

Gadsden Ala
Aug 13th 1876

Hon J.H. Caldwell [John H. Caldwell]
Washington D.C.

Dear Col,

I ought to have written you sooner & would have done so, but John wrote and I saw most of his letter giving particulars. I can only say that Perkins of Marshall was true & controlled 3 votes St. John & Campbell & Dickson of Blount were strong & [interested?] & control 5 votes- Roberts was for you but would probably have deserted us in a tight. Dr White was the only reliable man for you in Cherokee though we could have commanded 4 votes on the 1 & 2nd Ballots but Calhoun flew the track & would have only given you 3 votes. I did not have any active cooperater among the delegates except Perkins & every body looked upon him with suspicion but unjustly.. if I had pited you & forney against each other as it was desired that I should do by some, I could have given you

with the aid of B's friends 43 votes at first & about 40 all the time but after Studying the matter over well & determining that neither of you could ever be nominated & that Reeves & Inzer both were anxious that Such Would be the result but that Sheffield Should bear the blame of it, and they or one of them be the Beneficiaries of it. I determined that I would rather make the Sacrafice Seeing that they, F's friends, would not do it & that F. was naturally a little Stronger than either of you, than to Sacrafice both of you, but If I had been So disposed and could have prevented Forney from ever being nominated I am Sure without a sacrafice on the part of Some 2 of you neither one of you could ever have been nominated, and the lurking disposition that I Saw manifested to have you & Forney Butt your Brains out against each other, and exhaust Calhoun Co. both now & hereafter caused me to consent with Tip Bradford to the compromise without a Struggle & before any of us get mad for I was afraid to risk my own ambition for I tell you as it was. if I could have seen my way

out at all fairly & legitimately no small amt of expence would have been Spared to have Secured the nomination for you, but I assure you that for these reasons F. is certainly under more obligations to you & your friends for his nomination than he is to his own, for he was my Second choice but he was not the 2nd choice of Marshal part? of Blount St Clair Cherokee Shelby Randolph Taledega fully enough to have defeated him

Maj Palmer was here and is entitled to credit for most of the strength that we had in Blount & Marshall, for Bret Randolph even came here claiming all of Blount for Forney, but Shef could not actually control the delegates for Bradford that he fixed up himself & Cherokee did not have any fixed purpose for either of you 3. neither did St Clair, & now to sum it all up I done my best under the circumstances for the wind was against us and I am Sure that you will be satisfied with the result of our labors. However much we all deserved it to be otherwise. I hope to see you very soon after your return for I want you to have an opportunity of speaking to a good audience in this Co. also

in Blount Marshall DeKalb Cherokee. & I want you to Speak with Forney. I can tell you a great deal more when I See you and hoping that that may be very soon

I remain
as ever your
True friend
AL Woodliff

P.S. the letter with P.O.O. for c/w through Green Came duly to hand- and much obliged
A.L. Woodliff

P.S. I.P. Moragn [Moragne] Kyle Aikin & all the Hughes & Bill ables & some others gave all their talk & influence to F. Hollingsworth & Henry was neutral Said nothing but favored you- Herzberg Barret & Liddell Bill n. Cowan Golightly & Green Talked for you, Weeks was neutral

I was suprized at Gid's course, he was so obstinate when I went to tell him my policy about withdrawing or withholding your name that I didn't let him know or any of the balance of them but suprized the convention if it had been known they would have had the name of the 4th man ready to put in

Ches Says that She would have let the party & Forney too go to grass & have fought it out, even if She had to take a 4th or 5th man after Calhoun Co acted the way they did

GADSDEN
DEC
[15?]
ALA.

U.S. POSTAGE
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THREE CENTS

Hon John H. Caldwell
Washington
D.C.

Woodliff

Answ'd