Resource Sheet #4

A Southerner's Reaction to the Republicans

Directions: Pretend it is October, 1860, and you are a planter from the slave state of South Carolina. Your 40 slaves work hard, and as a result you and your family have become very from planting and selling cotton. You wish to continue this lifestyle and would like to see slavery continue its existence for many years to come.

You have read why Southerners wanted to preserve slavery and see its spread into the territories ("The Road to Southern Secession"). You have seen the Lincoln-Hamlin Republican campaign poster and you have read excerpts from both the 1856 and 1860 Republican Party platforms. You are disgusted and concerned about a Republican victory in the upcoming November election.

> **Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, the *Charleston Mercury*. In your letter, you must state your opinion of the Republicans. In your letter you must clearly explain the Republican platform statements and also explain how a Republican victory might affect you and your plantation.**

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