

Hon. Thomas B. Reed.

My dear Sir: I quite agree with you in regard to Mr. Harrison's Candidacy. I do not know that I think his inefficiency arises from "timidity." He is not timid — at least, not in the sense of being a coward. He is simply negative. He does not think it his duty to do anything. He deems himself responsible only for his negatives and appointments. He "pushes the button" and expects others to do the rest. He is a queer compound. I have been ~~so~~ often amused and quite as often irritated by him. He certainly will find <sup>more</sup> ~~some~~ ridiculous excuses for not doing the most apparent duties of any man I ever knew. However, one must be just to him and I don't think him timid. He is self-conscious to a painful degree and his ~~own~~ shadow obstructs and restricts his vision amazingly. ~~At the same~~ while I cannot see any chance for his election, it seems to me that we are drifting on to the Convention without any organized sentiment against his nomination. Perhaps I am blinded to the indications, but to me it seems as if Alger and Bullom were the only men whose chances are being considered by any one as worth making any running for. Some how,

I cannot think Alger has enough in  
time to win, and I cannot help thinking  
of a death wish, - his chief qualification  
being a superficial resemblance to A.  
~~Lincoln~~ Lincoln, to whom he can sus=  
tain, intellectually, ~~only no comparison~~  
~~but~~ no relation but that of con=  
trust.

McKinley will of course have Ohio,  
but his absolute indifference to the ques=  
tion of the rights of the citizen makes  
him a dangerous candidate at a time  
when there are coming and must come  
to the front.

The East has no candidate ~~at~~  
~~all~~ - if you are left out of the <sup>race</sup> ques=  
tion. I think if your state would  
back you you would have the  
chances with you. Unless that is done,  
it is, of course, not much use to  
work elsewhere. I know there is a very  
large ~~minority~~ number of those who  
believe in ~~liberty and~~ the ~~minuten~~=  
ence of the rights of the <sup>A.</sup> citizen, who could  
be held to the party by no one so

well as you. Take our Association for in-  
stance which is very strong in Illinois,  
Michigan, ~~and~~ Wisconsin, Kansas, and  
Nebraska and is rapidly growing in  
Indiana, Ohio and other states. It ~~em-  
braces~~ embraces a large number who  
are not otherwise Republican in their  
political creeds. They are either dissatisfied  
Republicans, Farmers' Alliance or Prohi-  
bitivists; but they are first of all ~~op-  
posed~~ for Equal Rights. I know this from  
20,000 or more letters which I have re-  
ceived and from them I judge those whose  
names are with theirs. These people you  
could hold and enthuse better than any  
other man who could be named.

I think, too, that Dudley, Tanner and the  
Gresham folks generally would be able to do  
something in that line.

I am ~~half~~ almost afraid to make a move  
being in the position I am, until there  
is something showing an effort in  
that direction. If Maine would back  
you pretty speedily I could put some  
spurs to germinating in the west  
and South which might bear very  
palatable fruit.

I do not see how any head  
is to be made against the American

undertaken, unless there is some one  
to represent positive, aggressive Republi-  
canism. I do not see that you could be  
hurt if you did not win and if it were  
known that your name was to be  
in the hat there would be some  
chance for work in that direction.

Of course, my support is nothing  
but I have a peculiar chance to  
hammer my ideas into lots of  
heads just now and I can do it  
without starting any special row  
for I have the names and ad-  
dresses of voters enough to make  
a balance of power in half a  
dozen states.

Now, if I can do any thing to  
promote your chances, give me a hint  
— or perhaps you would better make it  
a kick — and you will have no  
reason to complain of my willingness  
on ~~small~~ caution. Let me know at  
least if you have any prospect of Blaine's  
support. I am afraid not. Blaine  
is like a chronic setter in a pool =

try house — adding all the eggs and  
hatching no chickens. Though he has  
scratched himself of the list, I fancy he  
would rather see a Democrat get it  
than you.

You know my preference is  
no new thing and is based not  
~~more~~<sup>less</sup> on personal regard than on  
~~public~~ conviction of the public welfare.

One other thing, I hate to men-  
tion it for it is a sad case of court be-  
fore the horse. Alger, with Clarkson, I sus-  
pect as his wit = more has been rather deli-  
cately but not bristlingly exercising his  
boom at the Northerners and South. He may  
surprise people. At present he is the only  
Anti-Horism nucleus, should be con-  
tinue so, would you take the second  
place? Such a conjunction would add  
amazingly to his chances. If we won  
it would do you no good. If we  
are beaten it would help you in  
'96. I think in all consider, the chances  
are against us. Our people are taking  
heart over the so-called split in  
New York, it is all a flame. A

lot of New York boosters want to  
force <sup>the</sup> Community to divvy. That is all  
there is of it. If they open their privacies  
to all Democrats the Hill men will  
swim them under; if they don't,  
they are a mere faction. They are  
rather "nice" men but have no "sound."  
Like all of Hill's "mistakes" you will find  
it inuring to Hill's advantage. He  
has made more "fatal mistakes"  
than any man living but all  
the same, he offers a better show  
of success to the Democrats than  
any other man.

If you can give me any light  
please do so. You know I do  
not leak and you need not

hesitate to write me frankly in  
I am not, promiscuous in my liking and have no  
relation to the subject. As the  
gang of fear, faith, rumors on the hope of a reward to him  
Southern people say I am "like a  
me in my preferences. I suspect a man who means to do  
something in "best a time" perhaps a belly and flows  
from them <sup>to be called</sup> a fraud, - <sup>voluntary</sup>  
to do something if I knew where  
to take hold." Yours truly -  
a w. T.