his former position; as it was well said, he had ceased to occupy the position to which he might have been entitled from his former services, and sunk into a mere puppet upon a party platform to be managed by party managers. Sir, where are the Whigs of this country who, either in the North, the South, the East, or the West, are the constant advocates of a regular government and the supremacy of the laws—where are they to look now? Is he not prepared to lose his head in shame for the election of an unscrupulous Government, that permits, week after week, the public heart to be lacerated by rumors of traitors and spies upon our borders? Sir, had the noble patriot of New York been at the helm of government, [great applause] will it be lessened that he would not have remained quietly under the shades of the Presidential palace while such scenes were being enacted, to the eternal disgrace of regular government and law. No, sir, he would have dropped the labours of the citizen at the hand of the army of the United States, and using his best exertions to locate law and order. [Cheers.]

Sir, is it not time that Whigs of this country should recollect the responsibilities of the position which they occupy before the country? Let it be remembered, sir, that at the Presidential nomination in 1832 both the Whig party and the Democratic party engratified this great conservative principle upon their platforms that they then exerted that henceforth agitation upon the subject of slaves should cease in Congress and out of Congress. [Roused applause.] This was all that the South asked, and it was what the North could not refuse. That was responded to and adopted as an axiom by both parties. They agreed that this disturbing question had been settled by the compromises of 1830; that they regarded as a beauty, and peace was restored to the country. But, Mr. President, how long that peace was violated! Let the insular and indignant people of this country answer—Has any primary meeting of the people, either in the North, the South, the East, or the West, called for any disturbance of the compromises of 1830? I ask for an answer, sir. Where was there any movement on the part of the people looking to a disturbance of the compromises of 1830?

Sir, in vain do I wait for echo to answer. Now, where can it be said that there was any such meeting, and let me say, no movement, in the meaning and language of our government or ourselves, at a early our meetings—at Washington, for mere party purposes, more purpose of personal aggrandizement, have opened up no opportunities and set the country by the ears throughout the whole extent from North to South, from East to West. And, as you see, the Whig party has moved under these conditions, and which they fling to the world in 1832, and which have come here to ask for peace and cessation of this fatal agitation. And where will they find it, sir? Surely not in a platform—There is no security there. Platforms are mere empty words which pass for the occasion on that gives birth to them, and are then laid aside and forgotten.

Mr. President, we find our security in the lofty character of the man whom the Whigs will propose to the country as their standard-bearer in the coming contest. Sir, I am not to anticipate; I cannot tell what will be the verdict of the vast mass of people who are collected upon this occasion as to the necessities of a large majority of the State of this Union; but I am authorized to say that if we were sitting here as a convention, without any nomination having been made for President of the United States, where could we look for a man who should annihilate the Government—a man of tried character as a patriot and Statesman—so as to make us that we should have that peace for which patriot hearts yearn? Where could we find that peace and security better than by uniting the Government of the country, and the maintenance of regular government, and the supremacy of the laws, in the hands of that man who has stood up in previous times and executed those laws that were regarded as abominable by a portion of the people of the North? [Great applause.] Yes, sir, I am free to say that if I were told as a representative from Virginia, to make my selection, as my first choice for this high office, I should look to other man than Millard Fillmore. [Renewed and enthusiastic cheering.]

Now, Mr. President, I pray you, what is the reason that the eyes of the whole country are turned to the distinguished citizen of New York on this occasion? It is emphatically, as said by the distinguished citizen from that State, who has just addressed us, because he is no sectional candidate, and in the administration of the Government he would have no other platform than that most glorious platform, Mr. President, to which you have recommended, as the Constitution of the United States. [Applause.] Sir, I had from the South, and my heart throbs with every emotion that can thrill a Southern heart; but yet I tell you, sir, that from my heart of hearts I hate a Northern man with Southern principles. [orient cheering.] Mr. President, telling me a man from the extreme North, and set him down in my own electio[n]al domain, and let him strive to live in in the prides of the institutions of the South, and I say he ought to be kicked out of doors. [orient cheering.]

All that I want in the responsible office of President is a man who, in the noble language of Millard Fillmore—a sentiment that should be written in letters of living light across the contemplations of the heavens—a man who, in the execution of the duties of that office, “shall know no North, no South, no East, no West.” Mr. President, could the election result either in the choice of Mr. Fillmore or Mr. Buchanan, I say it is but the commencement of destruction. Let me insist, that there is no federation of the peoples of the country; and here stand the people around, whom we must rally to meet that result. [orient cheering.]

It is a task well suited to the cause of a dissolution of the Union. We come here as friends and advocates, and we are to act again in our great gathering, if we

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had it in our power, the veil that conceals from us by the direction of a merciful Providence, the dire calamity that might ensue from such an event; but, yet, if the result of this election should be in favor of either of these gentlemen, let me assure my fellow compatriots who are here as I am, not to shut their eyes to the fact that the hour of danger will have come. In this crisis the Whig party must come forward and throw its weight into the conservative scale. This will be a great contest; and they must be ready and willing to devote themselves, their fortunes, and even their lives in defense of that sacred institution for which our fathers shed their blood. Sir, had they any thing to expect of that party which seeks to perpetuate its power in hands similar to the dynasty that now holds it? I can not what are the qualifications, as a statesman, of James Buchanan; the moment that he accepted the nomination of the Cincinnati Convention he ceased to occupy his former position; as it was well said, he had ceased to occupy the position to which he might have been entitled from his former services, and sunk into a mere puppet upon a party platform to be managed by party managers. Sir, where are the Whigs of this country who, either in the North, the South, the East, or the West, are the constant

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Mr. JANNEY, in response to the call, which was loudly seconded by the audience, said:

Mr. President, I have two or three very substantial reasons for not complying with the request of my friend. In the first place, the Commonwealth of Virginia has been heard through my friend who has just taken his seat; and I am sure I am not assuming too much upon myself when I say that all of us can say “Amen” to each and every word that he has uttered. [Applause.]

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