

May 10 1887.

My dear Judge

I am often excused, and resolved to write you within the last two months. When you was in this city it was not my fault that I did not see you, I called at your hotel twice for that purpose.

I have been a quiet but constant observer of the current of public opinion much of the time since our correspondence in '84, and particularly the drift of political affairs for the last year, and have not by any means been indifferent to that which has been transpiring not only around me, but throughout the land. I have witnessed with regret what seems to me not only impolitic but unwise in the extreme, the evidence of the formation of a syndicate of daily papers in the country, prominently among which, seemed to be the New York Tribune, Phil^a Press, Cincinnati Commercial, and the Cincinnati Enquirer, whose aim and purpose seems to be to force again the nomination of Mr Blaine. The thoughtful Com-
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try press is not engaged in this violent determination to
rush blame on the party, for another defensive and losing
Campaign. The Henry Clay imitation business has gone
quite far enough. The Whig party died under that kind
of treatment, and the galvanic life that was infused in
it by the prowess of General Taylor's brilliant mil-
itary career in '48 and which had a spasmodic sus-
-tained of a year and a month proved a failure as a
work of permanent resurrection. Whittier, Kim, Charles
Emery, Smith and Merritt Stetson, saying nothing of the
Learn the Impoverished man so a band of enthusiastic pol-
iticians, make vastly more noise than a million of
thoughtful, conscientious men who do the decision voting.

It seems to me that today the feeling against Mr. Platts
is even more serious than it was in '84 and more
bitter. He offended the Arthur men by his ostentatious
behaviour about the funeral, and could not even get over
that solemn occasion without a personal attempt to insult
Mr. Edmonds. He is unfortunate, unluckily so many call
him. Something always happens unexpectedly to defeat his
plans and himself.

If it be true that Reid wrote Smith of the Commercial
that he must be dropped and Sherman or some other
taken up if we would be victorious, it would seem
that he has got an eye opener. Mr. Platts is

far from being the muscle of our party. in fact, he is in my judgement the other thing, there is it is true something brilliant and magnetic about him, which brings a feeling of the theatre wherever he shows.

Instead of having diminished, distrust of him has increased during the last 2 or 3 years, and a suspicion seems to have entered the Protestant South, that Mr. Blaine is a victim to the delusion that in the Irish and Roman Catholic vote only, is his salvation deliviance to be found.

There is no little talk about the importance of the electoral vote of New York, her pivotal character, and the like, much of which I regard as trawdler. Talk about this man, or that man being strong in New York, I think common sense dictates the nomination of a man acceptable to Linking men and Anti Linking men, a man that will rekindle the republicanism fires to a white heat all around New York and in every Northern State, and several Southern States, and my words for it New York will be all right in November of next year. For she has never been wrong when the republicanism party has been the victor, true to itself, and in accord with itself.

Since 1860 I have had more confidence in Providence than in politicians. In that connection I will without irreverence add that it seems to me that the calling home was to his services General Logan at such

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a time was no less Providential for good than was the nomination of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 over Mr. Seward by a Convention composed of a clear, clean cut majority of Seward's cherished friends, as one of which I estimate you have higher admiration than I do.

Vacillation, selfishness and inconsistency upon the part of our omiscing in politics is the bane of American politics today. The selfishness of the last two decades of republicanism was enough to break down any party, and no party that ever existed in this country could have stood the strain as long as ours did, and the fact of its long endurance is found in the firmness of its foundation laid by Abraham Lincoln.

The success of '84 under God's Providence had to come because of the Gally our Convention at Chicago in June of that year, in virtually refusing to do that which would have put an end to jobbery in high places, and yielding obedience to the demands of political clackers who had resolved upon still further placing in embossion people. Had the Convention taken your advice victory would have been as before purchased upon our banners.

After all I am not sure, but that the omniscience

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of the action of that years convention made the defeat of November, '84 necessary to the higher interests of the Republic, and that it should be considered a blessing in disguise. The discipline of suffering is sometimes an occasion for gratitude because it can do more for character than any thing else. The thunder of the Cannon in Charleston Harbor broke the death lethargy into which the Nation had sunk, and every patriotic heart ever thanks God that the Jewish Stupor was broken even by the tramp of Arm- ed men and the roar of battle. Better a thousand times, the wild torrent from the hills, con- veying in its destruction sweep the crops and the vines wherewith human industry has decked the fair lowlands, than the stagnant pool, breeding fatal malarial.

But I am wearying you, my object in ad- dressing you originated in a desire to gather an intimation of your hopes for the future of our party.

I trust to meet in the near future some portion of our few men that have made the sacrifices for the country and our organization that you know, I am, my dear Sir

Yours Faithfully
J. Newton Pettis.