

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

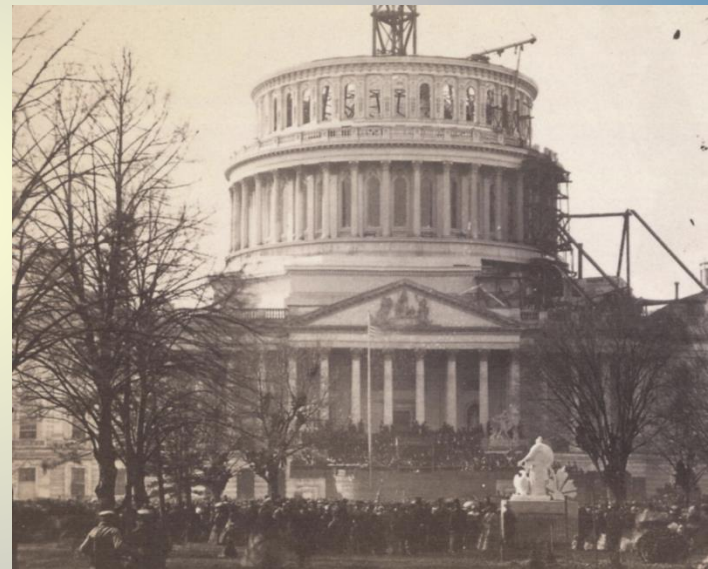
In compliance with
the government, I appear
you briefly, and, in your
path prescribed by the Co
to be taken by whomever
large duties of our



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.”

