EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE--"Literature well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engine by which Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agricult makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all."

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LETTER OF GEN. HARRISON ON FARMING.

Very few men in this country have a greater versatility of talent than Gen. Harrison. Some of his papers, on political subjects, are unrivalled, in beauty of composition, statesman like views, and sound Democratic Republican principles. His warning letter to Bolivar, when he was about to assume absolute power, is among that number. We know of no document of which any public might be more proud. His speeches too in Congress and elsewhere are highly respectable. Gen. Harrison is not only a statesman, but has closely studied the deversified interests of the people. That he is a practical farmer, and understands the interests of that large and respectable portion of our people may be seen by reading the following letter. The farmers will be proud of such a candidate:

NORTH BEND, Oct. 26 h, 1837.

Dear Sir:—I duly received the 1st number of the Buckeye Plough Boy which you were good enough to send to me. I should have made this acknowledgement sooner, and requested to be placed on your subscription list, but have been prevented by sickness in my family, and pressing calls upon my time by my agricultural operations. I sincerely wish you success in your laudable undertaking to diffuse information upon the important subject to which you have devoted your paper It is however, true (and I regret to say it) that many of our farmers appear to be insensible to the advantage of such publications. I believe, however, that an improvement in this particular is gradually going on, & that the benefits which the agricultural interest derives from them will soon be generally felt and acknowledged In this particular some of our sister States east of the Alleghany ridge are considerably ahead of us; and a correspondent improvement in the management and product of their farms has been the consequence. The agricultural societies established in various parts of his State have done something towards correcting this inequality, particularly in the improvement of the Domestic Anils; and if our Legislature would lend its aid, we might soon be able favorably to compare with that of any of the States. The State of New York allows to each of their county Societies a sum equal to what they receive from private contributions. In France the Government bears all the expenses of a Society, established in the Capital with ramifications in every part of the Kingdom. It is under the patronage of this Society, established by Napoleon, that the cultivation of the Sugar Beet has been so widely extended to the great benefit of the nation. Ohio has appropriated large sums to the construction of canals and roads for facilitating the transportation of the products of agriculture to market. I can see no reason why they should not do something towards increasing the quantity and improving the quality of those products. Our Agricultural Societies are most of them in a languishing state, and without legislative aid many of them will unquestionably discontinue their operations. Appropriations of this kind are like those which a farmer makes in fertilizing and improving his soil, adding frequently to his income an hundred fold. Thus it is with an expenditure from the Treasury, for improving the products of husbandry, the wealth of the people being increased, they will be enabled to return to those advances with immense interest whenever the exigencies of the Government require it. The agricultural products of Ohio are indeed very considerable, but this is due more to the bounty of Providence in having furnished us with so fertile a soil, than to the character of our tillage. Many of our farmers seem indeed not aware of the extraordinary results to be produced by a judicious course of tillage, and how soon a naturally poor soil may be made eminently productive, whilst one naturally rich, may be brought down in its yield to the standard of the poorest by bad management. In England innumerable instances of the former constantly occur, and the process by which it is effected being disseminated through the country by the means of the Agricultural Societies, and the periodical publications supported by them, the number of such instances are constantly increasing, whilst with us the eye of the traveller often lights upon fields whose products are diminished fifty per cent, from what they yielded when first cleared, by injudicious management. A single instance of what I have said in relation to England may suffice. The County of Norfolk has perhaps, more poor land than any other in that Kingdom, and it is not only poor but sandy. In a district of this kind Mr. Coke, celebrated for his constant support of the liberties of the people in Parliament, as for his knowledge of Agriculture, purchased a large tract of land.—When it first came into his hands he says that there were scarcely any living animals upon it but Rabbits, and they were in a starving condition. An American citizen who has lately visted his seat, says, that he had last year between six and seven hundred acres in Wheat and Barley, and that the products of his fields was oftener forty bushels to the acre than under that quantity. Although various means were adopted by the sagacious mind of Mr. Coke to effect this result, the basis upon which it rested was the cultivation of the turnips. Upon such a soil, grass at first was out of the question, but by much labor in the cultivation turnips might be raised and sheep be sustained by turnips. So the turnips fed the sheep and the sheep *fed* the land, and in a short time the land was strong enough to bring both grass and grain.—By a judicious management of these the land was still further improved until it reached the perfection above stated. But in nineteen twentieths of our fine State all that is requisite is to keep the land in the condition in which we found it, and to do that, all that is necessary is to adopt a proper succession of crops. This alone will do; without the trouble and expense of manuring. All of our practical farmers know very well that the continued growth of the same kind of grain upon the same field will, in time, greatly impoverish it, and lessen the product: but that by alternating the various kinds of grain good crops may be obtained for many successive years. Still the land will be deteriorated unless recourse be had to manure or some vegetable which will give to the land more than it takes from it. There are various articles which have been employed for that purpose, but perhaps, the best of them all is the red clover. This grass has proved one of the greatest blessings to the agriculturalists both of America and Europe.