

GEN. HARRISON'S LETTER

THE NOMINEE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FORMALY ACCEPTED.

NO DISCUSSION PUBLIC QUESTIONS WITH DIGNITY AND CLEARNESS—THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKMEN MUST BE LOOKED AFTER—TREATS OF THE CHINESE QUESTION, ETC.

(Indians special.)

Gen. Harrison's letter accepting the nomination to the presidency by the Chicago convention is as follows:

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 11, 1884.

THE HON. M. M. EYER AND OTHERS, COMMITTEE—GENTLEMEN: When your committee visited me on the Fourth of July last, and presented the official announcement of my nomination for the Presidency of the United States by the Republican National convention I prepared as soon as practicable to communicate to you a more formal acceptance of the nomination. Since that time the work of receiving and addressing almost daily large delegations of my fellow-citizens, has not only occupied all my time, but has in some measure rendered it unnecessary for me to use this letter as a medium of communicating to the public my views upon the questions involved in the nomination.

I appreciate very highly the confidence and respect manifested by the convention, and accept the nomination with a feeling of gratitude, and a full sense of the responsibilities which accompany it.

"It is a matter of congratulation that the declarations of the Chicago convention upon the question of the now struck out protection of our people are very decided and emphatic. There is further cause for congratulation in the fact that the convention utterances of the Democratic party, if in any degree uncertain or contradictory, can now be judged and interpreted by executive acts and measures and by definite propositions in legislation.

This is especially true of what is probably known to all that protection of our people cannot now be observed. It is not a contest between schedules, but between wide-apart principles. The foreign competitors of our market have, with quick instinct, seen how one issue of this contest may bring these advantages and our own people are not so dull to mix or neglect the grave interests at all involved.

The tariff upon our protective system is open and defiant. Protection is ascribed as unconstitutional in the law or as vicious in principle, and those who hold such views sincerely cannot stop short of an absolute elimination from our tariff law of the principle of protection. The Mills bill is only a step, but it is toward a total abandonment of the principle.

Those who teach that the import duty upon foreign goods sold in our market is paid by the consumer, and that the part of the domestic competing article is enhanced to the amount of the duty on imported articles—that every million of dollars collected for customs duties represents many millions which go to enrich the country, but are paid by citizens as the increased cost of domestic productions resulting from the tariff law may not intend to discredit in the minds of others our system of levying duties on foreign products, but it is clearly already discredit in their own.

We can not doubt when investigating their history, that if to act now in our own country, they would so readily give up all the burdens of the customs revenue upon us.

It is this practice free trade—no protection, and legislation have clearly in mind. The important question is not so much the length of the step as the direction of it. Judged by the executive message of December last, by the Mills bill, by the debates in Congress and by the St. Louis platform the Democratic party will if supported by the country, lay down its arms.

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