

My dear Mr. Green:

Your letter gently reproaching me for not approving the course of the Republican minority in Congress is received. Very probably all that you say is true. We have become so infected with the "contagion" of "patriotism" as opposed to partisanship on the part of Republicans, that no man seems to be quite sure of his Republicanism unless he has a good Democratic endorsement. We have been apologizing and excusing ourselves so long that we have utterly debauched public sentiment which expects surrender and desertion of us as a matter of course.

It was equally true that there was hardly a Congressional District in the country the voters of which would it was supposed, support a man representing in the course pursued by Joshua

R. Seidling, when he preferred justice and
liberty to Whig Surrender. But his
district did support him because he
had the courage, the patriotism and the
sagacity to do right. And that is
a Congressman's business — just as
if it is yours and mine. ~~He~~ It is
his duty to ask himself — not what do
my constituents want — they may
not have half-considered the situa-
tion — but what do the interests of
all the people demand. He is there to
see that the Republic receives no
debriment and should be always
careful about striking hands with

those whom he has reason to believe
are bent on impairing the rights
of the citizen and the equal liberties
of the individual on which the real
prosperity of the people country depends.

They held at that time the key of
the situation and should have refused
to promote the Democratic plan
without a distinct pledge that there
should be no ~~reversal~~ ^{important} changes of the
tariff or ~~repeal~~ ^{nor any repeal} of the election laws.

The duty of a party in opposition is to
~~find~~ ^{prevent} the party in power doing injury
to the country and to use all the power
it has to promote that end. If the Republic
can be saved there things to be suspicious

they should have bent their energies
to prevent them instead of looking for mo-
mentary and transient applause for
their act of surrender.

That is the way I regard the matter.
You have seen before this that I have at
length committed myself to the Nation-
al Citizen, should there be a fair
showing of support for it. If 10,000
copies are subscribed for I shall go on;
if not I shall do no more. For
once I feel that I have done my
full duty and am quite willing to
leave the matter in other hands,
in God's hands, if you please prefer.
I will fight for liberty and justice if there
be those who will upbraid my hands; but if
not I will ~~take no more~~ ~~care~~ ~~or~~ do not feel
called upon to get up steam and run the
engine too. It may seem cowardly but I think
I should like to lay off and see the other fellows work

I am
yours
truly
Wm. L. G.