FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 22.

LATE TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION.]

Letter from Mr. Seward.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 21.—The following is a response of Secretary Seward to a letter from J. W. Hughes, Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, which explains itself:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, Aug. 19, 1862.

To J. W. Hughes, Headquarters of the Democratic State Central Committee of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia:

Dear Sir: I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 14th inst., together with the three papers to which it refers, two of them being appeals, written by yourself, and endorsed by the Democratic State Central Committee, to the Democrats, and all other friends of the Constitution, of Pennsylvania; the other being a call for a mass meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, to be held at which meeting will be to express a firm purpose to stand by the maintenance of the National Constitution, with devotion to the American Union; and further, to declare hostility to the policy and measures of all who seek to prostitute the country to the purposes of Abolitionism, and formally to express the intention of the Democratic party to do as it has always hitherto done—namely, to support the Federal Government in the exercise of its constitutional power, held to defend it, at whatever peril, against the insidious and treasonable teachings of Abolitionists.

You tell me that some influential journals, conducted by political friends of mine, encourage one of these papers as treasonable, and that the others are conceived in the same spirit with the one which is so harshly judged. You desire me to read them and weigh them for myself. You further intimate a hope that the perusal of the papers will have the effect of producing exertions on my part to induce the President to favor a policy to put down the flames of abolitionism. I have read the documents thus submitted to me, with a high respect for the authority by which they were issued, and with a full confidence in the sincerity of the devotion to the Union, which, as their author, you have avowed. You will allow me to say that this nation is now engaged, not in a political canvass between opposing parties about questions of civil administration, but in civil war, carried on by opposing armies, on an issue of national life or death. If the revolution prevails, there will be no questions of administration left to settle; if it fail, there will be time enough left to settle all such questions. I aim not to dictate a course for others to pursue in this crisis, but I must say for myself, that neither as a public officer nor as a citizen can I know with favor or disfavor parties among the supporters of the United States, any more than I can make a distinction between factions which unite in aiding the rebellion against a nation, like an individual, can do only one thing effectually at one time. It cannot wisely turn aside from the chase of the fearful demon of disunion to pursue any inferior fiend of disunion, whether imaginary or real. I think the demon, whether imaginary or real. I think the wrangles which occurred among the Crusaders, about their respective creeds, when they sat down to the siege of Jerusalem, were just as rational and just as wise as the disputes about abolition would be now in the camps of the Potomac in front of Richmond. What is unwise in the Cabinet or in the government, cannot be wise in the Cabinet or in the Assemblies of the people. I am occupied here either in mediating between differing parties and jealous seats, or else in watching and counteracting the intrigues of traitors in Encouraging the objects of the citizens of Philadelphia, which meeting will be to express a firm purpose to stand by the maintenance of the National Constitution, with devotion to the American Union; and further, to declare hostility to the policy and measures of all who seek to prostitute the country to the purposes of Abolitionism, and formally to express the intention of the Democratic party to do as it has always hitherto done—namely, to support the Federal Government in the exercise of its constitutional power, held to defend it, at whatever peril, against the insidious and treasonable teachings of Abolitionists.

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