THE CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
JAMES M. JONES.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT: LET ALL THE ENDS THOU AIMS'T AT, BE THY COUNTRY'S, THY GOD'S, AND TRUTH'S."

TERMS $2 50 PER ANNUM
OR $2, IF PAID IN ADVANCE.

New Series—Volume 10. Cambridge, Md., Saturday Morning, September 25, 1847. Number 52

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF TALBOT, DORCHESTER, SOMERSET AND WORCESTER.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—It is due to myself as well as to you, before whom I recently appeared as a candidate for Congress, to state that I no longer occupy that position, but take occasion to withdraw my name. In retiring, it affords me much pleasure to make my sincere acknowledgments to many kind and genuine friends who were good enough to favor my fortunes. They have stood by me gallantly, through evil as well as good report, and they have my cordial thanks,

I also avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate my conviction that General Taylor is the most deserving man now in the country for the next Presidency, and that his election will be most conducive to the prosperity of the nation at large, by preserving the constitutional immunities of all sections, maintaining the inviolability of our fundamental rights and preserving harmony and good feeling throughout.

From the time the elements of association began to form in his favor, the prospect of his ultimate success has indeed been cheering. If there be an election by the people his chance is superior to any other mans; and if Congress has to decide amongst the three highest his friends will hold the control. It is not only possible, but highly probable, that a portion of the Democratic party will meet in convention, and nominate Gen. Cass, Mr. Buchanan, or Judge Woodbury. It is also possible that some of the Whigs may nominate General Scott, Daniel Webster or Mr. Crittenden. It is certain that neither of these parties, meeting in Convention, can nominate Gen. Taylor, because he will not pledge himself to carry out the views of either, and therefore it would be very silly in either, as a party, to nominate a man who refused to pledge himself to carry out the views of either. A large and controlling portion of both of those parties will decline to go into Convention, but will run Taylor as an Independent candidate. He will be emphatically, the People's candidate. Under such circumstances, in almost every State it is probable Taylor will be stronger than either of the nominated candidates, and will thus carry the popular election. If he thus failed, it is pretty certain that neither of the other parties could give their candidates a constitutional majority of the electoral college. If the matter has to be determined by Congress, it is very certain that neither of the other parties can command a majority of the States in Congress, but either party would prefer Taylor to the antagonistical nominated candidate. It may well be assumed then, that Taylor, in any event, from existing developments, has not only the strongest and most meritorious claims but decidedly the best chance of being the next President. It will be fortunate if this be the result.

It is important, particularly at this juncture, and at all times, to stand by and preserve inviolate the "*Missouri Compromise*" as to the slavery question. General Taylor, with that momentous subject forming the platform of parties in the present crisis, stands the best chance of consolidating all the friends of that sacred adjustment.

Such a question is extremely momentous and exciting. A fair and reasonable and patriotic compromise of the conflicting views entertained upon that subject was made, when the great State of Missouri was about to be ushered into the Union. Every patriot who loves his country more than the prevalence of a faction, should be satisfied with this arrangement. The "Wilmot Proviso" is a onesided and extreme measure, and its enactment would be a virtual repeal of the "Missouri Compromise." Therefore the "Wilmot Proviso" and "Missouri Compromise" will, in all probability, have controlling consideration in the movements connected with the next Presidential election. If the Democratic party as now constituted, assemble in a National Convention to nominate a candidate for the Presidency, certain portions probably of that party would not be satisfied with any candidate who favored the "Wilmot Proviso;" whilst another portion would oppose the selection of any statesman who stood by the "Missouri Compromise." Upon this question it is probable they would split. So with the Whigs. They would be met with the same difficulties. Gen. Taylor now runs as the People's candidate without conventional nomination, and will not commit himself to the views of either the Whig or Democratic party. Either can support him, without being considered as changing their views. Being supported by both parties, his administration would be calculated to allay excitement in the country, and afford opportunity for the cool and dispassionate patriotism of the people to settle all this exciting topic upon the best and most harmonious terms. It is as important to the North as the South that a candidate in favor of the continuance of the Missouri Compromise should be elevated to the Presidency, to give strength to that basis. I am well satisfied that General Taylor's election would have the happy effect of pouring oil upon troubled waters. The integrity of the Union is a cardinal principle with every patriot, North or South, who venerates a glorious and renowned ancentry. In this crisis, Gen. Taylor, as the *People's President*, contra distinguished from a *party President*, would be a tower of strength to the Union. I stand by and maintain, to the best of my abilities, his fortunes, solemnly believing them to be intimately identified with the best and lasting interests of the country. I take occasion here to express to you my great gratification at the high and patriotic ground taken by Mr. Buchanan, the distinguish- Secretary of State. He stands by the "Missouri Compromise," and his position in the heart of the Union, the Keystone State, with his universally acknowledged talents and weight, will have a great tendency to strip the question of its local and sectional bearing. You may depend upon it, my fellow-citizens, it is a most fortunate circumstance in this period of the history of the republic, that we have and can command such a candidate as General Taylor, who is not obnoxious to Whig or Democrat, and who will not be pledged to carry out the views of either, and who is sound upon this momentous question. Some of these views, more in detail, I did design to have presented to the voters of this District—but during my late absence from the district, a portion of my Democratic brethren, some no doubt from what they believed to be honest party views—others from mistaken notions—others from want of reflection, and still others from designing and sinister considerations, have thought proper to meet ostensibly in a Convention, and have presented the name of another candidate. Upon what grounds, in reference to Taylor and other subjects I have not yet learned, not having seen any account of the principles avowed by that body—neither do I find, in the acceptance of the nominee, any indication of his views as to Taylor.

