

Gentlemen - The nomination which has been tendered me by that portion of the Republican delegates of the Fifth Congressional District - who withdrew from the Convention after expressing dissents from the nomination made therein, I regard as the very highest honor which it is possible for a body of earnest and patriotic citizens to confer upon one of their members. This honor was greatly enhanced by the perfect unanimity with which it was offered. Had there been one dissenting voice I should have counted it my bounden duty emphatically to decline. ~~For~~

Nothing could more clearly show the spirit which animated those delegates who withdrew from the Convention, than the fact that no motive of personal

favor, no preference for any other candidate controlled or influenced their action & They did not withdraw on account of the defeat of Mr Sush or myself or any other favorite candidate & There was no contest among you for this man or that & Any one of fifty who could be named would have satisfied & You did not ask the nomination of a particular man, you had no incongruous preference, your only demand was, capacity and integrity & The nomination which you have tendered me came directly and especially from the peculiar friends of Mr Sush men who had fought earnestly and faithfully for the man of their choice, in opposition to all others, and who showed

conclusively by this action
that they sought only the utti-
mate good and harmony of
the Republican Party in
the district. It was not the
personal adherents or followers
of one man, a disappointed
candidate, who withdrew from
the convention and organized
another, but all the delegates
except the ^{present} supporters of the
nominee. It was not malice
or envy or revenge, it was
not difference of political sen-
timents, nor disappointed am-
bition but simply disgust
and abhorrence of the character
of the man whom intrigue and
~~manipulation~~ found had placed in
nominative. There was no person-
al enmity to the nominee by any
delegate so far as I can learn
but only the blight of his name

1
The reputation which in the course of a busy life he had builded to his own dishonor pressed upon your minds and influenced your acts.

It is perhaps the first time in American history that the personal character of the candidate has been the grounds for of dissension in a nominatory Convention, and the publicly declared reasons for putting forward a new candidate + what must be that character which is thus publicly assailed and declared actions by such men as I see before me, in this Convention assembled. These men are not slanders they are not given to idle chat; They are not young impulsives and ignorants.

Grey hairs adorn the brows
of many, years have given you
wisdom and prudence, and
those years, have been passed
in the vicinage where this
man was ~~reared~~ born and
reared. The ~~deeper~~ ^{deeper} ~~girth~~ ^{girth} and
friendly speech marks the char-
acter, and vouches for the in-
tegrity of others. The chiefest glory
of the followers of Frop is that
they have always dared to do the
right, & I see here too another
one whose name, from the
mountains to the sea is synon-
ymous with honor and purity;
one whom the citizens of the
state have honored with the
highest confidence they can be-
stow; ~~whose language~~ ^{whose} ~~one has~~
before remarked for strict in-
tegrity, who comes into
every mind and sees -

No ordinary occasion would induce me to say one word upon a political subject, but an emergency has now arisen which imperatively demands that I should speak your action, gentlemen, meets my approval. For woe or we I cast my lot with you. There is something above the mere nominal party-triumph, and that is the honor and purity of the party itself!

Here too is another whom God has blessed with many years, which have been spent in His service; known to you all, and to every corner of the District as one who fears not the frown and rebuke, not the smile of any man; inflexibly stern in the pursuit of truth and improvement.

is singly hostile to wrong.
A man who stood erect
while the Moloch of Rebell-
ion crushed all opponents
to the dash; whose words
then sent forth the clarion
note which told that Liberty
still had brave children on
the soil of North Carolina,
amid the dark hours of "Sixty-
three" and what does he say,
your hearts still burn with the
rare words of noble manli-
ness which fell from his hon-
ored lips - "Better defeat for-
ever, than triumph under a
leader of such odious char-
acter."

Such an arraignment
was never before made. The
finding of a grand jury is a
serious matter, but it is
light in comparison with this

a charge which you have
today preferred against
William F. Henderson,

I have full of meaning
are the sad regretful words
of that upright gentleman who
has been so often honored in
the meetings of our party
with that place which he
has today so ably filled,
the President of the Conven-
tion, — "I will yield to none
in sacrifice or labor for the
Republican party with and un-
der honorable men & I can-
not regard the nominee of this
convention as a man whom
I can honestly and honorably
support & therefore resign."
It should be remembered that
these are not the words of
a stranger, Dr. Dugh, long
known this man almost

from infancy — only too
well and much reluctantly,
compelled by conscience
ears this testimony to his odium
All of you who have known
his life and reputation ad-
mit its truth.

Outside our
nannies, before without
hope, are exulting in the
blind stupidity which has thrown
this impossible burden of dis-
grace upon our shoulders.
They know that there are
thousands of Republicans in the
district who would never vote
for this man, or one of like
repute. They know that this is
the only act that could have
given them any hope of cur-
rying the district. If our
opponents had been asked
to name the man whom

all others they would prefer that the Republican Party should have now united today they would have shouted with one voice "Windy Billy" "Windy Billy" They know his character caliber and history. They are glorying in the degradation which we have today heaped upon ourselves.

Even now the cry of "Here's your uncle!" and other elegant allusions greet the republicans moving upon the streets. Copperheadism is jubilant and they have a right to rejoice.

Even now the crowd of men whom Rusby so fitly represents are crowding the Court House and applauding the utterances of this man.

who has been put forward
as the Republican candidate.
The men who cheered Bra-
ham and both-licked Sumner
are now shouting for Hend-
son — and they alone ex-
cept the few deluded delegates
who have not yet learned
his real status. If copper-
and money and influence
all secured the nomination
it would precisely that from
which you have dissented.
Had defeat and not suc-
cess been our object W. F.
Henderson would have been
our ~~target~~ target and I am
sure to win. In regard to
him all parties seem to
agree in opinion. The
Dutchman's idea of his neigh-
bor seems exemplified —
"I know him better than

Yibber

I know de Mohawk
and I know de New
York Yibber abber sene
he was a little brook, an
I nebbber know any good
of him yet"

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

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