

21  
Hartford 27<sup>th</sup> July 1858  
Dear Sir I would call your attention to the  
Democratic meeting held here last evening to elect delegates  
to the State Convention, an account of which you will  
see in our papers of to day. The Dinner is humble and  
tries to show over it as light as possible.

In point of fact, it was the largest primary  
meeting that the party ever held, and was a distinct  
fight between the Buchanan men and the Douglas  
men - Secessionists and anti Secessionists - Porey & anti  
Porey - The struggle took place from the start. The  
Administration had the Standing Committee and party  
meeting in their hands, and nominated their Chairman,  
but the Douglas men voted him down and elected  
their own candidate.

They then elected their delegates over the  
regular Buchanan ticket, beginning with a majority  
of sixty and running up to 150. Some little confusion  
took place in regard to the best Candidate for delegates  
to the State Convention, who was Cleaveland, and Coe was  
was to follow, as delegate of the same party to the  
separatist Convention. In the confusion, as a disorganizer  
then, the Buchanan men turned over to the Coe group.

It is not unusual for these meetings to be very

fully attended, but special efforts were made by each on this occasion. Now, however, but men of that party, Buchanan was six months ago, took any part in the meeting. It was a fair fight, except the Buchanan men had every advantage but numbers and right. The Times has been very zealous for Geo. Thompson and anxious to ascertain Doory, and the fact that the Administration, and Doory, & the Times are all defeated, here in Doory's town, in a meeting of his own party friends, is felt most keenly.

As all the presses of that party, <sup>in the State</sup> are in the pay of the administration, <sup>the editors</sup> being Collectors, Postmasters or otherwise attached to, they had flattered themselves they would get the administration involved without difficulty. They have been otherwise favored by the impolitic course of our friends, in pushing forward only Whig Candidates. The Douglas men, who are numerous, would have made common cause with us, had the ticket not been Whig, but as the latter have insisted on keeping up that distinction, the Douglas men will not give in to it. For this I don't blame them, and hope if they will not vote with us, they will not go, all of them, with the other side. But something depends on events of the future.

You will see in the Press of this evening, a  
report of the Meeting and can make an article  
of indications from the hour of one of the Cabinet  
and an expression from his own party friends.  
All the delegates chosen from Hartford on anti  
Surreptives, and opposed to Doug.

I would have written you a letter from  
Hartford giving an account of the meeting but it  
would be imputed to me, besides a paragraph  
noticing it would have a better effect, with your  
own comments.

Doug is very mischievous, and the worst man  
in the Cabinet. I think I see his operations in the whole  
Surreptives business - the justification of the Oxford students  
or the condemnation of Walker & Stanton for expelling it  
- the dismissal of Stanton for calling the Legislature  
- the pretended submission &c. &c. They all read like him.

This letter is of course not for publication  
but to call your attention to a point, if it has not  
already said it.

Yours Truly

Andrew Keller

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