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A LETTER FROM GENERAL HARRISON.

[From the Richmond Whig.]

TO THE EDITORS.

Gentlemen—I send you herewith a copy of a letter addressed by me to General Harrison, and his reply to it. My letter furnishes the whole explanation of the causes which induced me to write it—and the reply conclusively vindicates the position heretofore taken by the Whigs in respect to the opinions of Gen. Harrison. The Abolition humbug is at an end, and the Enquirer and the "Secretary of the Van Buren Committee" can no longer ride upon that bubble. The Enquirer will now be relieved from the painful duty of charging Abolitionism upon Gen. Harrison, while the Editor was satisfied, as he confessed, (as I have been most credibly informed) that he did not believe he was an Abolitionist. I am sure the Editor will find pleasure in retracting this imputation upon a venerable patriot of whom he formerly thought so well and spoke so kindly, and will announce to his party that if this charge is to be repeated, they must find another to do the "dirty work." There will be some perhaps, who will say, as they or others have done, that if General Harrison be not an Abolitionist, he is the candidate of the Abolitionists—that is they will vote for him Even this is not true; although I am sure, that many of Mr. Van Buren's drummers and trainers & possibly some of his captains, feared that it might be true, and therefore, have been most anxious to draw from Gen. Harrison a new expression of his opinions, with the view thereby to secure the votes of the Abolitionists for Mr. Van Buren, and secure his election.

If by such means the partizans of Mr. Van Buren can elect him, let them do it: but the People of Virginia, at least, will, I hope, understand the trick by which, under the pretence of opposing the Abolitionists, they are to be made *to act with them.* If this be not the design of the Van Buren managers, they will prefer to see Mr. Van Buren beaten, rather than elected by the aid of the abolitionists—because by their argument, if the abolitionists vote for him it will be evidence that he is their candidate, and an abolitionist—and his Southern friends, at least must drop him the moment it is ascertained that he is an abolitionist, or else they will, in voting for him, commit the terrible sin (as I really think it) of voting for an abolitionist. Now, I put it to the candid among the Southern friends of Mr Van Buren, to say, if there is one of them who will say, that being certain that Mr. Van Buren could be elected with the aid of the abolitionists, and must be defeated without that aid, he would prefer defeat without the aid, to success with it. I have, in public discussion, as well as in conversation, put this question to many—and I have not yet found one so uncandid as to say that he would prefer the defeat. The friends of Mr. Van Buren have too much sense to avow or practice any such folly—first, because they go for the success of the man THEY choose, without regard to the quality of the voter; and secondly, because they know that if Mr. Van Buren be not an abolitionist, (as I am sure he is not) the support of the abolitionists in this country cannot make him one. If this were not so, then the candidate would take his hue in every case from the voters, and the President being elected by the votes of abolitionists and anti-abolitionist; would be both an Abolitionist and Anti-Abolitionist; and so, being voted for by knaves as well as honest men, he would be both a knave and an honest man, which I believe exceeds the power of even the "Little Magician." This would be fatal doctrine for Mr. Van Buren, for as he certainly has retained rogues in office, and thereby supported them, while they in turn support him, by their support of him, (to say nothing of his support of them, his friends would prove him a rogue which I am sure he is not, while I condemn him deeply for not dismissing the "Rogues," and the "Royalists" along with them.

