MORE LETTERS FROM POLITICIANS.

JOHN BELL EXPLAINS HIS RECORD.

THOS. H. CLAY FOR BELL.

J. L. Orr for Breckinridge and Lane.

He Anticipates Lincoln's Election, and Proposes Disunion.

LETTER FROM HON. JOHN BELL.

Hon. John Bell has written the following letter to Col. Thomas H. Watts, of Montgomery, Ala., who addressed him a note of inquiry regarding his endorsement of the American and Whig platform in February, 1858:

NASHVILLE, July 27, 1860.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 9th inst. was received in due time, and it is due to you, as well as myself, to state the causes which have delayed my answer to this day, to explain what otherwise might be imputed to me as a discourtesy. Such a statement is due to numerous other persons from whom letters of similar import have addressed letters of inquiry to me, from different quarters of the country, as to my views and opinions on the more prominent questions at issue in the pending canvass, and which have required no answers.

BE THINKS AN EXPLANATION UNGRACIOUS.

To the inquiries in all such letters there was but one reply, as I conceived, which could consistently and properly be made under the circumstances of my position; which was to refer the writers to my past course; to the views and opinions I have been before held and expressed on the subjects or questions embraced in their letters. But it appears to me that a reply, containing nothing more than such a general reference, without pointing out the particular views, speeches, and other evidences of what I had said or done in connection with the questions made the subjects of inquiry, or stating where they were to be found, would be ungracious to say the least of it. To make such references in my own words would far exceed the ordinary limits of a letter, and I concluded that it would be more convenient and satisfactory to both parties to accompany my answers with a printed collection of such of my speeches and letters as have a direct bearing upon the subject of controversy, or of such copious extracts therefrom as to leave nothing to be supplied by further quotations from them. The preparation of such a compilation was immediately commenced by a member of the Central Committee of Tennessee. It is now completed, and I transmit herewith a copy of it, printed in the *National Union*. It was issued from the press a week later than was anticipated by me, and hence my answer to your letter as well as to others has been delayed a week beyond the time I had proposed to myself to answer you.

HE FAVORS THE PLATFORM.

For the reasons which impel me to decline any further answer to the inquiries in your letter, I refer you to the first and second pages of the *National Union*. You will observe by the ground there taken is, that it would be inconsistent with the declared views of the Convention which placed me in the position I now occupy before the public, to make any new declaration of principles. But I do not choose to shelter myself under the authority of the nominating Convention against any repugnant I may incur in consequence of the course I have thought it my duty to pursue in relation to this subject. Had I been a member of the Convention, I would have resisted the adoption of any platform, or other declaration of principles, not embraced or implied in the three fundamental propositions or objects intended to be maintained and secured by the National Union party, and which constitute the basis of its organization: "The Constitution, the Union, and the Enforcement of the Laws." The great aim of the National Union party is, to restore peace, with justice to both sections of the Union—not to perpetuate strife.

HE CANNOT BE REMINDED HIS RECORD.

Whatever may be the policy or designs of others North and South, who, in their letters, have insisted upon their right, as a matter of principle, to exact upon me to declare my views and opinions upon any or all of the questions which have become this subject of controversy in the present canvass, and contend that I cannot refuse compliance with their demands without a violation of the obligations they assume to exist, on my part, as a candidate for public place, I have no distrust of your sincerity and good faith in the course you have pursued in addressing me your letter, to take a course which I hope you will upon reflection perceive would not be in conformity with the intentions and expectations of those who chose me to be their political associate as the representative of their principles, and in which I doubt your sincere desire to support the Union ticket, if you can do so consistently with your sense of public duty—it is, therefore, with deep regret that I find myself constrained to differ with you in regard to the course, and, most of all, to have to say to you that I cannot go beyond the record of my political life in responding to the questions presented in your letter.

IF WE DON'T LIKE HIS RECORD DON'T VOTE FOR HIM.

If, in the authentic exposition of my position upon the subject of slavery, running through a period of twenty-five years, you find nothing to inspire you with confidence that, in the event of my election, I would so employ the power and influence of the Executive Department of the Government as to give no just ground of offence to the feelings of any other section of the Union, while I would regret the loss of your support and that of your friends, I could not reasonably expect to receive it.

Yet it is hardly to be said any use of this letter you may think proper to make

I am, with great respect, and the most friendly regard, Your obedient servant,

JOHN BELL.

Col. Thomas H. Watts, of Montgomery, Ala.

LETTER FROM THOMAS H. CLAY.

Thomas H. Clay, a son of Henry Clay, has written a letter entitled "Bell and Everett," in which he says:

"You know how long and how ardently, for the sake of our common country and of humanity, I have desired to see the downfall of this corrupt and bloated Democratic party. Entertaining the same political views which my father held, and so long advocated, I should be false to the principles inculcated, both by his example and his teaching, if I did not rejoice in the almost certain dissolution of that political party which, more than any other, has led to moral, intellectual, and pecuniary ruin of the Confederacy.

LETTER FROM HON. J. L. ORR.

Hon. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, late Speaker of the House of Representatives, has written the following letter:

ANDERSON C. H., July 23, 1860.

GENTLEMEN: I have read and carefully considered your appeal to me to become a candidate for the Legislature in this district. The steadfast and cordial support you gave me throughout my public career of fifteen years renders it painful to me to decline any post of honor or confidence at your hands; and yet private considerations, of too great weight to be disregarded, impel me reluctantly to decline your call.

HE HAS LOST HIS HOPES IN DEMOCRACY.

I can, with truth, say that I have candidly examined with all the attention which the importance of the subject demands, and believe that our country is drifting rapidly upon revolution. My hope, as you know, in the last month or three weeks, have addressed letters of inquiry to me, from different quarters of the country, as to my views and opinions on the more prominent questions at issue in the pending canvass, and which have required no answers