

***From Election to
Inauguration,
Nov. to March
1861***

In compliance with
the government, I appear
you briefly, and, in your
path prescribed by the Co
to be taken by whomever
large duties of our



The Non-Interference Pledge

March 4, 1861

“I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.”

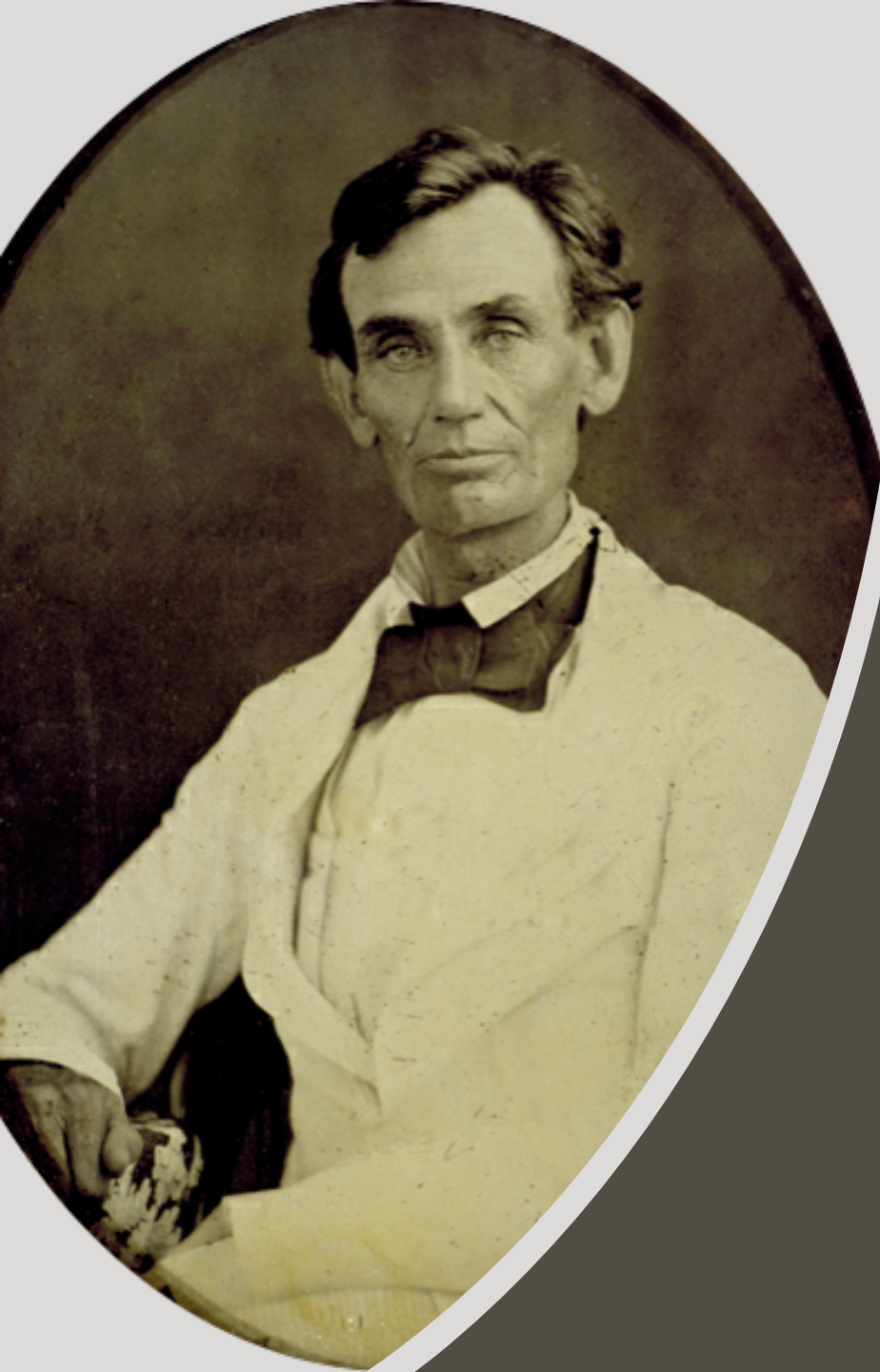


US Capitol building, 1861

Text and Context: 1858-1861

“I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.” (*orig. 1858*)

“One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute.”



