

1872.
Nov. 3

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Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner.

Dear Mr. Sumner— Though I should
be strongly induced, by the ^{friendship} subsisting between
us, to avoid taking a position antagonistical
to your own under ordinary circumstances,
even if I deemed it erroneous, yet when the
public welfare is seriously impeded, all
personal considerations must be subordinated
to it. You do not believe in silence at a
time like this, nor do I. In your recent
letter to certain colored citizens of Washington,
you have spoken plainly, vehemently, and
with rhetorical amplification, in utter con-
demnation of the President of the United States,
and as warmly in favor of the election of
Mr. Greeley as a rival candidate. ^{Therefore} ~~as~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~
writing that letter, I propose to speak with
equal plainness, and as earnestly to advise
my colored countrymen to consolidate their
votes upon President Grant, by every consid-
eration pertaining to their safety and happi-
ness, to the cause of equal rights, and to the
promotion of national peace and unity.

In apologizing for your delay in answering the letter of inquiry referred to, you state that you "wished to be aided by the information which time might supply." The kind of information you expected or desired to gain in the course of seventeen days is left to conjecture; but, in view of your long avowed estrangement from the President, it ^{could} cannot have been needed to intensify your hostility to his re-election. Your reply is dated July 29th, and it appears to have been as carefully timed ~~in view of the anti-slavery effort~~ <sup>to influence the election in North Carolina on the 1st of August, before any-
thing could be done to baffle its ^{purpose} design,</sup> as was your Grant-indictment speech to affect the action of the Philadelphia Convention. ~~These~~ These coincidences, indeed, may have been purely accidental; but you must not be surprised that if, owing to your well-known inflammatory state of mind, a general belief obtains that you ^{have} unfairly availed yourself of opportunities to work division in the Republican ranks.