The election of Governor seems to be the engrossing subject, and right or wrong, appears to over-ride all other considerations. I suppose the candidates for Congress are expected to take *caste* from the complexion of the gubernatorial candidates. In announcing myself as an "independent Taylor candidate" for Congress, I did not propose to allow the question of Governor to control me one way or the other, considering the two subjects as essentially distinct. The district however being Whig by a large majority, I did not suppose in appearing as a candidate upon "independent grounds," I was invading the province of any democratic aspirant. Indeed, I learned from the distinguished and popular gentleman who last ran as a candidate on the democratic side, that he had no aspirations that way at present. I have been a candidate before in the district without a nomination, and have not, since my knowledge of the district and connection therewith, known the Democratic party to have made a nomination. If I thought proper to cavil at the form of proceeding recognized by that Convention, as to its origin and formation, it would not be difficult to demonstrate its utter irregularity, and disregard of the views of the great body of the party. For instance, the order or call for the Convention issued from this county, by some two or three enterprising gentlemen—when the time came for the district meetings, a mere fragment of the voters assembled, hardly enough to form a corporals guard. In the four lower districts of this county there were no meetings held. In Talbot, a meeting called to nominate candidates for the Legislature, assumed upon themselves to appoint their delegates to the Convention. I have no special information as to the character and extent of the proceedings in the two lower counties. But I care not about the mode of proceeding. I was written to by some of my old and esteemed political and personal friends in the lower counties, to know if I would serve as a candidate, if nominated. Appreciating the kindness of these friends, I wrote to them, somewhat in detail, my views, and refusing to recognize the propriety of the convention or its control. But it was said here that a distinguished gentleman, high in the ranks of the party, had agreed to serve if nominated. That gentleman resided below, and it turned out that he declined. The asserted fact that he had consented to serve, was probably circulated to give some color to the proceedings here. The convention, making a merit of necessity I suppose, fell back upon old Dorset, and Mr. Lecompte was to be the fortunate standard bearer, and to have the honors crowded upon him thick, of being first a candidate for the Legislature and then by a rapid system of promotion was to be put upon the high road to Congress. Whether they would have pressed laurels upon him so fast if his chance of success had been better, is somewhat questionable. All this new-fangled parade may strike many as unnecessary or otherwise, but as for myself, I certainly feel more amused at the proceeding and the conduct of some of the managers than provoked; and I certainly have too much respect for the good sense of the great body of my democratic friends, to suppose for a moment that they are to be considered identified or at all responsible for this movement. If the play were worth the candle, I might put myself to the trouble of unveiling the origin and management of this proceeding, but I forbear, for I care but little about it one way or the other, and especially as they may be doing me a service, by giving me the opportunity to withdraw, as I now do, and give them the track, with my proper respects. Probably the originators, being much interested in the election of a Governor, conceived it would advance the fortunes of the democratic nominee for that station. Whether it will have that tendency as Roger de Coverly would say, much might be said on both sides. In taking independent position for Taylor, it was not my design to interfere with the Governor's election, unless compelled in self vindication. I wanted no station from the powers that be, present or prospective. I had been for Taylor long before the late Democratic nomination for Governor, and one of the objects I had in view in announcing myself as a 'Taylor candidate,' was to direct attention to his position and merits, and another object was, incidentally, to explain how a Democrat might go for Taylor without being subjected to the charge of having turned Whig, as had been asserted in my case by the designing. Some go for Taylor as a Whig—others claim him as Democrat—both are wrong.

