

Letter from Thomas T. Swann to Abraham Lincoln

Jackson, Miss.

June 15. 1860

Sir,

You having received the Black Republican nomination for President of the United States I deem it not imprudent to propound to you several important interrogatories, to which I demand immediately a reply covering the whole of them without dodging or shifting one way or the other, either to the right or to the left-- Viz--

1st -- Suppose you should be elected President of the United States and the South would not submit to your inauguration: What would you do?--

2nd-- Are you opposed to slavery as it now exists in the slave states, and if so, do you believe [*sic*] that Congress has more power to remove it from those states than to protect it in the Territories?

3rd-- Were you in favor of Jno Brown the Traitor, or do you now occasionally drop a silent tear or two in honor to his memory?

4th. What do you think of the Wilmot proviso in another form?--

5.th-- As I do not presume you will vote for your self for President, do you intend to vote for Douglas the Traitor if nominated, or for Bell & Everett the Union ~~Saviours~~ savers?

I am a voter and I want to know exactly every inch of ground you stand upon-- I want to know for I want to vote for the right kind of a man-- If you suit me I'll go for you-- If not away with you!!

I am for what is right, and nothing wrong, Nor will I submit to any thing [*sic*] that smacks of Jno. Brownism, Japaneseism nor any other kind of modern isms. Give me the good old times of Washington of Jefferson & Madison-- I want nothing else-- I want nothing more. If you should be the lucky man to restore these good times to the troubled people -- then I say Abraham Lincoln "thou art the man." Lord send it -- Amen!

Address me immediately

Yr [*sic*] friend

Tho. T. Swann