



## Collection Information:

**Item:** Wade, Benjamin Franklin, Jefferson, Ohio to [Daniel Rohrer], St. Paul, Minnesota, August 8, 1859. ALS.

**Series:** Original Documents.

**Collection:** Ford, Allyn K., collector. Allyn Kellogg Ford collection of historical manuscripts.

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Wade

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Jefferson Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> 1859  
Ch. R. S. Committee }  
St. Paul Min. }

I have received your letter inviting me to canvass the State before the fall election and it would give me great pleasure to comply with your request at this time, were it possible, but for various reasons I am unable to decide positively whether I can come or not.

First- I am afflicted with a hoarseness which I am afraid will deprive me of the ability to make speeches any where this fall and secondly I am posted by our State Central



Committee for a long time in this State, where I am to commence very soon and if on trial I find I can stand it, I will give you notice in time to provide for my coming -

I am glad to see you moving in the matter, for the importance of carrying your State this fall cannot be overestimated and I fear more from the fraudulent practices of the enemy, than from lack of Republican votes.

You were cheated out of your last election by these frauds and I hope the Republicans will suffer no such indignity to be practiced upon them again, if they have to scalp every Loco.

foco in the State, together with their Indian allies -

Yours Respectfully  
B. F. Wade

March 2, 1878. Benjamin Franklin Wade died. Senator Wade formulated the sentiments of the Republican party at the opening of the Congress which preceded Lincoln's inauguration. He said, "There is no principle held today by this great Republican party that has not had the sanction of your Government in every department for more than seventy years. You have changed your opinions. We stand where we used to stand. That is the only difference. \* \* \* Sir, we stand where Washington stood, where Jefferson stood, where Madison stood, where Monroe stood. We stand where Adams and Jackson and even Polk

stood. That revered statesman, Henry Clay, of blessed memory, with his dying breath asserted the doctrine that we hold today. \* \* \* As to compromises, I had supposed that we were all agreed that the day of compromises was at an end. \* \* \* Sir, it would be humiliating and dishonorable to us if we were to listen to a compromise (only) by which he who has the verdict of the people in his pocket should make his way to the presidential chair. When it comes to that, you have no government. \* \* \* If a State secedes, although we will not make war upon her, we cannot recognize her right to be out of the Union, and she is not out until she gains the consent of the Union itself; and the chief magistrate of the nation, be he who he may, will find under the constitution of the United States that it is his sworn duty to execute the law in every part and parcel of this Government; that he cannot be released from that obligation. \* \* \*

"I say, sir, I stand by the Union of these States. Washington and his compatriots fought for that good old flag. \* \* \* It is my inheritance. It was my protector in infancy, and the pride and glory of my riper years; and although it may be assailed by traitors on every side, by the grace of God, under its shadow I will die."