All that go for Taylor must be content to take him with his avowed determination to be independent of any such party allegiance, recognizing solely his general obligation to the country, irrespective of party. It is well known that long before the nomination of a candidate for Governor, I had freely expressed my preference for Taylor, although some were uncharitable enough to assert that it was owing to my defeat (as it was called) in that nomination that I adopted Taylor.—Nominated or not, I took my stand for him..

As to the nomination for Governor, I was not particularly anxious myself to be the candidate—knowing that it would subject me to great personal sacrifice, elected or defeated;—but residing in a section where I, as a member of the party, thought the candidate should be taken, with a view of strengthening a weak point, rallying and encouraging, the Democratic forces and making inroads upon the opposition, I did consent in the first instance to serve, not desiring to thwart the views of my friends and what I believed to be the true policy of the party. I did think that the Democratic candidate ought to have been taken in one of the three lower counties, by *common consent*, inasmuch as there was our weak point; and that it was due to the Democracy as well, to pay them that compliment, especially as Mr. Grason, the former E. Shore Governor, was chosen by acclamation from the upper counties. In order to have given greater strength to this view, I had serious notions of withdrawing any pretensions of mine in favor of my worthy and distinguished friend Dr. Humphreys, not from any design to disparage the claims of other gentlemen spoken of, but really because I believed the success of the party depended much upon the selection. Without any earthly consultation with me and without any previous knowledge upon the subject, the Doctor withdrew. Then the contest seemed to be pretty much, by common consent, narrowed down to a comparison of Mr. Thomas' claims and my own. Mr. Thomas had been in Congress and frequently in the Legislature, and of course had a wider range of personal association, because he had been in a section where a majority could very generally be commanded. Finding in the progress of the canvass for the nomination, that many things were done and said which were personally unpleasant to me, besides manifesting I thought, but little regard for the true and harmonious action of the party and certainly but a poor appreciation of the claims of this section, I came to the conclusion that a proper sense of self-respect would justify me in withdrawing my name. In conversation with some two of my prominent friends from the lower counties, and referring briefly to the state of things, I expressed my mortification, and told them I would no longer consent to the use of my name, and I instructed one of them (a distinguished member of the bar, and then on his way to the Convention,) to do me the favor, from his place in that Convention about to be held, to state that I was no longer a candidate, and to make the statement upon my own responsibility. I suppose my worthy friend considering me in a bad humor, and that his county was in my favor, did not see proper to carry into effect my request. At this stage of the canvass it was the opinion of my friends that the nomination would be conferred on me, I believe. I must confess I felt chagrined at the unkind treatment, to say the least of it, displayed towards myself by some, when I really thought I was doing the party quite as much of a favor in allowing the use of my name as they could render me by giving me the nomination and afterwards electing me. The voice of the Eastern Shore, from which section the candidate must, constitutionally, be taken, nor the voice of these three lower counties, where the Democrats are 2500 strong, although 1000 behind, and yet each one of the 2500 is as genuine and as well tried certainly as a Democrat any where else; nor the voice of the lion-hearted Democracy of the Monumental city, which came to the rescue as far as they could, was at all heeded. Perhaps more fortunate counsels prevailed—and I here beg to make my acknowledgments for the devotion to my fortunes on the part of numerous kind friends. As for myself I set up no claim upon the score of gratitude. I desire not to obtrude any private grievances of mine upon the party or the public. I forbear to speak of the influences that may have governed and controlled the Convention. In the midst of wars it is said the laws are silent; so in the midst of a hotly contested election private rights do not assume much importance. I may take occasion hereafter to speak of some things that were done and said, but at present I choose to be silent. Knowing that the Governor of Maryland has no veto power and that the chief service expected of him is to register the edicts of the Legislature and distribute the loaves and fishes, and that no great controlling principle was involved in the election; because if a Democratic Governor be elected, the Whig Senate and House of Delegates, would probably throughout his term in one branch or the other, hold the control, and believing I had not myself been altogethor well treated, not by the refusal to give me the nomination, because about that I was really a good deal indifferent, but from what had been said and done, I fully determined that a due sense of self-respect dictated that I should myself refrain from my usual activity in this Gubernatorial election—that I might be permitted, without complaint, to withhold my ordinary zeal. A negative course certainly, cannot be objected to in my case, under the circumstances.

