

May 30 - 1844

Hon. Thomas C. Platt:

My dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 1st inst. I had no idea that you would inter-  
tervene and no reason to suppose that if  
you did, it would be in my favor. I  
merely thought it proper courtesy to let you  
know what I had done. I did not even  
suppose you would regard it as incumbent  
on you to make any reply.

~~I have no objection with a leader  
and should be allowed always to see~~  
I merely alluded to your letter <sup>of ~~the~~ during</sup> ~~to show~~  
the Sumner campaign, because  
it seemed to indicate some community  
of sentiment in regard to the general  
principle ~~sentiment~~ which inspired my action.

Besides that, I do not like subterfuge  
and evasion. I want the Republican party  
to stick to the assertion of the rights of citizen-  
ship. Sooner or later, the safety of the  
Nation will depend upon it. While I

Indeed I have always regarded you as sincerely attached  
to the principles of equal rights and a free press & intelligent

am a most intense Republican, if the party means liberty and justice, I have no regard for it at all, if it means only power.

I know that something has got to be done, at this election to hold the colored vote of the North and the white vote which believes in liberty and justice for all, to the Republican party in 1896. The ~~Woman~~ I know this sentiment better than any one else because I am the President of the National Citizens' Rights Association and have access to its rolls. It will begin the publication of The National Citizen in a ~~short~~ short time, the arrangements being now ~~com~~ complete, and will stand as a counter

fact, resolute and determined  
organizations. The members of it  
have this distinguishing quality,  
they regard this question as of  
paramount importance and  
will subordinate all other po-  
litical considerations to it.

You know how such people  
do: they will bear and forbear a  
long time but when they lose  
confidence in a man or  
a party, they will not  
be put off by any further

pretence.

I kind the utmost diff-  
ficulty in preventing an  
independent organization in  
1892, simply as a protest a-  
gainst the apathy of the  
Republican candidates. My  
nomination would conciliate  
this element throughout the  
country merely because it  
would give us a "speaking  
representation" in Congress.

They are not demanding cer-  
tain things of the party but  
merely wish to have it stand  
ready to act when it has  
power in such way as  
may be advisable when that  
time comes, only requiring  
that it shall declare itself  
steadily in favor of pro-  
tecting and defending the  
citizens' rights.

The question is, to my mind  
at least, whether the party  
wishes to hold this element or  
~~to~~ lose it. I think it means  
a balance of power in  
five states at least. I do not  
pretend to know <sup>which course</sup> ~~about~~ those  
who control the action of the  
party prefer to pursue. I know  
we greatly desire to act with the  
Republican party but we can  
not do so if it utterly ig =

its own traditional principles,  
which we learned from it.

We recognize the fact that the  
question has been forced into a  
bygone by circumstances and  
that we must bring it forward  
again, by exertion and sac-  
rifice. We are willing to give  
them to the party if it will open  
to us even so little, the door  
of opportunity. If it will not, we  
must open it ourselves, at what

ever cost.

I represent in this movement, the conservative element who believe that the Republican party can be brought into hearty accord with us without the necessity of an actual rupture which would endanger seriously its chances of success in 1846. We hold that with the known bias of the strongest Republicans in the House, it will be possible to mark out a course on this subject which will be entirely



satisfactory to the party, if only  
we can have one Representa-  
tative who has thoroughly  
studied the question in all  
its phases and has confi-  
dence in its solution by  
legal means. More than half  
the representatives in the Council,  
think this an impossibility  
and favor action upon that  
line. They are willing, how-  
ever, to permit the experiment  
to be tried and hope it  
may succeed.

It was to prevent this necessity  
of an actual rupture that I  
announced myself a candidate  
late.

It was because I wanted  
this position to be fully under-  
stood by ~~such persons~~ those  
who are concerned with the  
general welfare of the party, that  
I sent you my letter. My posi-  
tion is peculiar and I want it  
fully understood, that <sup>there</sup> ~~may~~  
may be no doubt in regard to  
~~some~~ ~~may~~ ~~be~~ ~~likely~~  
it whatever may occur.

Three times the Republican party  
has ~~been~~ abandoned citizenship  
and stood on protection alone.  
In 1874 when human rights  
were left out of its platform  
and in 1890 and 1892 when  
it was eliminated from the Cam-  
paign.

The same thing was true of  
the old Whig Party. It stood on  
protection without human rights,  
from 1832 until 1860. It won only  
in 1840 and 1848. Adding the "Free

Speech and Free Men "to its principles  
plus the Republican party leaped  
to victory at once and never  
lost it till its presidential  
candidate proposed to swap  
the rights of 50,000,000 citizens  
for a few protection votes in  
congress, by the force of a  
"non-partisan Commission!"

I am really sorry to make  
the issue and take the course  
I am compelled to pursue;  
but to refuse to do so would  
be to give the lie to all <sup>the</sup> ~~my~~  
political views I have ever

expressed and abandon the  
most important principle in-  
volved in our politics.

Sincerely yours