I am happy, also, in saying, that I believe that the Editor of the Enquirer, (if not, the Secretary of the Committee,) will find another source of pleasure in the confirmation now afforded to him of the judgment formerly pronounced by him upon General Harrison, when he declared not only that he was a democrat, but a democratic General, at the head of a victorious army. He spoke then as he really felt—The same patriotic and Republican spirit moved him when he pronounced the "mild" but "modest and courageous Harrison" "a Democratic General," which prompted him to denounce another very arbitrary General, "a Tyrant," and to deprecate his election as "a curse." If the distinguished Editor has not the satisfaction to know that he was right in both opinions, he will not therefore find the less gratification in the conviction that he was right in one of them and therefore promptly retract the charge made in a moment of forgetfulness (to which even the brightest old age is subject,) that General Harrison is a Federalist. He will not longer permit General Harrison to be assailed in his paper because he was the personal friend of John Adams, whose name is identified with our Revolution as one of its earliest ablest, and most fearless advocates. Those who "pig in the same truckle bed" (to use a favorite phrase of the editor) with Benton, Blair, Kendall, and Duncan cannot think it a reproach to be the personal friend of the Revolutionary patriot, in whom Washington confided, and of whom Mr. Jefferson said to Mr. Madison. "Mr. Adams and myself were cordial friends from the beginning of the Revolution." "His deviation from that line of politics, on which we had been united, has not made me less sensible of the rectitude of his heart,"—and to Mr. Gerry "I entirely commend your dispositions toward Mr. Adams, knowing his worth as intimately, and esteeming it as much, as any one, & acknowledging the preference of his claims, if any I could have had, to the high office conferred on him." Let those who support all the abuses, robberies, and usurpations which have characterized the present administration of the Federal Government, who denounce its leading measures as dangerous to liberty, and yet swear to "sink or swim" with "the man," denounce the patriot who achieved that liberty which they surrender to "the man," and proclaim it a sin to think well of him who was the friend of Washington and Jefferson—it will, perhaps, not excite surprise, (but I mistake the people of Virginia, if it does not excite disgust,) and may be in keeping with the spirit of the times, for such things have happened before.—The good and the great are always most reviled, and

The little boatman with his Peter bell,
Will sneer at him who drew Achitophel.

Very respectfully, yours,
JAMES LYONS.

Richmond, April 11th, 1840.

Dear Sir—The circumstances which this letter will explain, will excuse me, I hope for intruding myself upon your attention.

Among the numerous charges which have been put into circulation against you by the presses and partizans of Mr. Van Buren, the two most relied upon and deemed most potent in the South, are—that you are a Federalist and an abolitionist. Satisfied, from the evidence before them and the whole country, that these charges are equally unsustained by truth, your friends have met, denied, and as they believe, refuted them As the prospect of your election increases, however and the heart of the patriot revives with the hope of the success of one, from whom he expects a wise, economical, and Republican Administration, the malignity of your enemies seems to increase, and the spoilsmen become more reckless and desperate in their efforts to retain the power by which they make their spoil—Of this, the conclusive evidence will be found in the Richmond Enquirer of the 10th inst., in a production purporting to be an address from the Van Buren Central Committee here. In that address, it is roundly asserted that you are a Federalist and an Abolitionist, and that your friends in the South support you, knowing that you are so. This statement is made here with a knowledge of the views entertained by the Whigs of Virginia, as expressed in the address to the people of the State, published by their Convention, which was held in this city in the month of February last, of which I send you a copy by the mail of this day. I regard the charge, therefore, as an impudent falsehood against you, as it certainly is against the Whigs of Virginia, at whom it is especially levelled, and if made by an anonymous scribbler in a newspaper, might be passed by with contempt. But as the charge is now put forth in an imposing form, and the subject of Abolition is one of absorbing interest and paramount importance—and as I could not, and I am sure the Whigs of Virginia, and the South generally, would not vote for any Abolitionist living to be President of the United States, (scarcely sooner than they would for a Florida Indian;) and as I have been placed before the People of this State for the office of Elector upon the Whig Ticket, I have thought it due to you, to the Whig cause, and to myself, to ask you to furnish, under your own hand your denial of the charge, in a letter to me, which I may publish.

I beg leave to say, that the denial which I expect will, in my opinion, advance your cause with all good and reflecting men through the land; but whether it will advance or injure it, it is equally due to yourself and to us, that you should furnish it, as I am satisfied that you would be as unwilling to advance that cause by any fraud, as we should be to be made the instruments apparently, or dupes of it. Be pleased, therefore to say to me, whether you still entertain the sentiments upon the subject of Abolition expressed in your speech at Vincennes, in 1835; whether you ever were a member of an Abolition Society in Virginia, and whether you have designated the Richmond Society as an Abolition Society; and what was your political connection, if any, with the old Federal party.

