

A COLONEL OR A GUERRILLA CHIEF *

IN the first place, I would like to say that this is the first time I have said anything whatever for publication; all of the alleged interviews that have appeared so far are absolutely false.

I intend to vote the Republican presidential ticket. While at Chicago, I told Mr. Lodge that such was my intention; but, before announcing it, I wished to have time to think the whole matter over. A man cannot act both without and within the party; he can do either, but he cannot possibly do both. Each course has its advantages, and each has its disadvantages, and one cannot take the advantages or the disadvantages separately. I went in with my eyes open to do what I could within the party; I did my best and got beaten; and I propose to stand by the result. It is impossible to combine the functions of a guerilla chief with those of a colonel in the regular army; one has greater independence of action, the other is able to make what action he does take vastly more effective. In certain contingencies the one can do most good, in certain contingencies the other; but there is no use in accepting a commission and then trying to play the game out on a lone hand. During the entire canvass for the nomination, Mr. Blaine received but two checks—one was at the Utica convention, the other was the Powell Clayton incident. I had a hand in both, and I could have had a hand in neither had not those Republicans who

* Interview in the *Boston Herald*, July 20, 1884.

at Utica elected me as the head of the New York State delegation supposed that I would in good faith support the man who was fairly made the Republican nominee.

I am by inheritance and by education a Republican; whatever good I have been able to accomplish in public life has been accomplished through the Republican party; I have acted with it in the past, and wish to act with it in the future; I went as a regular delegate to the Chicago convention, and I intend to abide by the outcome of that convention. I am going back in a day or two to my Western ranches, as I do not expect to take any part in the campaign this fall.