—With the aid of this grass many farms in the Atlantic States have been brought from actual barreanness to become very productive. To accomplish this, however, plaster, lime, vegetable, or animal manure are necessary. The Ohio farmer however wants none of these, at least none are necessary to keep up the natural fertility of this land. A crop of clover succeeding three successive grain crops, and remaining two years, will effectually answer the purpose and the farmer who follows this course will deliver his land to his successor, after a forty or fifty years use of it in better condition than when he received it. Every good farmer knows all this, but unfortunately many understand the theory who do not carry it into practice Many too, suppose that if they but change the crop from corn to small grain of some kind or other, that they may then go back again to corn without injuring the land. This is a mistake. The best of land will be injured in time by this process. The fact that a change of crop was necessary to produce a good yield, has long been known but the reason of its being so was never guessed at until the discovery of it lately by a French Chemist. By a series of ingenious experiments this gentleman discovered that most vegetable (the farinaceous grains more particularly) not only received nourishment from the earth through the agency of the vessels of their roots, but that they also by the same or different set of vessels made by a deposite of substance in the earth which remained there until taken up by the roots of other plants. This substance being convertible into food for a different vegetable but not that by which the deposite was made. This satisfactorily explains the reason why a good crop, (of wheat for instance) cannot be raised for a succession of years from the same field. If the land is remarkably strong two and three good crops may be raised, the plants in this instance finding sufficient nourishment, from the natural strength of the ground. But if (the ground) from the yearly deposite becomes at length so completely saturated with it as no longer to afford the required nourishment, and the plants of consequence are weak, sickly, and unproductive. Seed of another kind, however, committed to this same field will reward the sower with an abundant crop, and after the lapse of a few years it will be again ready to receive another crop of wheat, the intermediate crops having exhausted the wheat deposite and it leaves others peculiar to themselves, which being taken up by the roots of the latter plants, are elaborated in their vessels and formed into a suitable and wholesome nourishment. As I have remarked however, although the white grain crops (corn, wheat, oats, &c.) may succeed each other for some years without greatly injuring land that is naturally of a good quality, still it will be ultimately impoverished unless some other crop is occasionaly intervened, of a character altogether different. These grains, although essentially different in their qualities, and manner of growth are still of the same class, and there must of course be a considerable coincidence in the character of the support which they draw from the earth, and the manner in which it is converted into the farinaceous substance which is the common and essential part of the perfected grain in all of them. The plant of all others which seems best calculated to exhaust the deleterious deposites left in the earth by the grain crops, and to form a fresh supply of food for them by the mysterious operations of roots and vessels, is the red clover. To make the most of this plant as a renovator of the soil, it should be (as is the practice with good farmers) ploughed in after it has attained its full maturity. In this way it furnishes a large mass of vegetable manure which greatly contributes to the fertility of the soil. But if this were all the good it does, it would be no more than ploughing in any other equally succulent plant. I contend, however, that it imparts to the soil a degree of fertility which cannot be accounted for from the rotting of its stalks; leaves and roots after they are ploughed in, and that the mere *growing* of the article upon the ground adds greatly to its fertility. I do not know that any experiments have been made to ascertain the quantity of deposite made by clover; as was the case in relation to the farinaceous grains by the French Chemist above referred to, but I am certain that any very careful observer of the effects of clover in improving the soil, will come to the same conclusion that I have, which is, that it possesses a fertilizing quality which is totally independent of that which is given by the decays of its roots, stalks, and leaves. The best farmers, as I have said plough in the clover when it is at maturity, or at least when it has attained a considerable part of its growth; but the greater part feed it down to the ground before it is ploughed, leaving nothing to be converted into manure for the support of the crop about to be sown, but the roots.—Now the decay of these roots in the ground could not alone produce the fertility which a two years growth of clover is known to give. Three years ago I sowed a field with clover upon wheat in February. It was remarkably fine, being half leg high in September. It was fed down, and in the succeeding winter it was entirely killed by the frost In the spring the field was ploughed up for corn. The roots of clover were dry and withered, and would of themselves, have given little or no assistance to the crop; but yet it was fine and the land had evidently been improved by the clover. It is fortunate that the theory which has been established in relation to the farinaceous grains, is true also, as to many of the noxious plants, and those most troublesome to the agriculturists; such as the common Dock, the Thistle, the Dog Fennel, and the Thorn Apple, or James Town Weed. Some years ago a friend of mine who was very desirous to rid his farm of the first mentioned plant, told me that he had cut up all the dock in the greater part of one of his meadows, leaving only a small part where it was so thick that there was grass on it. To his astonishment, he found the next year that in this last mentioned spot all the dock was dead, whereas a good deal of that which he had cut up, & he supposed had extirpated, vegetated afresh. I was unable to account for it at that time, but the difficulty now appears to be very easy of solution. The spot where the dock was thickest, had no doubt been growing there for some years, until the ground had become so saturated with its deposite that it could no longer find nourishment to support it, and therefore died. Ten years ago, the Thistle, that "Votress of the Gales" as Darwin calls it, was unknown in this part of the country. But it soon came to us in clouds "borne on broad wings" and created the apprehension that it would take entire possession of our pastures and meadows. I began to make war upon it as my friend did upon the dock, but I found it lasted but a short time, always disappearing after the second year from the spot where it had been previously thickest, although the ground was covered with its seed.