With great respect, I am, sir, your friend, &c.

JAMES LYONS.

To Gen. W. H. Harrison, Cincinnati, Ohio.

GENERAL HARRISON'S REPLY.

North Bend, 1st June, 1840.

My Dear Sir—When I received your letter of the 14th April I was very unwell with a violent cold in the head, which terminated in intermittent neuralgia, or sun pain, as it is commonly called, which was so much increased by writing, that I was obliged for some time to do very little in that way. When I recovered, my unanswered letters had increased to so fearful a mass that I have not yet been able to get through it, even with the assistance of MY CONSCIENCE KEEPING COMMITTEE. And although I have adopted the method of getting rid of a large portion of them by committing them to the flames instead of the committee, such are the constant interruptions to which I am subjected by a constant stream of visitors, that I am able to make very little progress in lessening my file. You have in the above my apology for treating you with apparent neglect, which it was impossible that I should do, as well from your high standing in society, as from the regard I feel for you in consequence of the long and intimate friendship and connexion between our families. But for those reasons, candor induces me to say, that I could never have brought myself to answer the political part of your letter at all. I am convinced that upon reflection you will yourself think that it was totally unnecessary, for I cannot suppose that my personal friends & connexions in my native State could think that I was less of a gentleman and an honest man than those ardent politicians farther South, Stanly, Alford, Lagare, Dawson, King, &c. They take it for granted that I could not suffer my Vincennes speech and others to be quoted by my friends to show my opinions on the subject of abolitionism, if I did not hold those opinions at this time—they have therefore treated with scorn and contempt the charge of my being an Abolitionist, and truly assert that I have done and suffered more to support Southern Rights than any other person north of *Mason and Dixon's line.* I have indeed, a great number of applications from individuals (nine tenths, at least my opponents,) requiring me to reiterate what I have said or written upon the subject of the United States Bank, Abolitionism, &c. I have declined to answer them of late at all; amongst other reasons because it was physically impossible that I should do it, and as they all require my opinions in manuscript, particularly addressed to the writers, they would not be satisfied with my writing one letter and sending a printed copy to each. I was determined, however, to avail myself of the first favorable opportunity, and referring to the letters and speeches I had made on the subjects I have mentioned, to endorse them all. This I have recently done in a letter to a committee appointed by the Whig members of the Legislature of New York. You will probably see it published by the time this reaches you. In relation to the discussion between Mr Randolph and myself in the Senate, of which a statement is annexed to the address, what better evidence could be given that there is no possibility of satisfying my political enemies by any thing that I could write, than the garbled account which they have given of that discussion? If the charge made upon me by Mr. Randolph is authentic, taken from a newspaper report, surely my answer to him should be considered so also. It is worthy of remark, too, that Mr. Randolph made no reply to my answer to his attack, and that he was not a man to leave a matter in that situation if he could avoid it. The truth is, that I believe he really regretted his attack upon me. He repeatedly told me so, and frequently solicited me to bury the hatchet at a friendly dinner with him which I agreed to do. At the dinner were Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Hayne, and Gen. Hamilton, and many others, all but myself of the Jackson party. Our friendly intercourse was never afterwards interrupted. In reply to your inquiry as to my connexion with the old Federal party, I will state to you the circumstances under which I received two appointments from Mr. John Adams. In the year 1796 Gen. Wayne left the army on a visit to Philadelphia. I had been recently married and tendered to him my resignation as his aid-de-camp, but he declined receiving it; saying he could very well dispense with my services on his journey. It was during this trip that he obtained the promise of Gen. Washington to give me a civil appointment, as I had expressed my determination to leave the army. This promise the President repeated to my brother, Carter B. Harrison then in Congress, with some very kind remarks upon my conduct in the army.—When General Washington left the Presidency, I have reason to believe that he obtained a promise from Mr. Adams to fulfil his intentions. When the office of the Secretary of the North Western Territory became vacant, Mr. Adams appointed me, although I was opposed by Col. Pickering, the Secretary of State. In 1799, I was selected by the REPUBLICAN PARTY of the Territorial Legislature to be their candidate for the appointment of delegate to Congress.

