

“NEW YORK, *July 3, 1880.*”

“MY DEAR SIR.—Your communication of the 1st inst., in which you are good enough to express a warm desire that I should consent to become a candidate for re-election to Congress from the twentieth district, has been duly received. In reply, I must say to you, as I have to other esteemed friends, that I have fully determined not to seek for a renomination. Further than this I will say to you frankly, that I would not accept the position were it tendered to me. At the same time, however, I beg to assure you in the most positive terms that I am deeply sensible of the obligation which your kind confidence and that of my other friends has placed upon me. For the generous support which I have heretofore received from the citizens of my district—support which has in many cases been given without regard to political predilection—I shall ever feel profoundly grateful. In the same connection I may be permitted to add that throughout the congressional terms which I have served it has been my aim to so act that I might deserve the approval of intelligent and right-minded men of my own and other parties. If I have succeeded in this my highest ambition is gratified, and I shall esteem myself more than compensated for any sacrifice of personal business interest which attention to my public duties has involved. If it be the verdict of my constituents that I have not neglected the trust which they reposed in me I shall be satisfied.

“But without regard to my own feelings in the matter, I have noticed that there is among Republicans everywhere a growing sentiment in favor of rotation in office. I can see no public or party necessity which calls for an exception in my case. There are a number of staunch men and true Republicans in the district who desire and deserve the place which I have held for two terms, and who would discharge its many responsible duties far more acceptably than I have been capable of doing. These, my dear sir, are my chief reasons for declining the honor which you and other lenient friends would confer upon me.

“In conclusion let me say that I regard the coming political canvass as being in many respects the most important we have ever known. Some of the most momentous questions which ever presented themselves to a free people must be decided by it. I trust, more earnestly than I can express, that they may be decided well and wisely. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that in my opinion the best interests of the Union demand the success of the presidential ticket nominated by the Republican National Convention. The work of our great party, the party of progress, of enlightenment and liberty, is not yet complete. It will not be complete until every