

New Bern August 18th 1856

Gentlemen I have no power of language to express my gratification at the receipt of your favor of the 16th inst: giving me a cordial welcome to my native place, and tendering me the compliment of a public dinner

As a private citizen I am averse to public entertainments and during this visit I am unable from imperative considerations to accept your invitation: but most sincerely do I assure you, I have never received any mark of public confidence of which I am so proud, or of this testimony of esteem from the citizens of a town endeared to me by so many hallowed recollections.

The honor you confer on me, is more than I am entitled to, and doubly dear to me from the kind manner in which it has been offered.

To have secured the good opinion of so many worthy gentlemen of New Bern, "irrespective of party" would be a proper reward to any public man after years of disinterested

and valuable public service. An ambitious man
could have no higher honor to aspire to.

As in the past, no lapse of
time, no long continued absence, has diminished or can
diminish my attachment for New-Berne, so in the
future wherever I may be, I shall feel the deepest
interest in her prosperity and the liveliest gratitude
for your kindness.

Very respectfully yours

Edw. Stanley

To

Elijah Clark
Wm. G. Bryan
John Blackwell Esquires
Moses W. Jarvis & others. —