Between Mr. Arthur St. Clair, Jr., (the son of Gov. St. Clair,) the Federal candidate and myself, the votes were divided precisely as the two parties stood in the Legislature, with the exception of one Republican who was induced by his regard for the Governor to vote for his son. The vote was 11 to 10, not one of the nine Federalists voting for me.—Before I left Cincinnati, the Republican members made me promise not to suffer my known opposition to the measures of the Administration to interfere with the attainment of the great object for which I was sent. Upon my arrival in Philadelphia, I was received by Mr. Adams in the most flattering manner. At his dinner parties, where I was often a guest, he seemed to take great pleasure in speaking of my father's services in the Revolutionary Congress, relating many anecdotes to show his devotion to the cause, and the effect which his pleasantries produced in cheering them in the gloom, which the occasional unpromising state of their affairs often produced. I had no conversation with Mr. Adams on politics, farther than to explain to him my views in relation to the change in the system of selling the Public Lands, which I was glad to find he approved. As soon as the law was passed for the division of the North Western Territory, I was informed that it was the intention of Mr. Adams to nominate me to the Government of Indiana. I hesitated not a moment to declare that I would not accept it, although very much pressed to do so by several leading Federal members of Congress. I was not long in discovering the motives of these gentlemen. There had been some meetings of the people of the Territory, in which resolutions had been adopted recommending me to the President for the Government of the Territory, (North Western) instead of Gov. St. Clair.

Those resolutions, with correspondent addresses, had been fowarded to the President and Senate. Now it so happened that two distinguished Senators had fixed their eyes upon the same office. One of them, who had been most urgent for me to go to Indiana, had large possessions in the North Western Territory, which was probably one reason for his wishing to go there,

But the main object was to secure the *Territory to the Federal party, when it* should become a State, which it was known would soon be the case. To carry out this plan, it was necessary to get me out of the way. The appointment was pressed upon me, notwithstanding my refusal to take it. At length my relations and friends the Messrs. Nicholas, Wilson Cary of the Senate, and John of the House, prevailed on me to accept it. They pointed out the advantages to myself, & assured me that there was no doubt of Mr. Jefferson's election in the ensuing November, that I should be continued Governor of Indiana, and some Republican succeed Governor St. Clair in the North Western Territory.

I therefore accepted the appointment, with a determination, as Indiana had no voice in the choice of the President, that I would take no part in the contest.

I have thus given you a full account of my connexion with the Presidency of Mr. Adams. I will conclude by saying, that Mr. Jefferson lost no time after his inauguration, to assure me of his favour and his confidence, and I think there is sufficient evidence that I retained both to the end of his administration.

In answer to the enquiry why I used the word "Abolition" in designating a society of which I was a member in Richmond, in the year 1791, instead of the word "Humane," which is known to be the one by which the society was really distinguished?—All that I can say upon the subject, is, that if I did realy term it an Abolition Society, a fact which I can still hardly believe, [for I have not been able to see the paper containing my address to the people of the District in 1822,] it must have been from forgetfulness which might easily happen after a lapse of 31 years. At any rate, the word Abolition was not understood to mean in 1822, what it now means. There can be no doubt that the society of which Mr. Tarlton Pleasants was a member, and which in his publication in the Richmond Whig, he calls the "Humane Society of Richmond," [and by this title Judge Catch, who gave me the certificate in 1822, also designated it,] was the same of which I was a member Mr. Pleasants was a member in 1797, I in 1791—Mr. Robert Pleasants was the President at the former period, as he was when I was admitted.

I do not wish what I have said above, to be published, but I have no objection that the facts should be stated, and reference made to me as having furnished them.

I have written to a friend in Congress, Mr. Joseph Williams of Tennessee, showing the connection which existed between the Hamilton county Corresponding Committee and myself, and authorised him to make it public.