I have not gone over to the enemy. I have made no speeches. I have attended no meetings, and I am content to attend to my own private affairs, and whilst others are busily, I doubt not, misrepresenting me, I have not deemed it a matter of sufficient interest to trouble myself to counteract their movements. My political friends and opponents may settle the election to their own liking, without interference on my part. I wanted to say as little as possible about this election for Governor, and should have said much less, if undisturbed and unmisrepresented. As a candidate for Congress I desired to direct attention to Gen. Taylor—that has been accomplished, and although I now withdraw, it is because I believe the interests involved in his election, can be better secured thereby, and his independent banner may be more effectually unfurled hereafter. I have not the time, nor a fair opportunity, under present circumstances in the district, with Mr. Lecompte and Mr. Crisfield on the turf and a Governor's election going on, to press the claims of the invincible Hero. His flag is aloft and will head a victorious column of patriots when the great struggle comes, and if alive, I shall be in the crowd, if not as a standard bearer, at least as a private soldier. In retiring from this contest I desired to say just as much as the occasion required and no more—just enough to inform my friends and the public (who take any interest in the matter) of my exact position. I believe I am right in reference to the fair claims of my political friends upon me. I think I can demonstrate from evidences in my possession and at hand, that I am entirely justifiable in every particular. I address and rely upon the intelligence of the people. I have no favors to ask but a proper appreciation of what is absolutely right. I have not the time nor the inclination to go through the district to see whether Mr. Lecompte or myself can get the most votes—I will not be concerned in such a scramble. In taking leave of you as a candidate I desire to be distinctly understood that my principles and views are unchanged as to the old issues, and also to express my opinion, that these issues will cease to be controling in the formation of parties, so soon as the next Presidential election begins to concentrate the public mind and feeling; and also to reiterate my solemn conviction, that under all the circumstances now existing in the country or to come up during the ensuing Presidential term, there is no other man in the country so well qualified to preside over the high destinies of this great confederation of States, with dignity, with impartiality, with harmony, with the greatest success, as the indomitable Hero of this Mexican war, General Zachary Taylor, who has always been ready and has exhibited the prowess if opportunity had offered, to have made every day in your calendar a glorious anniversary, if he could have found an enemy of the country to encounter. With my sincere wishes for your individual and collective happiness I am your obedient servant,

JAMES A. STEWART.

From the Easton Gazette.

A CARD.

I have been informed that late yerterday afternoon after I had left the Court House from fatigue and indisposition, Mr. Lecompte attributed to me a doctrine in reference to the rights of majorities which did me great injustice, and which I certainly never entertained or expressed. He is reported to have averred that in my speech at Cambridge, I denied in general terms the right of majorities to govern. I can only express my surprise at this declaration of Mr. Lecompte, and say he is altogether in error. I asserted no such doctrine, uttered no such sentiment, and I am at a loss to conceive how Mr. Lecompte should so understand me. The sentiment attributed to me in these broad and unqualified terms, is an absurdity; and I am sure the public has too much respect for my understanding and intelligence to suppose me capable of entertaining it.

To show that I maintained no such sentiment I will here state the doctrine I did advance on the occasion referred to, and I can do this with great certainty, for the point was well considered. I use the very words in which it was stated, as near as they can now be recalled.

"The Whig party," I stated, "were the advo-"cates of Republican government; they believed "that all political power rightfully belonged to "the people; that the People were capable of self-"government, and entirely competent to decide "all questions involving their security and happi-"ness. But they also believed in the necessity of "organized institutions, with carefully distributed "and strictly defined powers; that public safety "was only to be secured by preserving these invi-"olate; that the will of the majority can properly "be expressed only according to the organic law; "and when so expressed it had the right and "ought to govern. There was, however another "class of politicians," I added, "who contended "that the right of the majority is omnipotent; that "no matter how expressed, rising above and be-"yond the constitution and laws, and superior to "both, the majority had the right and the power "to do whatsoever it saw fit."

This latter sentiment I dissented from and argued against as dangerous and destructive. In the course of my remarks I stated that Mr. Lecompte in his address had used language which was uncertain on this point, and left us in doubt what he meant. If he intended to be understood as expressing the letter doctrine, I was ready to join issue with him; and I proceeded at once to point out the evil consequences which had resulted and were likely to result from it.

When Mr. Lecompte came to reply, instead of meeting and disputing the proposition I had made and argued, he at once assumed that I had denied the right of the majority to rule in general terms; and expended his eloquence on a proposition which no one had or will deny, and never met or touched the real point in question.

I replied to Mr. Lecompte at once, exposed his evasion of the real point in issue, and corrected his error. Now after all this, that Mr. Lecompte could so continue to misunderstand me and put into my mouth sentiments I never expressed—sentiments which are absurd, pointless and silly—and then enlist all his powers of debate to excite the public mind against me because of them, I neither expected nor can account for.—I can only say that in my judgment he would be much more likely to win the public regard if he would meet the questions really raised, and controvert and disprove the opinions and facts which I really maintain and express.

