From Washington.

GENERAL GRANT'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1, 1868.

To Gerritsen B. Hawley, President of the National Union Republican Convention:

In formally accepting the nomination of the National Union Republican Convention, the 21st of May last, it seems proper that a statement of my views should be given in advance of the nomination should be tendered. The proceedings of the Convention, conducted with wisdom, moderation and patriotism, and a large majority of the delegates of the great mass of those who sustained the country through its recent crisis, indicate a great revolution and it cheered to the office of President of the United States, it will be my endeavor to administer the office in good faith, with economy, and with the view to the future peace, quiet and prosperity of the country. In this line the prerogative is supposed to be exercised through the Cabinet. Through an administration of four years new political issues not foreseen are constantly arising. Some views of the public on old ones are constantly changing, and a purely administrative officer should not be too free to exercise the will of the people. I always have reported that will and always have found it easy to ascertain it. Reconstruction with economy of administration, will lighten the burden of taxation, and will be the first object of my national care. Let us have peace.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT.

HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1868.

Hon. J. R. Hawley, President of the National Union Republican Convention:

DEAR SIR: The platform adopted by the patriotic Convention, which I have the honor to address, contains what so happily supplement it, so entirely express my views as to a practical policy, that I may thank as one to the delegates as much for the clear and explicit utterances of principles and the nomination with which I have been honored, and which I gratefully accept. Years of a great revolution, which imperiled the national existence, was at last overthrown by the combined efforts of loyal men of all parties, and of all shades of opinion. Reconstruction equally requires that the rescinded States should be admitted in the same way, and on the same terms as the States which they had warred only on such a basis as will prevent their return to war, or endanger the strength and power of the nation. Certainly, no one can deny that it is evident that they should be re-admitted under such rule that their representatives, when they shall be so admitted, as it should be, to the seat, to defy the national authority, that the loyal men of the country, who have suffered so much from the rebellion, and who have insisted on the Congressional policy now commended as a means of security, by an executive opposition and persistent refusals to accept any plan of reconstruction proposed by Congress, entire and public safety at last combined to teach us that our country has suffered from the fact that States could be admitted and that it was even proposed to give to those who had fought against the Union, to those who had sought, intentionally, to destroy the Union, the right of legislation, and of voting for the Union soldiers. It will be one triumphant vindication, more than any other, of the wisdom of our policy, to recognize that the greatest glory of a republic, that it must be the shield of the humblest citizen, the humblest and the weakest of its people, and vindicate the rights of the poorest and the weakest, as much as those of the rich and the powerful. I rejoice too, in this connection, that the patriotic sentiments and feelings evinced that naturalized citizens must be protected abroad as well as at home, wherever they were born. Our whole people are foreigners, or descended from foreigners, except the aborigines. We cannot deny to others what we claim for ourselves, and it is a wise and just policy, that we should seek to establish the right to welcome to our shores all who are willing to become citizens, to become American citizens. Perpetual allegiance, as claimed abroad, is one of those relics of the middle ages, and would make all slaves to the soil where first they saw the light.

Our national constitution proves how faithfully these rights of citizens have been held sacred, even amid the life blood of thousands upon thousands. Should we, of the North, be called on to pay our share of taxes for the support of the Union, we have the right to demand equality for which, side by side with the naturalized born, our ancestors bled and died for our lives!

It was fitting, too, that the representatives of a party which had proved so true to national duty in time of war should also be the party to insist on the maintenance unstinted of the national honor, national credit, national faith, and national honor, at cost of our national existence. I do not mean to extend the military idea of reconstruction, which has already caused so much suffering and trouble. The doctrine of conquest, it is acknowledged to be wrong, and yet the military idea, carried to the frank approval of anarchy based on repentance and pardon.

The demand for the most thorough economy and honesty in the expenditure of the war expenditure of thirty with all throughout the world which long for liberty and love of country, and the success of the sublime principles of the Declaration of Independence, and the Union, and the success of the American system, and the valuable services of Mr. Seward, he could not consent to vote for a resolution which would cause a delay in action in the late case.

The unfinished business of yesterday was then taken up.

Mr. Howard gave notice that he would offer an additional section, providing for the admission of South Carolina on the ratification of the fourteenth article by the Legislature of that State, which would by the same section be authorized to assume her seat upon the question.

Mr. Drake said that he had intended, as soon as he could, to offer a proviso to the amendment of the right of the State of Arkansas to be admitted to representation by and State on account of race or color, except to citizens of the State. Referring to Mr. Trumbull's motion to the amendment, Mr. Drake said that the Senator from Illinois had "sufficiently explained the object of the bill with a more stringent fundamental condition than that which he proposed, and which he was therefore looking two ways.

Mr. Trumbull said that he reported the bill under instructions from the committee, but admitted that it was not exactly what he would prefer.

Mr. Drake's proviso, and Mr. Howard's section.

Mr. Drake replied that the Senator from Illinois had not sufficiently explained the object of the proviso in voting to pass the Nebraska bill over the President's veto, and then closed his remarks with an argument drawn from the assumed necessity for protecting loyal blacks from the machinations and illwill of disloyal whites.

Mr. Fessenden offered an amendment to Mr. Drake's, which was accepted by him, to the effect that the constitutional provisions of Arkansas, as to the elective franchise or any other right, on account of race or color.

An amendment, that was then offered by Mr. Howard, providing in effect that no discrimination shall be made among on account of race or color, but that the State may prescribe an educational qualification and provide separate schools for the 180 races, which were rejected. Yeas, 8; nays, 30.

Mr. Drake's amendment as modified by Mr. Fessenden, was then agreed to.

Mr. Howard offered an amendment as a substitute for the section, providing that the State of Arkansas, having complied with the reconstruction acts, is entitled to representation.

It was rejected, 15 to 26.

Mr. Stewart then reported bill amendment, offered last Saturday, to strike out all conditions to admission, which were inserted in the bill.

The bill was then passed by 24 yeas to 8 nays, viz.—Messrs. Bayard, Cattell, Dixon, Doolittle, Hendricks, Grevry, Patterson, of Tennessee, Saulsbury and Vickers, and Sumner voted in the negative.

House of Representatives.

Mr. Morgan offered a resolution in reference to the room in the Capitol occupied by the Ladies' Society by Miss Vinnie Ream, but now ordered to be used as a place for the sale of photographs. The resolution was referred to the committee on the subject.

Mr. Schenck asked the House to suspend the rules, which was agreed to, and he then moved to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution relative to the Congressional policy pending the action of the Reconstruction Committee on the subject, and the persistent refusals to accept any plan of reconstruction proposed by Congress, public and public safety at last combined to teach us that our country has suffered from the fact that States could be admitted and that it was even proposed to give to those who had fought against the Union, to those who had sought, intentionally, to destroy the Union, the right of legislation, and of voting for the Union soldiers. It will be one triumphant vindication, more than any other, of the wisdom of our policy, to recognize that the greatest glory of a republic, that it must be the shield of the humblest citizen, the humblest and the weakest of its people, and vindicate the rights of the poorest and the weakest, as much as those of the rich and the powerful. I rejoice too, in this connection, that the patriotic sentiments and feelings evinced that naturalized citizens must be protected abroad as well as at home. Our whole people are foreigners, or descended from foreigners, except the aborigines. We cannot deny to others what we claim for ourselves, and it is a wise and just policy, that we should seek to establish the right to welcome to our shores all who are willing to become citizens, to become American citizens. Perpetual allegiance, as claimed abroad, is one of those relics of the middle ages, and would make all slaves to the soil where first they saw the light.

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