

### **1860. New York Merchants Discuss Abraham Lincoln**

Source: New York Evening Post, October 31, 1860. In Philip S. Foner, *Business & Slavery, The New York Merchants & the Irrepressible Conflict*. New York/Russell & Russell, p. 198.

“We notice your order and especially your remarks in relation to the Presidential election. We regret extremely the tone of our southern correspondence, and the threatened consequences in case Mr. Lincoln should be the choice of the majority of the people in the United States, which now seems hardly doubtful. The state of feeling in your section is unfortunate, not only from patriotic and fraternal considerations, but from commercial ones as well. We must, of course, decline to fill your order, and indeed to sell to your section, except for cash, even to customers to whom we have long done business with the greatest confidence and pleasure as well as profit.... We are, therefore, compelled to give more attention to extending our trade westward and northward, where the avenues of trade will be safer and its rewards surer than where the cause of an election is considered the cause of war.”

### **New York Merchants and the Election of Abraham Lincoln**

Source: North American and U.S. Gazette, November 6, 1860 Philip S. Foner, *Business & Slavery, The New York Merchants & the Irrepressible Conflict*. New York/Russell & Russell, p. 199.

The whole affair aroused tremendous indignation. In the West, for example, it was regarded as an effort on the part of New York capitalists to ruin the nation in order to prevent the election of Lincoln. The *Detroit Advertiser* declared:

“The efforts of a majority of New York merchants...to create a financial panic, and prostrate the whole business of the country, for the purpose of coercing the people of the north into the support of the disunionists, has created a feeling of deep, widespread and universal resentment at the west. It is looked upon by all classes of men as a deliberate and most wicked attempt to prostrate all the great interests of the free north for the purpose of conciliating the favor and securing the trade of the Slave States. They look upon it, too, as a treasonable effort to encourage the south in their threats of succession should Lincoln be elected. These treasonable efforts the western people have resolved to resent....There is a rapidly increasing determination on the part of our northwestern merchants to adopt the policy of non-intercourse with every New York merchant who has entered into this treasonable conspiracy with the slave power to effect their ruin.”

### **1860. Hiram Ketchum on the Secession Crisis**

Source: Journal of Commerce, December 17, 1860. In Philip S. Foner, *Business & Slavery, The New York Merchants & the Irrepressible Conflict*. New York/Russell & Russell, p. 228.

“We should not talk as though all was gone because a president has been chosen contrary to our wishes. We have still a legislature and a judiciary that are opposed to him. Why should be despair?”

“Give us time to organize and combine [he went on], and we will put down any party that should attempt to do what the South fears the Republican Party will do. To our fellow citizens, then, at the South, we say, we do not want you to place us in a false position. We have given 300,000 votes for the Union and the Constitution, and we want you to stand by us in the Union. We can right the wrong in the Union- only we require time. Give us time and we will show you that it is not true that the majority of the people of the North hate your institutions.”

“We have stood by you in the political contest through which we have just passed. We have asserted your rights as earnestly as though they had been our own. You cannot refuse, therefore, to listen to us, and to weigh with becoming deliberation the reasons we have for believing that the wrongs which have led to

the existing alienation between the two great sections of the country, may, with your cooperation, especially redressed.”

“It is a mistake [the address declared] to imagine that the whole Republican party, or even the great bulk of it, is really at heart animated by any spirit hostile to the rights or menacing to the interests of the South. Anti-slaveryism has constituted but one of various political elements combined in that “Republicanism” which has elected Mr. Lincoln. We pledge ourselves to you, that whenever a fair opportunity shall be presented a district and simple vote of the North upon the full recognition of all your constitutional rights, a very large majority will be found true to the Constitution, and true to the fraternal relations established by it between you and us.”