

Personal

Mayville N.Y.
May, 16, 1886.

Hon. S. Newton Pettis:

I am happy to acknowledge yours of the 10th inst. My typewriter being sick and my work making the saving of my eyes reckless, you will excuse me if I fall back to my old rack and impression paper, as the most convenient method of operating.

My ideas of the future of the Republican party would seem to be very much in harmony with those you express. I am at something of a loss to understand whether the recent talk of Blaine's withdrawal is intended to pave the way for actual retirement

or was designed to invite propos-
 als for him to sacrifice himself
 for the country and the party. If
 the latter, ~~it~~ was notably unsuc-
 cessful. I do not remember ever
 to have noted so unanim-
 ous a manifestation of resig-
 nation as greeted the announce-
 ment. All were sorry of course,
 but anxious to do "the next
 thing" and do it as soon
as possible. Indeed, there was
 apparent, instead of the des-
 perate cry of despair which
 I sometimes think may

have been expected a sort of
embowed sigh of relief which
must have been very aggrava-
ting if that was the true sig-
nificance of the movement.

I confess I have been puz-
zled by the whole Fort Smith
matter. I am strongly inclined to
think that his health has re-
ally failed and that he sees
that he must let things go
or go himself. But then I think
of the sum-stroke business
and am not so sure.

I am very doubtful about
Mr. Lincoln, however. I have

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been watching the matter with
some interest and am not impressed
with the character of the response
that comes up from the country.
It does not seem to be as hearty
and unforced as in 1854. Per-
haps the difference in my relation
to the proposal affects my judg-
ment. At least, I am in-
clined to think that the ticket
set me favored in 1854
would do better in 1858, if
turned "end for end" as
they say at the South.
Mr. Lincoln's chance came

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in 1884 and he did nothing to
encourage his friends or im=
press his enemies. A little quiet
co-operation would have saved
the misfortunes of that year. He
did just enough to win the hos=
tility of the Blaine folks and
not enough to do him any
good. They would not fight
him for Vice President and
would support Hawley hearti=
ly. Logan's death takes away
the claim of the west to the
first place on the ground
of service; being an Ohio
man is a dead weight

for Sherman; New York has nobody; Pennsylvania never has an available candidate; Allison has a record requiring too much explanation both at the East and at the West; the South has nobody and can have no one. So it seems to me the choice will fall back on Hamley and Lincoln — Blaine being once out of the way.

As to the proposition to exhort Jim Hill to run with Lincoln — it would kill anything he would have a chance North to explain and shut

would be fatal quicker than arsenic. The proposition to link Sells with him is hardly less dangerous. In my judgment both ideas are hurting Mr. Lincoln's chances. It is none of my business. I suppose Lincoln does not think me for what I did in 1854; but if I wanted to kill him off quick, I would take just that course.

In the first place you may as well look two things in the face -

- 1 - The Republican Party does not want any "Southern loyalty" in its ranks

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2 - There is no more prospect or hope of carrying any southern State than there is of getting an electoral vote from Kansas -
Kno I will do to talk about and serve a lot of fellows down there to draw money from the National Committee to make both ends meet; ~~A~~ but as for carrying any of them it is perfectly absurd to try it. Some may be carried on off years on state issues, but as soon as

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You make it national, you
might just as well whistle
against a Northwester

As to Pettie you for-
get that he was a Con-
federate volunteer who
did not stay in the ser-
vice long enough to
gain any renown and
the North has no use
for any Southern
man who has not
a brilliant Confederate

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Record — and risk much
even then if he afterwards
became a Republican.

Besides that, Settle has
a most important
distinction for getting right
at the wrong time and
doing most absurd
things while in that state
of domination. It is
to invite the Empire
which people to go

against us with redoubled
energy and effect.

I am not saying
much and probably shall
not but these are my
private notions.

Yours very truly
Abner W. Sawyer

