THE PRESIDENTIAL CANVASS.

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Letter from Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland.

The following letter was addressed by the Hon Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, to Lewis C. Cassidy, Esq., in answer to an invitation to address the Douglas Reelection Meeting held in Independence Square on last Saturday evening:

BALTIMORE, June 27, 1860.

DEAR SIR: I find it impossible to accept the invitation with which I am honored by the meeting in your city, on Saturday, called to ratify the nominations of Messrs. Douglas and Johnson to the offices of President and Vice President of the United States. There never was a time more politically momentous than the present. With a few in the north professedly interested solely sectionally, with the object of making battle in a single Southern State, with principles alleged by the South, with almost one voice, to be entirely derogatory to their honor as equals under a Confederacy of equals, and, in consequence, fatal to the peace of the country, if not to its continuing existence as a nation, we are presented with the *structural* spectacle of a force antagonism in the only party which, from its vast nationality, is capable of restoring all to prosperity and safety. The extenuation for this madness, in its last exhibition in this city—for its hardly concealed, even the air of distinctness, is the admission by the Convention of one set of competing delegates from a few Southern States, instead of another. No one denies the power of the Convention to decide such a question. It is inherent in all deliberative representative bodies. They could not exist without it. Some are to be admitted, and, while are the rightful claimants must depend on the judgment of the body. In this instance, too, the ground of secession is as futile as it is illegitimate. The delegates refused admission had seceded from the Convention at Charleston. There, the reason assigned for it was the refusal of a majority of the body to adopt a platform acceptable to the minority, and the assertion of one approved by the former.

That there was nothing in this latter platform so hostile to the Southern interests as to justify the disruption of the Democratic party, and especially with the resulting danger of wrecking up the Union on the same pretense, all sensible patriotic men will agree, when remembering that it is the *very platform on which the Democratic party of the country* triumphed in '56, and the very one which, at the Convention of that year, one of the leading spirits of the Secession insisted, with great zeal and apparent sincerity, would demand a dissolution of the Union if not adopted. So, according to, they, announced their fixed resolution to secede from the forums of their assembly, therefore, abdicated. They resigned, if they spoke the truth, and they will hardly say that with them to speak otherwise is possible.

In this state of things, these semi being vacated, a Virginia delegate, who then saw no cause for secession, moved the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That when this Convention adjourns it adjourns to reassemble at Baltimore, on Monday the 18th of June, instant; and that it is respectfully recommended to the Democratic party of the several States which have appointed delegates to this Convention to take such steps as may be necessary that on the principle which appeared to have been originally involved in the controversy, my own views were decidedly with the minority of Democracy, and against those assumed by Mr. Douglas, I am constrained to dissent from the action of the latter portion of the Federal Democracy in forcing the question of the constitutional rights of the slaveholder in the Territories, and, in consequence, have, as my party, to be out of those rights, and fully entitled to the possession. I was also in favor of an open declaration of this principle by the late Democratic National Convention; and, though myself and friends had been awarded seats in that Convention, we should have refused to take them for such a purpose. We should have also voted for a candidate who entertained such opinions.

But from the time I was admitted, to seats in our conventions, and the time I left them before the country in the disorganization and demoralization of the party.

It is to repair this fatal calamity of the Convention—a step which, if possible, will be subsequent difficulties, that I am here. I stand upon no individual ground. I am not the representative of any man or set of men. I am here as a Democrat, who has been a Democrat from his youth, and who has never failed to support the nominations of the party, when fairly made, though he may have disapproved of the platform on which they were placed. I am here as a Democrat