Nov 11, 1864

This morning Nicolay sent a dispatch from Illinois giving us 25,000 majority and 10 Congressmen which we take to mean Winfield, Farrar, Hunt, Onderdonk, Underwood, Russell, Roon, Moulton at Sages leaving the Copeland, Stoughton, Morrison, Ross, and Marshall.

At the meeting of the Cabinet today the President took out a paper from his desk and said, "Gentlemen do you remember last summer I asked you all to sign your names to the back of a paper of what? I did not show you that inside. This is it. Now, Mr. Hay, see if you can get this open without tearing it." He had pasted it up in so singular a style that it required some cutting to get it open. He then read as follows:

Executive Mansion
Washington, Aug. 23, 1864

This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be re-elected. Thus
it will be my duty to co-operate with the President elect, as to save the union between the election and the inauguration: as he will have secured his election on such ground that he cannot possibly save it afterwards.

A. Lincoln

This was endorsed.

William H. Seward
W. P. Fessenden
Edwin M. Stanton
Gideon Welles
Edw. D. Bates
Mr. Blair
J. L. Usher

August 23, 1860.

The President said, 'you will remember that this was written at a time (6 days before the Chicago nominating convention) when we had no adversary and seemed to have no friends. I then solemnly resolved on the course of action indicated above. I voted, in case of the election of General McClellan, being certain that he would be the candidate, that I would see him and talk matters over with him. I would say, 'General, the election...
has demonstrated that you are stronger, have more influence with the American people than I. Now let us together with your influence and I with all the executive power of the government try to save the country. You raise as many troops as you please can for their final trial and I will devote all my energies to assisting and finishing the war."

"Seward said, "And the General would answer you 'Yes, Yes;' and the next day when you saw him again I passed these views upon him he would say 'Yes—Yes' so on forever and would have done nothing at all."

"At least," added Lincoln, "I should have done my duty and have stood clear before my own conscience."

Seward was abusing Toney today for a shot of his. Mr. roses last night at the dinerade which appeared to him terrible in the Chronicle in which S. Bibbiano was good out at the elbows."