

Washington

31st May 1840

My dear Sir,

As desirous as I am to comply with the wishes of my Republican friends of Philadelphia, I will not be able to meet them on this approaching Anniversary.

In addition to the general rule, on which I have long acted in similar cases, there is another reason, which of itself would prevent me in the present instance. I have had five applications of the same kind, one of which I have already declined. The other four are pressing and could not be declined, without giving offence were I to accept any other.

In declining to comply with the wishes of my friends, I am not insensible to the honor, which their desire to

for my attitude implies, not the
magnitude of the question at issue
in the pending struggle. It is the
old contest, in a different form,
which has agitated the Union
from the commencement of the government
to the present ^{time}, with a few short
intervals, and which must continue
to agitate it under one form or
another so long as it endures.

At no period has the contest been
more arduous. Circumstances have
given our opponents many advan-
tages, which have elated them with
the hopes of victory, but relying on
the good sense and patriotism of
the people. I feel confident that
these hopes of success on their occasion,
as it has been on many others, will be
defeated. All that is wanting on our
part to insure victory are Union
zeal & energy.

Wm. Hays Room.

I am &c
J. C. Colburn

Weiner Collection

Box 3, Folder 24

Letter from John Calhoun, 1840

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31st May 1840

My dear sir,

As [desirous] as I am to comply with the wishes of any Republican [friend] of Philadelphia I will not be able to meet them on the [approaching]

In addition to the general [rule] on which I have long acted in similar cases, there is another [reason], which of itself would prevent ... in the present instance. I have had five applications of the same kind, one of which I have already [declined]. The other four are praying [but] could not be declined [without] giving offence were I to accept any other.

In declining to comply with the wishes of any friend, I am not insensible of the honor, which their desire to for my attendance implies, were the magnitude of the ... at ... on the ... struggle. It is the old contest, in a different form, which has agitated the Union from the commencement of the government to the present time, with a few short intervals, ... which ... continue to agitate it under one form or another so long as it endures. At no period has the contest been more ardent. ... had given our opponent may adorn. ... , which have ... than with the hopes of victory, ... of the good sense and ... of the people, I ... that ... of ... on this ... , as it has been on many others, will be All that is ... on our part to ensure victory [and] Unions zeal and energy.

With great respect

I am sir

J. C. Calhoun

... ..