The debate at Cambridge was held by agreement between Mr. Lecompte and myself, and the debate was to be held here in the same way. The understanding was that I was to begin in Cambridge and he reply; and here he to begin and I to reply. On my part the understanding was faithfully adhered to; there I began and he replied. But when the time for the meeting here arrived, Mr. Lecompte had not come; the people were impatient and I was compelled either to go on without him or not speak at all. I spoke, was responded to by Mr. Martin, and rejoined in a few remarks. Mr. Lecompte arrived near the close of the debate, and near night. Fatigued and unwell I did not remain to hear him, and hence had not an opportunity at the time of responding to what he said. I have since been informed of the sentiments attributed to me, and as I shall probably not have another opportunity of addressing the people of this immediate vicinity, I have adopted this method of putting the matter right.

J. W. CRISFIELD.

Easton, Sept. 15, 1847.

From the Torch Light.

Mr. Thomas as a Property Qualification Man.

In our paper of the 26th ult. we gave a substantial report of Mr. Thomas' Speech in this place, in which will be found the following words:—

"I am in favor of representation according to taxation: that is, if you pay taxes on a dollar's worth of property more than I do, I am willing you shall have a dollar's worth of influence more than I have."

Our report has been denounced by the Mail as "a lie;" by the Frederick Citizen, as "a contemptible falsehood manufactured by the Editor of the Hagerstown Torch Light, himself;" and by Loco Foco Editors and Politicians throughout the State as utterly destitute of truth. These wholesale denials render it necessary that we should bring forward some evidence of the correctness of our report, which was nothing more than a report of Mr. T.'s speech, without note or comment.

In the first place, we produce, as witnesses, *two* of the most prominent members of Mr. Thomas' own party: Jos. I. MERRICK, Esq. and Col. HENRY LEWIS. In another column will be found, *in full*, Mr. Merrick's exposition of this portion of Mr. Thomas' speech, from which we make the following extract:—

"I was standing not far from the speaker and listening with gratified attention to his able harangue, and those words [the words reported in the Torch Light,] were the subject of smiling remark between me and a friend hard by at the moment of their utterance, and to the best of my knowledge *the words* are accurately given. I heard them frequently repeated on the same evening, and could do no othererwise than admit *the words* to have been spoken, which I thought I had heard."

[Mr. Merrick, in the above paragraph, of course has reference, only, to Mr. Thomas' words, and not his meaning. See the article.]

Col. Henry Lewis, in a note appended to Mr. Merrick's article, remarks:—

"I have read the foregoing statement and remarks of Mr. Merrick and concur in every word; and am glad to be spared the trouble of writing out my views, which I could not more perfectly express."

[The Editor of the Frederick Citizen, also, who was present and heard Mr. Thomas' Speech, although he calls our report a manufactured falsehood) admits the substantial correctness of that report, by acknowledging that Mr. Thomas did say that "the man who pays five dollars ought to have more influence than the man who pays one dollar."]

So much for the testimony of Mr. Thomas' own friends. In addition to their's, we present the following:—

We, the undersigned, heard the speech of the Hon. Philip Francis Thomas, delivered at the Market House, in Hagerstown, on Tuesday the 24th ultimo, and having read the report of it in the Torch Light of August 26, 1847, are satisfied that, so far as it extends, it is *(particularly that part which refers to representation according to taxation,)* substantially correct.

H. W. DELLINGER,
ISAAC NESBITT,
GEORGE SCHLEY,
ELIE KREIGH,
JOS. LITTLE,
SAML. WELTY.

—

We the undersigned were present during the delivery of that portion of Mr. Thomas' speech in Hagerstown, which referred to the subject of Representation in the State Legislature, and the language attributed to him, in the report published in the Torch Light, concerning representation according to taxation, as recollected by us, is substantially correct.

J. B. HALL,
WM. MOTTER,
GEO. UPDEGRAFF,
WM. E. DOYLE.

It is scarcely necessary to allude to the character of the above gentlemen. The three first named have served in the Legislature of our State, and the others are well known to be amongst the most worthy of our citizens.

Thus have we brought forward a jury of twelve men, to prove "*the words*" of our report, and we hope, now, we will hear no more denials from Mr. Thomas or his friends.

☞An Irishman seeing half a hog hanging up in a slaughter house asked the butcher when he was going to kill the other half.

A schoolboy being asked by his teacher how should he flog him, replied, "if you please, sir, I should like to have it upon the Italian system—the heavy strokes upwards, and the down ones light."