

CAMPAIGN SUPPLEMENT

1880.

Gen. Hancock's Letter of Acceptance.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY, July 29, 1880.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 13, 1880, apprising me formally of my nomination to the office of President of the United States by the National Democratic Convention held at Cincinnati, and I accept the nomination with great appreciation of the confidence reposed in me. The principles enunciated by the Convention are those I have cherished in the past and shall endeavor to maintain in the future.

The Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, embodying the results of the war for the Union, are inviolable. If called to the Presidency I should deem it my duty to resist with all my power any attempt to impair or evade the full force and effect of the Constitution, which in every particular is the law of the land.

The Constitution forms the basis of the Government of the United States. The powers granted by it to the legislative, executive and judicial departments do not permit the authority of the General Government to proceed against the States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, belong to the States respectively or to the people. The General and State governments, each acting in its own sphere without trespassing upon the sphere of the other, constitute the Union. This Union is a Government of the General Government with general powers, and State governments with State powers for purposes local to the States, is the polity the foundations of which were laid in the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

The Constitution is the Union's father made, and which has been so respected abroad and so benevolent at home. Tried by blood and fire, it stands to-day a model form of free popular government, a political system which, rightly administered, has been and is a blessing to the world.

But we not only nearly in the words of Washington:

"The Union is the Union's fathers made, and which has been so respected abroad and so benevolent at home. Tried by blood and fire, it stands to-day a model form of free popular government, a political system which, rightly administered, has been and is a blessing to the world."

The Union of government which constitutes us one people is justly dear to us; it is the main pillar in the edifice of our real independence, and the security of our peace, safety and prosperity, and the security we so highly prize and intend at every hazard to preserve it.

But no form of government however carefully devised, no principles however sound, will protect the rights of the people unless administration is faithful and efficient. It is vital to the acceptance of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, embodying the results of the war for the Union, are inviolable.

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, embodying the results of the war for the Union, are inviolable.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution says:

THE "REBEL DEBT."

(From the *New York Evening News*, Sept. 20, 1880.)

In the light of the following facts, it will be seen that talk about payment of the rebel debts is nonsense.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution says:

"Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned."

"But neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave, but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void."

That absolutely precludes the payment of the rebel debt, because specifically prohibiting it. Now it is not possible to change the amendment, for the reason that article 2 of the Constitution says:

"The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to the Constitution; or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress."

It is folly to talk about getting two-thirds of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives to propose a change in the Constitution, so as to permit payment of the rebel debt, and the greater folly to talk of three-fourths of the states agreeing to such a change. In his letter of acceptance General Hancock says:

"The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, embodying the results of the war for the Union, are inviolable.

IF CALLED TO THE PRESIDENCY, I SHALL DEEM IT MY DUTY TO RESIST, WITH ALL OF MY POWER, ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPAIR OR EVADE THE FULL COMPLEXITY AND EFFECT OF THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH, IN EVERY ARTICLE, SECTION AND AMENDMENT, IS THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND."

General Hancock could not make the announcement of his support of the amendment which forbids payment of the rebel debt more emphatic and public than he has done, nor would his positive declaration on the subject in his letter of acceptance be strengthened by repetition. Beyond this, the people find in his character the assurances they require. They know the truth of General Taylor's remark in the celebrated "Allison letter": "One who can be trusted without pledges, cannot be confided in merely on account of them."

SOUTHERN WAR CLAIMS.

WHAT GENERAL W. F. SMITH HAS TO SAY ABOUT THEM.

(From the *New York Truth (Independent)*, Sept. 10th, 1880.)

The little steamer "Atlantic," which begins her trip to Governor's Island at 6 o'clock in the morning and continues through mid-night, brought over late last night a distinct answer to the question: Let us encourage the heroic and gallant soldiers who have given their lives for their country.

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