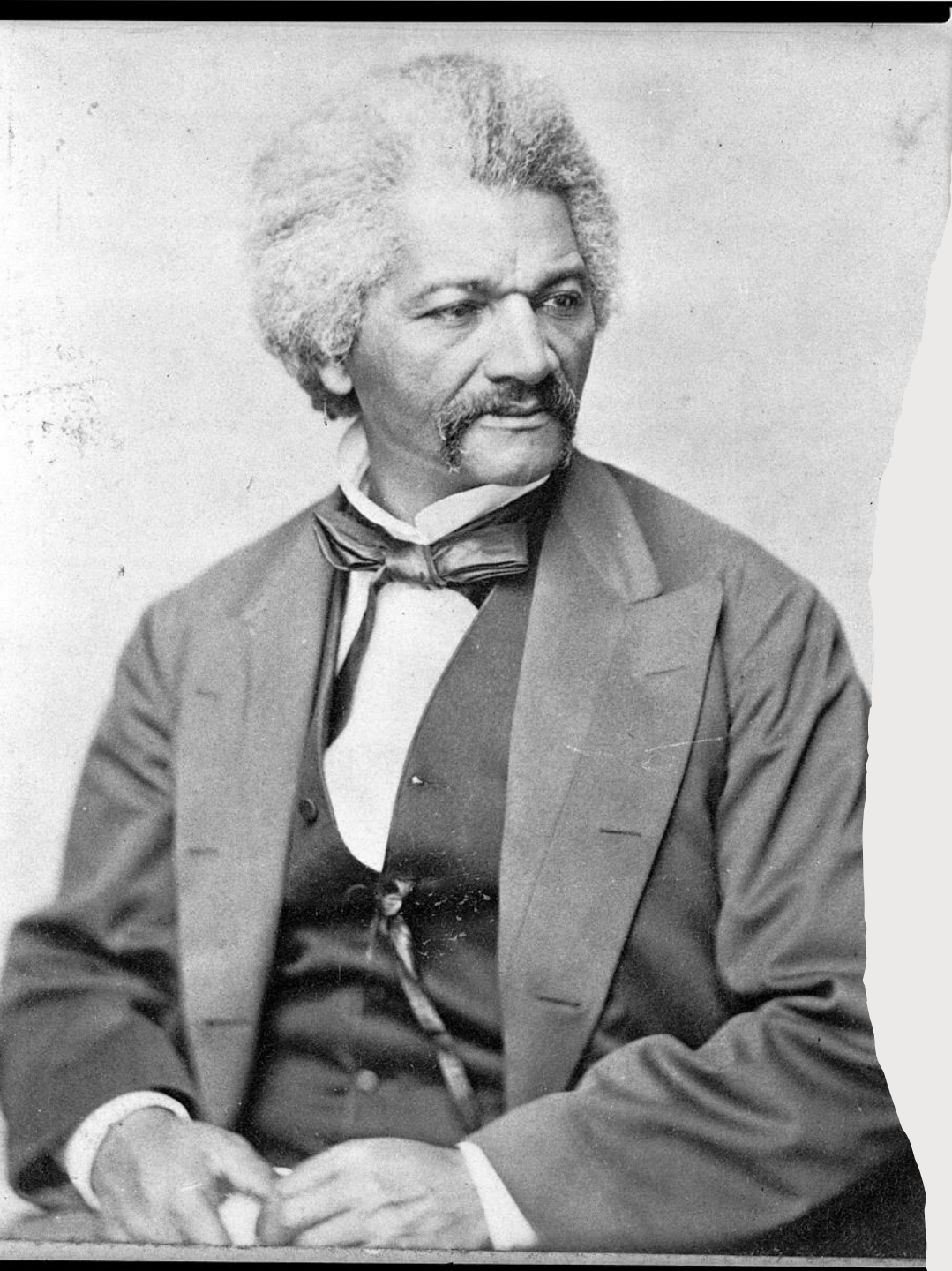


US Capitol building, 1861

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*)

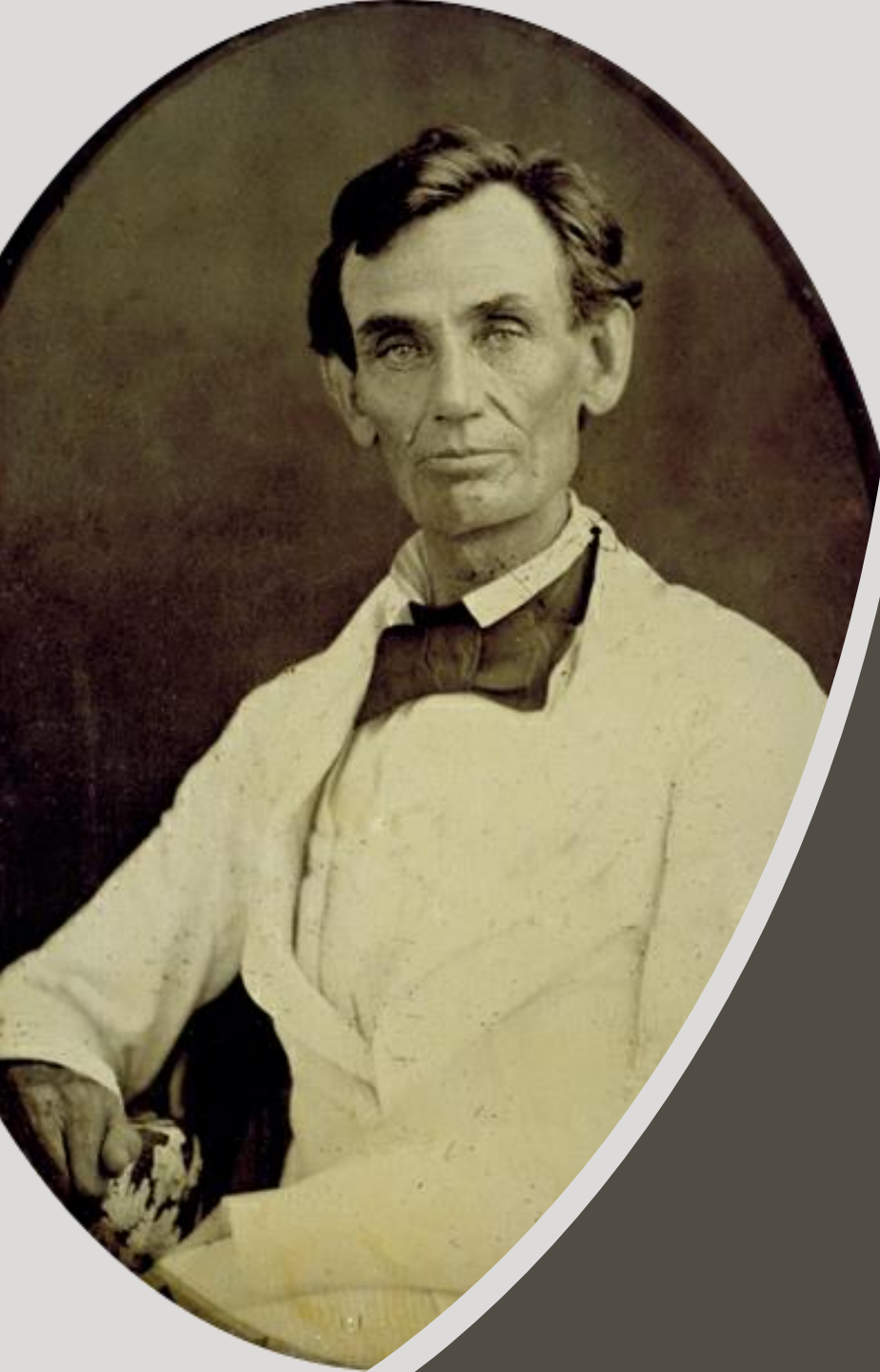
“One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute.”



