

[letterhead]  
Senate Chamber,  
[seal of Pennsylvania]  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Harrisburg, Jany 18, 1866

H B. Swarr Esq  
Dr Sir

I regretted very much your absence from the last session of our Committee. Your experience & position are valuable & my inexperience needs aid & support.

I have perfected a plan of organisation [sic] of the party and the Committee authorized its [sic] introduction. It consists in a clerk in each election District with a registry of voters combined: and connected therewith & based upon the protection of the white man & his labor as against the negro, an executive committee, who are pledged to silence, obedience & labor for the cause. As the passwords, grips and signs have no part in the system, none of the features so odious to us as part of a secret organisation [sic] are proposed. Each one of our proclaimed doctrines is taken and used as a focus around which we [?] the ideas necessary to make a perfect organization [sic]. The whole is connected with the recognised [sic] agency of the party and is a part of our machinery, so that if it were all made public, we could say to the enemy it is right in Doctrine and useful in practice.

We must innovate or we lose our young men, we must organise [sic] or be again beaten. We have appealed to human reason for five years and been beaten. We must now add to human reason, human prejudice, and make it a practical weapon in our hands. If the enemy possessed this weapon they would tear us to shreds with it. Shall we by reason of formal prejudice lose the benefits, or shall we like practical men put to useful discord that which we have in the past condemned and work the idea to the advantage of the cause.

I never belonged to a secret organisation [sic], nor do I now recognize this as such, but some novelty, positive injections as to silence and energy in pursuit of our object are not a secret society in any sense of the term. I propose no more.

I trust it may meet your approval as it has that of Messers Strickland Monaghan W. B. Reed, Campbell and a number of other gentlemen with whom I have conversed and I will be most happy to learn that Prest [sic] Buchanan, if he do not coincide with my views will at least not oppose his large personal influence to the almost unanimous voice of our Committee.

Very rspy yrs  
Wm. A. Wallace

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