Philadelphia January 14th 61

Joseph H. Barret Esq.

Dear Sir,

There is still reason to hope that our national difficulties may be adjusted without decision to settle sectional through the leading opinion prevails to a considerable extent among Republicans in Washington. "Backbone" seems to be the leading term of orthodoxy among the latter, but there is a wide difference between patriotic firmness and irritating stubbornness. A man may be firm without fulfilling those who are anxious to restore peace before an honorable truce. I do not think it right to be constantly talking about fighting and hanging; and how do I think it wise that the South should adopt the vocabulary of the insurgents, in discussing the questions that now agitate the country. If the Southern people are math, we should for that reason if for no other keep cool and preserve a dignified bearing. I know it is hard when treason is boldly talked and a boldly act, to maintain an even temper, but in this respect we should endeavor to conquer old asylum and act with care, deliberation, and in the spirit of wisdom. In this respect I
think Section in his speech on Saturday 4th
an example worthy of general approval. It is, indeed, so easy to be united on
it was, in the main, true, but in few
very offensive to any body. People who differ
with him will therefore be without getting
and they will be influenced by it. Without their
knowing it. We must remember that all the
people of the South are not free men, and those who
are kept among slaves, though as yet unable
to gain possession of their feelings, are entitled to
our respect and sympathy. We are to think things
to do all we can to turn aside the winds of
calumny, but nothing can be done with those
directions by hard words. These ways and are
rather influence the Section North people, but to
they will accomplish nothing towards gaining the
section South people. From what I have seen
and heard within the last week, I have arrived
at a conclusion, and having seen enough
that man, I thought to you that the character of our
paper calls for in the Gazette, within the last
few days, I thought I would write you on the
subject, not in the way of complaint, but to
Rutledge in a suggestion. I do not know whether
you wrote some of the paragraphs that struck
me as particularly out of place or not, but
that makes no difference. I have one
away from home with the things differently, partly
from those on the first section, we have many
ideas, especially when among them, the
are often of value. It all rests to a great extent
idle to talk about hanging that so, here.
If such a thing were possible I might be right, but
when it is both impossible, and under
from those circumstances entirely, it is hardly
credible to be talking about it, in the column
of a leading newspaper. I want to see the
character of the Gazette for dignity, coolness
and reliability fully maintained, and hence
these remarks to which I refer with the
surprisingly.

Your letter has written in reply, the
principles of which have been agreed upon in a
committee. I made arrangements to have
an advance copy forwarded, to be used when
the report is made. I telegraphed you these
ideas of the report, that, if adopted by Congress,
in connection with Sedras, which will
hold the border States, and this it is
that can be quoted as proof. My own
opinion is that the Gazette had better shape
matter to us, to give their plan of pacification.
a vigorous support.
Hoping to see you in a few days.

Remember.

Yours truly,
Richard Smith.