I was about to make some further observations, when I was interrupted by a party of gentlemen from Louisville, and must conclude by assuring you that I am, Very truly, yours,

WM. H. HARRISON.

"THE PROSPECT BEFORE US."

The inquiry is frequently addressed to us, both at home and from a distance, for our opinion in regard to the probable result of the issue about to the tried by the People of the United States between Martin Van Buren and William Henry Harrison. We beg to refer all such inquiries to the subjoined. It was written, not for the public eye, or for public effect, but in the sincerity and freedom of private correspondence, and by a man whose extensive sources of information, and whose care in sifting and comparing facts and probabilities, combined with his clear judgment and known candor, impart to his opinions a value and weight superior to those of any other citizen within our knowledge. The justice of this tribute will be admitted by all who know the writer when they perceive the name to be that of the distinguished Senator of New York, Nathaniel P. Tallmadge. The letter first appeared in the Richmond Whig, and was addressd to a gentleman of that city. The editor remarks, "The author will be recognized without the publication of his name," and adds, "It was written with no expectation of its meeting the public eye."—Since, however, it has met the public eye, Mr. T. has given his consent to its appearance with his name affixed, and no name could give to such a statement higher claims to respect and credence.

[Nat. Intel.

WASHINGTON, May 29, 1840.

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 26th inst. was duly received.

It is surprising to me that Ritchie's bragging in the Richmond Enquirer about New York should give our friends one moment's uneasiness. It is his "vocation" and it is the habit of the Federal Locofoco party to brag the louder the more they are beaten. Since their overthrow in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Virginia, and in certain local elections in Pennsylvania, their prospects have brightened wonderfully! They are *looking up,* because they have no more to lose. I understand their game perfectly. They know they cannot make a decent fight in other States, unless they can persuade their friends that Mr. Van Buren can recover New York. Without it, he has not the remotest chance of success. As to his prospects in New York, I have no hesitation in giving you my candid opinion, that he will be beaten by a *much* larger majority than that of the last two years. I have the best sources of information. I have an extensive correspondence all over the State, and, from my peculiar position, am enabled to judge with much accuracy of our elections For the last two years, I have predicted the result with an accuracy almost equal to the official canvass—and I now say to you that General Harrison's majority, in my judgment, will *not be less than* FIFTEEN THOUSAND. We hope to swell it much beyond that. I have not heard of a single man that has gone over to the Administration since the last election. But I know and have heard of hundreds and hundreds, in different counties, who have abandoned it since that time, and are now co-operating with their old Democratic Republican friends in putting down Mr. Van Buren's old Federal doctrines. Amongst this number, are men of the highest standing and influence in their respective counties.

What possible ground, then, is there for Mr. Ritchie or any other man to claim New York for this Federal Administration? It is preposterous. What claims do they present to the People, from which they expect to derive more favor than for the last three years? The confidence of the people has been more and more impaired during that period; the mercantile, the manufacturing, and the mechanic interests of the country have heretofore felt the deleterious influence of the measures of the Administration. Now, that influence has reached the farming interest—and you may rely upon it, none of these interest will tamely submit to have their goods, their manufactures, their labor, and the products of the soil, as well as their lands, reduced one-half or two-thirds in value, in order to enjoy the blessings of the *hard money currency of Cuba,* or of any other despotism, whose example the President has recommended for our imitation. No, sir, the free laborers of this country will never consent to have the price of their labor reduced to the same level with the peasants of Germany or the serfs of Russia; nor will the tillers of the soil consent that the products of their farms shall be reduced in price so low as not to pay the cost of production; nor will the farmers consent that the lands shall be reduced two-thirds in value—that where they have purchased a farm, for example, for $15,000, paid $10 000 in cash, and mortgaged it for $5,000, that it shall be sold from under them for the amount of the mortgage, and their wives and children turned out of doors, without shelter and without bread. Such are the legitimate effects of the doctrines now maintained by this Administration, and which its friends and supporters are every where urging upon the country; and which will be established beyond the hope of redemption, if Mr. Van Buren shall be re-elected.

