

**J. Milton Turner to Press**

Washington, D.C., 20 May 1880

Autograph manuscript signed, 4 pages + docket.

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Circular Letter

Headquarters of Negro National Republican Committee

No. 925 – 18<sup>th</sup> street N.W. Washington D.C.

May 20, 1880.

Pursuant to instruction of the National Executive Committee of Republicans engaged in promoting the nomination of Hon. B. K. Bruce U.S.S. at Chicago for the Vice Presidency of the United States the following address is issued to the Republican party and particularly to the delegates to assemble at Chicago next month:

In presenting the name of Mr. Bruce for the Vice Presidency we are confident that his nomination will bring strength and [*struck*: agreement] [*insert*: success] to the party. You should support him, not because he is a negro gentleman, but because his record is consistent. For years he has been the only Republican Senator from the Southern section where the party has lost control, and hundreds of thousands of citizens are on the verge of disfranchisement [2] who occupies his place without question, and that his official conduct is without reproach, and approved by all parties, while his political vote has been invariably cast with the Republican party is a fact.

His nomination would raise the issue whether or not it is possible for the Democratic party to lay down the unconstitutional premise, year after year, that [*strikeout*: minorities] [*insert*: minorities] can compel majorities in eleven States, forming an entire section of the Union. This nomination would give new life and vigor to 780 000 Republican voters in the Southern section.

It would give enthusiasm to the balance of power of 25 000 Republican voters in the State of Ohio; and to a similarly significant Republican element in the pivotal state of New York, and in the States of Indiana, New Jersey, Connecticut and [3] so on.

The nomination of Mr Bruce would culminate the idea of Horace Greely, of Thaddeus Stevens, of Abraham Lincoln, of Chas Sumner, of Ulysses Grant, of Jas G. Blaine, of Jno Sherman, and indeed of the great Republican party and relieve the nation at once of the question of caste in American politics. Horace Greely said at the finance the way to “resume is to resume” and the party should understand that the way to execute the constitution and the laws is to show determination to execute them.

This we say to the party and the Nation in behalf of 5,000,000 Americans whose loyalty was all the Nation had to depend on at the South, and whose unrequited toil has redeemed the lagoons and [4] builded cities in the waste places, while they have ramified the base of a substantial commerce. In the language of Backminister they have shown that “The highest exercise of charity, is charity toward the uncharitable.”

This powerful element has come to believe that unless it will assert itself it is unworthy the solicitude of the american people.

J. Milton Turner

Chairman

W St Bell

Secretary

[*docket:* Turner. JM. Original draft of letter to Press in the Bruce Vice Presidency interest]