

Speech of Hon. Wm. B. Reed, on a "Cold Line Whirl" at the Buchanan Association Meeting at Philadelphia.

FELLOW CITIZENS—I am here this evening by the kind invitation of your committee, and am here under the generous and hospitable call of your meeting—and I am here with as strong a wish as any citizen within the sound of my voice that the ticket nominated at Cincinnati may be successful. In coming here, I am conscious of no separation from ancient friends or from existing political organization, for the great party with which I have solely acted is practically extinct. No one stood by it longer than I did. Those who would now protest its name for other use, (and even that is hardly pretended) have no claim on my fidelity, and those who, without a change of feeling or opinion on any great principle of government, think there is something more sacred than traditionary party names—they and there are thousands around us and amongst us—will, on the great question as to whose hands the trust of our Executive government shall be confided for the next four years, will come with me and vote with you. I am glad to be among the friends of the great conservative party of this city, this party to which I have been a member of the National Democratic Convention, and which I regard as a sacred trust. I may be a half-wild, wild, hesitating step—or that now, after a life of very diverse politics, I hesitate to do that which every sentiment of loyalty to the Constitution, of clear duty to my native State and to my native party prompts. Thus feeling, thus thinking, thus willing to act—coming to you to do so, and with distinguished citizens, with no end to gain, no aspirant to gratify, I consider I shall be welcome.

But I have a special and a local object in being here to-night, and wish that what I say could reach every man of business in the community, for on the ground of mere local interest, I can demonstrate which side Philadelphia ought to take in the issue now before the people. Shall the capital of Pennsylvania, this metropolis so often so postponed, so much overhauled, cast its influence and that of its citizens, be in the front of the issue for the election of a President? Especially is it wise to do so when the vote would, in all human probability, be cast in favor of a principle of sectionalism against which Philadelphia has always arrayed itself? With aggressive sectionalism in any form, this City of the Constitution never has, and never can have communion, and I cherish the hope that, if hereafter Philadelphia finds herself obliged to choose between the National party which in any form or guise, and the National party which knows no higher law than the Constitution, and which its principles conservative of the Union, her citizens will come forward to the support of Mr. Buchanan with as zealous and hearty a will, as I feel it my duty to do now. Temporary and national sentiments may have their influence of delay, but the ultimate result is certain. When Mr. Buchanan was last elected, returning from public service to his home, the politicians of the floor gazed at him. No welcome greeted him from official lips. But the men of business, the merchants of Philadelphia took the duty in their own hands. They thanked him for maintaining their honor abroad. They thanked him for his efforts to maintain peace, and with it the interests of commerce and peaceful industry. They showed to people words of genial gratitude and they were contented with no less. They differed as they may from him politically, that the interests of the Nation are safe in his hands. He stands before us as a man of irreproachable private character. If during the canvass about to begin, Mr. Buchanan maintains, as I am sure will, his attitude of dignified moderation, of disinterested reserve to all who from any quarter urge a contrary ultraism—if he continues to stand as the law does before the nation the type of conservative statesmanship with no bias, no leaning, no leaning to the great party who in honoring him, honor himself, I as one of the humblest citizens, invite him back to Philadelphia to a new and hearty welcome. I shall be glad to see a Pennsylvania President welcomed in Independence Hall.

This matter of State pride, this local exultation to honor rendered to our own public men, must not be looked on as an illusory sentiment. Your distinguished guests to-night, from other States will not think the worse for so indulging in it. It is that which has made Virginia the father of Presidents. She nurses her children like a lovely mother, and does not bid them to go or to stay without care or to what becomes of them. It was that which made Massachusetts cling to Mr. Webster, North Carolina to William Gaston, and South Carolina to Mr. Calhoun, and to her other honored son William Lowndes, a representative from Carolina, when it was her pride to send to the Halls of Congress, men of peace, gentle, obedient, and which bound Kentucky, by her overrated, to Mr. Clay. And now, when for the first time in sixty years, a Pennsylvania Statesman is named for the highest honor in the Nation's gift, here we do not, nay, it is not our duty to show the throbbing of the same party sentiment in our hearts? If the habit of easy self sacrifice, the readiness to be content with small honors and subordinate offices which has been so long the discredit and shame of Pennsylvania, if all this have not been able to exclude indifference every day, a citizen of this metropolis, in this commonwealth will speak out for her honor, and in tones which will not soon die away to silence—no, not from part, for its feelings and opinions on points of public policy are moderately respected, will there be a stronger and heavier attraction than from this Whig metropolis.

But there is an actual political significance in these nominations, that of Mr. Breckenridge, as well as that of the President, as respects locality. It cannot be overlooked. It is an extreme of territory that furnishes the candidates, they come from the Middle States, from the very centre of the Union, for Kentucky, strictly speaking, is no longer a Western State. They are the representatives of that central band which encircles the Union, and which, if ever the Union is severed, must break asunder in ragged edges to tear apart and wound by the animosity of frontier warfare. Kentucky and Pennsylvania, though distant from each other, are not so distant in political parallel of moderation on all national questions, and of unwavering fidelity to the Constitution and the Union. Pennsylvania is one of the Old Thirteen, and Kentucky is their oldest child—at least their first-born beyond the Allegheny mountains. The beautiful river which washes the shores of Kentucky and on which floats the friendly commerce of so many wretched States, is formed of Pennsylvania streams. Patriotism has not, and never has had, a foothold in Pennsylvania, except, perhaps, where the New York line, or on the edge of the Western Reserve, and Kentucky has never sent a child of her honored soil into the councils of the nation whose acts or words gave pain, or alienated the hearts of patriotic men, however sensitive, either from the South or the North. The candidates thus selected have a high mission. They have immediate consequences who have trained themselves in the school of compromise, of loyalty, of this nation, as I religiously hope, (and for this I look to Mr. Buchanan's election, with unbounded confidence), is to put an end, by wise and decisive counsel, and by administrative discretion, once and for ever, to that sectional agitation which has so long afflicted and perplexed this nation. What a professed blessing it will be to have an administration for four years, during which, by the mere force of example, so word of acrimony shall be uttered on the subject of domestic slavery, and the nation's evil passions may be at rest.

These, my fellow citizens, are some of the reasons which induce me to be so strongly attracted to those who think differently from me. There are other topics rather relating to the past than to the future I should be glad to speak of, but this is not the fit occasion. On them, and especially on the anti-sectionalism of some political organization, my views are well known to the

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