

You are aware I have not sought the position for which you now ask me to accept the nomination. It has been, as you have put it, your desire; I can do nothing, therefore, but throw upon you the responsibility, which you are kind enough to say you will accept. You are pleased also to approve of my request that I will be allowed perfect freedom of judgment in deciding upon all questions. For this I thank you, for upon no other condition would I allow myself to be placed in nomination, and I am equally persuaded that upon no other would you request me. This being understood, I accept the nomination. I have no hesitation, therefore, in saying that upon all questions conducive to the good of the country, the Government will receive from me a cheerful support. More I do not promise; more, I am sure, you do not ask. Questions which I conceive to be hurtful to the country's interest, should such arise, I shall oppose.

It is not presumptuous in me to say that I would be of some service to the country in Parliament as a commercial man. Anything which disturbs the manufacturing and mercantile interests of the country deranges our entire financial system. Whatever changes are made in our tariffs should be made prudently and always with a view to its prosperity. Upon such changes it is not too much to say I ought to be able to express an intelligent opinion.

In reference to local matters, our city is essentially a commercial city. Its commerce injuriously affected, its property is at once depreciated. With its commercial importance its harbor has much to do. Whether its safety is endangered or not I cannot tell, but if it is, I do not hesitate to say that a sum amply sufficient to remove the possibility of such a calamity should be readily granted.

Should you do me the honor to return me, I shall use my best judgment; that I may err in doing so is possible—better and abler men have done so before. I shall not, however, be