

Lancaster July 16 1850

D. Sir

Of all the plans reconciling the North and South, that of extending the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific, appears to me to be the worst.

It would cut off more than half of New Mexico; and almost half of California.

In theory it is plausible to have slavery south of that line established or not, as the people may direct But in practice there will be slavery authorised by the people, if only one voter in twenty be a slave holder. The slave holders will of course vote for it, so will their relations and most of their friends, also all persons want to be deemed liberal.

In Pa. the masons were not 1/20 of the voters; yet they elected their Governor at every election—except one in 1835.

In the N.W. counties of Va. and Md. I have been told that's the slave holders are not 1/20 of the voters; yet the slave holders carry every election.

Your speech of June 10, is as much or more read than the one Feby 20.

But what but what surprises me most is the fact that in both so contain so much of new arguments or old ones in a new form, although my opinions on the subject do not differ from yours, & I have always read or looked over every thing I ever saw on either side.

To attempt to please opponents is idle. G. M. Dallas got 3 votes at the Baltimore Convention of 1848.

Of all feelings, contempt, is the hardest to conceal. In public the masons praised the jacks for liberality; but despised them in reality. The antimason's they hated, but did not despise.

If Stanley's Galphin speech on defaulters of the democratic party be published pamphlet form, I will thank you for a copy.

Not that it will have any political effect. If the democrats cannot answer a charge triumphantly, they wisely say nothing about it.

Their plan is to keep their opponents on the defensive. And without such a practice, no party can succeed—except temporarily.

On the contrary most the Whigs, endeavor to answer every charge; and they are almost always on the defensive.

A charge can be made a few words, which every body reads. The answer is usually long, which few read.

I just now see by the Lancaster Tribune the Union caucus at Washington, have agreed to give [such] part of New Mexico as lies south of 34 to Texas.

Latitude 34 cuts Alabama Missis Mississippi & S. Carolina, & high authority has announced that the Law of God, has prohibited slavery in N. M.

If that part of N. M. lying south of 34 be given to Texas, we shall see if Texas won't repeal that so called law of God.

This like all other letters is to yourself alone.

I am respectfully

Your friend

Amos Ellmaker

Thaddeus Stevens Esq.

[on reverse]

Amos Ellmaker [Esq.?]

Send Syanley's speech on the Galphin

[in a different hand]

The above endorsement is in Steven's handwriting.

F. R. D.