Subtext: Douglass's Response

"Mr. LINCOLN opens his address by announcing his complete loyalty to slavery in the slave States, and quotes from the Chicago platform a resolution affirming the rights of property in slaves, in the slave States. He is not content with declaring that he has no lawful power to interfere with slavery in the States, but he also denies having the least 'inclination' to interfere with slavery in the States. This denial of all feeling against slavery, at such a time and in such circumstances, is wholly discreditable to the head and heart of Mr. LINCOLN."

--Douglass' Monthly, April, 1861



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.”



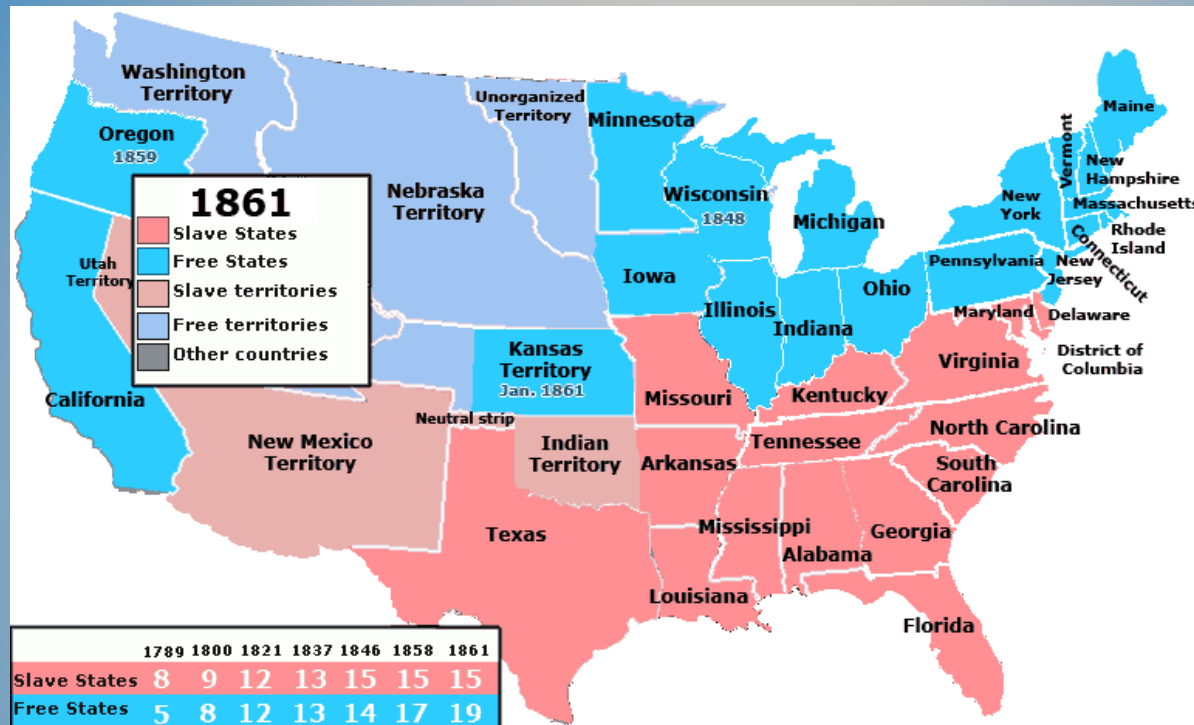
OUR NATIONAL BIRD AS IT APPEARED WHEN
HANDLED TO JAMES BUCHANAN MARCH 4. 1857.

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

"I was murdered i' 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."