Subtext: June 16, 1858

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved---I do not expect the house to fall---but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other.

Either the opponents of slavery, will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is **in course of ultimate extinction**; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new---North as well as South.

Defining Union

March 4, 1861

“Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy. **A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations**, and always changing easily with deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments, **is the only true sovereign of a free people**. Whoever rejects it does of necessity fly to anarchy or to despotism. Unanimity is impossible.”



Enslaved according to Act of Congress in the year 1861 by Thomas W. Strong on the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District of New York.

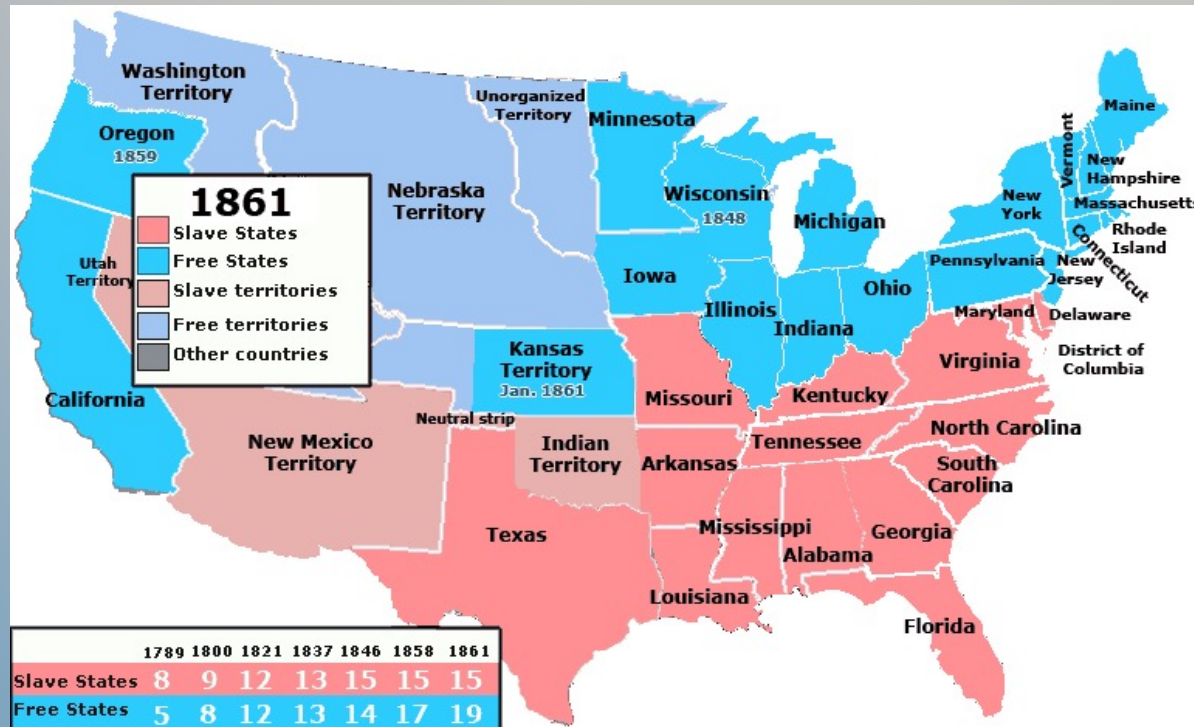
OUR NATIONAL BIRD AS IT APPEARED WHEN
HANDED TO JAMES BUCHANAN MARCH 4. 1857.

THE IDENTICAL BIRD AS IT APPEARED A.D. 1861.

"I was murdered in the Capitol"
Shakespeare

Depot 98 Nassau St. N.Y.

Understanding Audience



7 / 15

11 / 15

15 / 15

~~“Shall it be peace, or a sword?”~~

“We are not enemies, but friends.
We must not be enemies.”



Lincoln's Secession Crisis, and Ours

"A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations ... is the only true sovereign of a free people. Whoever rejects it does of necessity fly to anarchy or to despotism. Unanimity is impossible."