Personal

My dear Nixon: What does the Inter-Ocean mean, by its gratuitous attack on Senator Edwards and its absurd championship of ex-Senator Hedden?

Edwards did exactly right in refusing to become a party to Platts' fiendish plan of leaving the State to prevent a quorum. It was the silliest of shallow frauds and could not have succeeded even for a day. Warrants had been procured for half a dozen of them — of course on trumped up charges — but they would have been served if they had tried to leave the State and would have served to hold them until the Sergeant-at-Arms could get them for a quorum. Very probably some of the charges may have been true. At least it was a boyish trick which would have failed and brought ridicule to all concerned in it.

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As to Ex-Senator Vedder, he is corrupt unscrupulous and debased to a degree approaching the superlative. He has no more place among decent men than a skunk has in heaven. As a legislator he is on a level with Jewell's lieutenants; as a man he is debased enough for a British peer.

~~Six thousand~~ Four thousand Republicans went to the polls in this district and refused to support him. He bought Democrats right and left; money flowed like water; ~~Edwards had none~~ the business corporations stood ready to furnish all he wanted. Edwards had no money: he was a teacher; was a ~~skunk~~ Republican except that he voted for Tenney and refused to vote for certain corrupt local candidates. He believes in Protection, the protection of citizenship and is a man whom a decent man can vote

to his house, which is not true of Belden unless he fumigates it afterwards. While the other Republican candidates received about 3,700. majority in the District, Mr. Belden fell ~~[illegible]~~ 1,650. short of a majority.

Has the Inter-Ocean a right to hop on the clean, manly, upright patriotic Republicans of this District for refusing to support a Senator whose corruption no more questions, a debancher of more than state reputation who was at that time the co-respondent in perhaps the foulest divorce case ~~[illegible]~~ in which summons was ever issued? If so, you must mean to drive those men, the very cream of the party in these counties clean out of touch or sympathy with ~~it~~ Republicanism. We have had a terrible time cleaning out the Republican Tammany that has ruled us and

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under whose uninterrupted administration it has come to cost three times as much to carry on our government as in any county of the size in Ohio. Meantime our public buildings are rotting down like Platt's Quarantine pen, and our jail is unfit for a well bred hog to dwell in. We have downed the "ring" after seven years hard fighting and do not think any Republican newspaper has a right to attack us for relieving the party of such a filthy excrescence as Walker. Of course, it was a bold-handed steal so far as Hill and company were concerned; but if the Republicans had not waited for Platt to lay a "rit", it might have been saved even then by enjoining Walker. Indeed, if the order had been properly

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drawn in the Deane case it would have been impossible. So too, if almost any man but Vedder had been nominated a Republican would have been returned in this District without fail. It was a convention held without due notice and the delegates bought like sheep.

I dont blame you for feeling bad about the state. Whether it goes by redistricting or by election by the ~~in the Assembly~~ legislature, there is no doubt it is surely gone for next year. When you want to cuss somebody for it remember that it was the Republicans who insisted on an election law punishing the voter by loss of his ballot if there was any mark on it by which it could "be distinguished from others". It did not anywhere save the voter's purpose on intention but declared the ballot void if it

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bore such mark, no matter who made it! An X guard is such a mark and as the voters' intention was made immaterial under the law, that lost us 1300 votes. Dont be unjust.

So too, in the apportionment matter, I dont know how bad they will do but the state sadly needs legislative re-apportionment. Of course, they will make it to their own advantage but remember that for a dozen years it has been grossly unjust the other way. It is a bad defeat but it does not do to pack off the blame on the wrong ones.

So too, there would have been no trouble in Sherwood's district if the candidate for Governor had not forced Sherwood on the Convention to defeat Acker who would not give Platt a

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mortgage on his honor. He did this even after it was asserted that Sherwood was ineligible. He voluntarily assumed risk because Acker must be defeated.

This such men, a lot of my optic corrupt, shallow-brained tricksters to whom the credit for the defeat is due. If you must have a goat, go for them but don't kick the stomach and true Republicans of the state for refusing to endorse corruption and debauchery.

Of course I don't want to antagonize anything you may say editorially, and I am sure you would not have said this if you had known the facts.

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You ought to remember, ~~that~~ when discussing New York politics that the ~~and~~ legislative ~~and~~ control of the Republicans under Platt has been only inferior in corruption to Tweed-ism itself. Republicans who know the truth do not like to come out and publicly announce it, but the honest fact is that it has simply been a bargain with Tammany by which the plunder of the city was set off against legislation control and the plunder of the counties. You may have some idea what it amounts to, but in the country counties it is just as rotten as ~~in~~ the Democracy in Chicago. Nominations are sold and offices farmed out almost as openly as beeves are bought at the stock-yards.

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Platt's power consists in the fact that he has simply cemented the rotten=ness of the party. Offices have been multiplied, ~~salaries~~ compensations en=hanced and every possible form of exaction resorted to. In such a county as this a man is expected to pay from $1000. to $1500. for an ~~legislate~~ Assembly Nomi=nation and expects to make from $10,000 to $15,000 during the year; and from the records I have been able to collect, ~~very often generally succeeds~~ is very apt to succeed.

Until very recently, the perquisites of the County Clerk amounted to from $15,000 to $20,000. (We have finally got it down to $2,000.) The Sheriff was paid from ~~four~~ $4 to ~~so~~ $6 - a week for boarding prisoners in the jail, ~~—~~ all help hired for him and no investment — everything found.

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Every possible means of transferring money from the community to individuals without a good consideration would seem to have been exhausted. The Capitol which cost $19,000,000, and might be duplicated for $8,000,000 and a better one built for $5,000,000. is a fair example. But you say the Democrats are equally responsible. That is not the question: the Republicans could easily have prevented x Platt's sin has always been a Democratic deal — an agreement to let the Democrats rob if they would share the plunder or give us an equivalent in political power for the privilege.

Remember Nixon, & know these things.

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I suppose I have done more than any ten other men to emancipate the Republicans of this district. I had nothing to do with the nomination of Edwards but I have no doubt that his election is due mainly to my action. That is, I have no doubt that my letter on Mr. Verder ~~of~~ which was scattered broadcast, was the cause of thousands refusing to support him. And these were the best men of the party — honest, high-minded, patriotic citizens — not the purchasable stuffing of the party. Such men have stood about all they can stand in the State of New York and every such article in a

a leading outside paper as that of yours extolling that prince of rottenness and infamy, Vedder, sends a fresh lot of them over to the enemy. Men wont stand to be kicked for doing right.

That is one reason why the Republicans of the State manifest so little feeling over Hill's robbery. They are in the first place, used to being robbed of their rights and in the second place they know that the Republican gang must be gotten rid of — not so much Platt as Platt=ism must be gotten rid of as there will be nothing left to save. They are Republicans in principle and purpose but they cannot

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Stand the corruption, jobbery and rob-
bery of the Republican Gang.

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