Of his re-election there is not the faintest prospect. In regard to New York—I speak without the least hesitation, and with the most entire confidence—he has no possible hope of success there. Why should he have? The changes have been constantly against him for the last three years, and none in his favor. At the extra session in 1837 I predicted his overthrow in that State. At the November election of that year he was swept away as by a hurricane. At the next session of Congress he apologized to his friends by saying that there were 40,000 voters who did not come to the polls, but would be out for him at the next election. Well, sir, in 1838 these 40,000 came out, and 25,000 in addition, and he was beaten by more than 10,000 majority. —He again consoled his friends for this unexpected defeat by saying that in the next campaign he would take the field in person. He did so; he traversed the whole State on a mere electioneering tour, and with the exception of the city of New York, the result in the Legislature showed a larger majority against him than the year before. In almost every contested county the popular vote against him was increased. There was no falling off, but from local causes, any where, except in the old Western district, which is so immensely strong that there was no necessity of giving a full vote but at a general election. That old district will give Harrison *fifteen thousand* majority.

The late charter election in the city of New York has satisfied both friend and foe that under the registry law Harrison will carry the city in the fall by a decisive vote. You must recollect, too, that last year we had every thing to discourage and dishearten our friends, Many gave up all for lost after they heard the disastrous accounts from Tennessee and Indiana. But there were some indomitable spirits that never doubt or falter in a good cause. They rallied, and soon convinced the People that New York could sustain herself, and was not to be influenced by any news abroad, however unpropritious. At this time, every man of the Opposition is confident of success. It is not an over-confidence that begets inaction; it is a confidence which invigorates and inspires, and which impels to greater exertion. It is a confidence, in short, which will justify the expectations of our friends and disappoint the hopes of our enemies.

After all we have done in New York for the last three years, under the most unfavorable auspices, it is not a little mortifying to us now, with all our bright *prospects before us,* that a single friend abroad should for one moment permit a doubt of our triumphant success in the fall to cross his mind. *New York is just as certain for Harrison as that the time of election comes round.* And if my old friend Ritchie, who goes for *men* and not *principles,* would like to venture a suit of clothes on the issue, I should be pleased to accommodate him; or if he does not choose to venture it on New York, I will take it on the Union: or if, as Bardolph says, he will be better accommodated," I will take a suit on each.

A Democratic Republican State Convention will soon be called at the old head quarters at Syracuse. It will be held about the first of October. There will be a Conservative rally on that occasion, such as has not been known before in the State. The real Democracy will be there, to take the most effectual measures against the Federal usurpations of Mr. Van Buren. New York adheres to her old Democratic Republican principles, and will not be driven into the *ultra-Federalism* of this Administration. From the days of Gen. Clinton to the present time, she has resisted the encroachments of Executive power and the usurpations of the Federal Government. She will continue to resist them, whether urged upon her by Martin Van Buren or Thomas Ritchie. It is no reason, because these gentlemen have abandoned their principles and turned *Federalists,* that the Democratic Republicans of New York or of Virginia should follow their example. In New York they will adhere to their old principles, and will assemble in Convention at Syracuse to resist Federal aggressions as our forefathers assembled, in the time of the Revolution, to resist the Stamp Act and the Tea Tax. I beg, therefore, you will dismiss all apprehensions about New York, and set down her 42 votes as the capital on which Harrison will commence business; and that I think is a pretty fair begining for a "log cabin and hard cider candidate." I have devoted myself, for the last three years, to the reform of this Administration, I have enlisted for the war, and you may rest assured that I shall not stop till the final battle in November is fought and won. That accomplished, and Harrison elected, I shall feel that the country is safe, our free institutions restored to their original purity, and that we may once more enter upon a train of uninterrupted prosperity. And I shall also feel that I can say, with much greater propriety than Mr. Van Buren said on another occasion, "It is glory enough to have served under such a chief,"

I have written a much longer letter than I intended when I commenced; but, having said this much I will add a little

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