

Mr. Buchanan's Letter of Acceptance.

Lancaster, June 13, 1856. Sir—The National Convention of the democratic party which assembled at Cincinnati on the first Monday in June, unanimously nominated you as a candidate for the office of President of the United States.

We have been directed by the Convention to convey to you in this manner, and to request you, in this name, to accept the nomination for the exalted trust which the chief magistracy of the Union imposes.

The Convention, founding their action upon the time-honored principles of the democratic party, have announced their views in relation to the chief questions which engage the public mind; and, while adhering to the truths of the past, have manifested the policy of the present, in a series of resolutions, to which we invoke your attention.

The Convention feel assured in tendering to you this signal proof of the respect and esteem of your countrymen, that they truly reflect the opinion which the people of the United States entertain of your eminent character and distinguished public services.

You cherish a profound conviction that your election to the first office in the republic will give a moral impulse to the country that the two principles of the constitution will be asserted and maintained; that the public tranquillity will be established; that the tumults of faction will be still; that our domestic industry will flourish; that our foreign affairs will be conducted with such wisdom and firmness as to assure the prosperity of the people at home, while the respect and honor of our country are wisely but fearlessly maintained in our intercourse with other nations, and especially, that your public confidence and the confidence of your countrymen will enable you to give effect to democratic principles, so as to render inalienable the strong bonds of mutual interest and national glory which unite our confederacy and secure the prosperity of our people.

Mr. Buchanan's Reply.

Wheatland, near Lancaster, June 16, 1856. GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 13th inst., informing me officially of my nomination by the Democratic National Convention, recently held at Cincinnati, for the office of President of the United States. I shall not attempt to express the grateful feelings which I entertain towards my democratic fellow citizens for having deemed me worthy of this, the highest political honor on earth—an honor such as the people of no other country have the power to bestow.

Deeply sensible of the vast and varied responsibility attached to the position, especially at the present crisis in our affairs, I have carefully refrained from seeking the nomination either by word or deed. Now that it has been offered by the democratic party, I accept it with diffidence, but with the confidence that I may be enabled to discharge my duty in such a manner as to allay domestic strife, preserve peace and friendship with foreign nations, and promote the best interests of the republic.

Accepting the nomination, I need scarcely say that I accept in the same spirit the resolutions constituting the platform of principles erected by the Convention. To this platform I intend to confine myself throughout the canvass, believing that I have no right as the candidate of the democratic party, by answering interrogatories, to present new and different issues before the people.

It will not be expected that in this answer I should specify refer to the subject of each of the resolutions, and I shall therefore confine myself to the two topics now most prominently before the people.

And in the first I cordially concur in the sentiments expressed by the Convention on the subject of civil and religious liberty. No party founded on religious or political intolerance towards one class of American citizens, whether born in our own or in foreign land, can long continue to exist in this country. We are all equal before God and the constitution; and the dark spirit of despotism and bigotry which would obliterate obvious distinctions among our fellow citizens is justly rebuked by a free and enlightened public opinion.

The agitation on the question of domestic slavery has too long distracted and divided the people of this Union and alienated their affections from each other. This agitation has assumed many forms since its commencement, but none so dangerous to the Union as the present. It is a dangerous and a wicked spirit, and judging from its present character I think we may safely anticipate that it is rapidly approaching a "finality." The recent legislation of Congress respecting domestic slavery, derived, as it has been from the original and pure fountain of legitimate political power, the will of the majority, promises ere long to ally the dangerous excitement of the people with the despotic and bigoted spirit of the government itself, and in accordance with them, has simply declared that the people of a Territory, like those of a State shall decide for themselves whether slavery shall or shall not exist within their limits.

The Nebraska Kansas act does no more than give the force of law to this elementary principle of self-government, leaving it to the true friends and enemies of this act to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom; but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States. This principle will surely not be controverted by any individual of any party professing devotion to popular government. Besides, how can a history would any other principle prove in practice in regard to the Territories. This is apparent from the fact admitted by all, that after a Territory shall have entered the Union and become a State, no constitutional power would then exist which could prevent the either abolishing or establishing slavery in the case of any Territory, according to its sovereign will and pleasure.

Measuring would be for the country, if this long agitation were at an end. During the whole progress it has produced no practical good to our human being, while it has been the source of great and dangerous evils. From the one side, and estranged one portion of the Union from the other, and has very seriously increased its very existence. To my own personal knowledge, it has produced the depression among foreign nations that our country has never known in its history. It has produced the danger of dissolution. This does not seem serious, because acknowledged power and stability always command respect among nations.

TO THE LADIES.

TO THE LADIES OF BIRCHMONT AND VICINITY.

PLEASE READ IT, IT IS SHORT AND OF IMPORTANCE TO EVERY HOUSE-KEEPER.

SHEPARD BROTHERS HAVE received their spring supply of house furnishing goods.

Our assortment is now complete, and we are enabled to offer a large and elegant Spring Pattern of White Enamelled Ware.

Our Goods are all No. 1 in quality, no seconds or odd lots, but complete assortments of each article.

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