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WHY GEN. SHERMAN

Declined the Nomination as a Candidate for President, Seven Years Ago.

HIS LETTER TO HON. JAMES G. BLAINE.

The Late General's Statement Respecting his own Religion and that of his Family.

By Telegraph to the News.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter Exchanged Some Years Ago Between Sherman and Blaine.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Philadelphia Press receives the following letter from ex-Secretary Sherman for the edifice of the republican party. The contents of the letter are generally believed that Blaine wanted it, and everybody turned to him as the man best qualified to execute the policy to accomplish the result aimed at. Still, announcing himself, he wrote to me from Washington this letter:

[Confidential, strictly and absolutely so.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20th, 1884.

My dear General—This letter requires no answer. After reading it lay it away in your most secret drawer or give it to the flames.

I am approaching conventions at Chicago in more than possible as indeed, and impossible that you may be nominated for President. If so, I hope you will stand your hand, accept the responsibility, and assume the duties of the office. I know you will surely be chosen if you follow.

You know not how much pleasure it is the work of the pen, if it comes to you in the form of a letter, or the printed event of popular choice, and you can no more refuse it than you could have refused to obey an order from your father when you were a lieutenant in the army. If it comes to you at all it will come as a call of patriotism. It would be a great sacrifice to your great fame as much to decline it as it would for you to run it, your absolute record full as it is, and be elected after the contest. I feel as much as elaboration as you would to win or give the country. In no way can I express my sense of the convenience, my sense that we are one.

You are with your friends who will honestly guard and protect your fame.

Your friend, JAMES G. BLAINE.

To which I replied:

ST. LOUIS AVE., ST. LOUIS, MO., May 26, 1884.

Hon. James G. Blaine, Washington, D. C.—My dear Friend—I have received your letter of the 20th, and have read it with great care and deliberation. It requires no answer, I hope you will consider it as conversation.

I have a great many letters from all sorts of people on the same or a similar subject, some of them which I have answered and others, but the great mass are unanswered.

I might say in effect myself to the effect that I would not be a candidate if I could, or I might say that at the years of my age I would not be eligible under the high office, and that I would prefer to be with my family and friends, and that I would be more acceptable to them than I can be if I am made to be considered as a rival. I might say that I have a sacred regard for my word as a soldier, and that I would not be a candidate for the high office of the land, and that I would be more acceptable to my family and friends than I can be if I am made to be considered as a rival.

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