I could add many more facts to confirm the theory I have supported but have already written enough to tire your patience

Accept my best wishes,
and believe me with great respect
your humble servant,
W. H. HARRISON.

Dr. R. Fry.

GENERAL HARRISON'S SPEECH AT FORT MEIGS.

[Reported by the Editor of the Detroit Advertiser.]

FELLOW CITIZENS—

I am not, upon this occasion, before you, in accordance with my own individual views or wishes. It has ever appeared to me, that the office of President of the United States should not be *sought* after by any individual; but that the people should, spontaneously, and with their own free will, accord the distinguished honor to the man who they believed would best perform its important duties. Entertaining these views, I should, fellow citizens, have remained at home, but for the pressing and friendly invitation which I have received from the citizens of Perrysburgh, and the earnestness with which its acceptation was urged upon me by friends in whom I trusted, and whom I am now proud to see around me. If, however, fellow citizens, I had not complied with that invitation—if I had remained at home—believe me, my friends, that my spirit would have been with you; for where, in this beautiful land, is there a place calculated, as this is, to recall long past reminiscences, and revive long slumbering, but not wholly extinguis[hed], emotions in my bosom? In casting [my] eyes around, fellow citizens, they [rest] upon the spot where the gallant Wa[yne] triumphed so gloriously [over] his enemies, and carried out those principles [which] it seemed his pleasure to impress [upon] my mind, and in which it was ever my happiness humbly to attempt to imitate him. It was there fellow citizens I saw the banner of the United States float in triumph over the field of victory. There it was where was laid the foundation of the prosperity of the now wide spread and beautiful West. It was there I beheld the indignation frown upon the British Lion. It was there I saw the youth of our land learn out the lesson they imbibed from the gallant Wayne—the noblest an American can acquire, to love his country when called to do so.

At this moment the speaker's eye fell upon Colonel Hedges, when he said: "Gen Hedges, why you come up here? You have stood by my side in the hour of battle, and I cannot bear to see you at so great a distance now." Immense cheering followed this considerate recognition, and the cries of "raise him up," had scarcely been uttered, when General Hedges was carried forward to the stand.]

The General continued. It was there I saw my beloved companions—the companions of my youth. It was now my duty to submit to the stern etiquette of military life, then to mourn their departure. I may now drop a tear over their graves as the recollection of their virtues is worth.

In 1[812] fellow citizens; I received my commission to serve under Gen Wayne. In 1[794] I was his aid at the battle of the Mi[mi]. Nineteen years afterwards, I had the honor of again being associated with many of those who were my companions in arms then. Nineteen years afterwards, I found myself Commander-in-Chief of the North Western Army; I found no diminution in the bravery of the American soldier. I found the same spirit of valor in all—not in the regular soldier only, but in the enrolled militia and volunteer also.

What glorious reminiscences do the view of these scenes around me recall to my mind? When I consented to visit this memorable spot, I expected that a thousand pleasant associations (would to God there were no painful associations connected with it) would be recalled—that I should meet thousands of my fellow citizens here—and among them many of my old companions—met here to rear a new altar to Liberty in place of the one which bad men had prostrated.

[Here the General looked around as if for some water, when the cry was raised "give the General some hard cider." This was done, much to the satisfaction of the multitude.]

And, fellow citizens, (continued the General,) I will not attempt to conceal from you, that, in coming here, I expected that I should receive from you, those evidences of regard which a generous people are ever willing to bestow upon those whom they believe are honest in their endeavors to serve their country. I receive these evidences of regard and esteem as the only reward at all adequate to compensate for the anxieties and anguish which, in the past, I experienced upon this spot. Is there any man of sensibility, or possessing a feeling of self respect, who asks what those feelings were? Do you suppose that the Commander-in-Chief finds his reward in the glitter and splendor of the camp, or in the forced obedience of the masses around him? These are not pleasures under all circumstances—these are not the rewards which a soldier seeks.—I ask any man to place himself in my situation, and then say whether the extreme pain and anguish which I endured, and which every person similarly situated must have endured, can meet with any adequate compensation except by such expressions of the confidence and gratitude of the people, as that with which you, fellow citizens, have this day honored me? These feelings are common to all commanders of sense and sensibility. The commanders of Europe possess them, although placed at the head of armies reared to war. How much more naturally would those feelings attach to a commander situated as I was? For of what materials was the army composed which was placed under my command: The soldiers who fought and bled and triumphed here, were lawyers, who had thrown up their briefs—physicians, who had laid aside their instruments—mechanics who had put by their tools—and, in far the largest proportion, agriculturists, who had left their ploughs in the furrow, although their families depended for their bread upon their exertions, and who hastened to the battle field to give their lives to the country if it were necessery, to maintain her rights. I could point from where I now stand, to places where I felt this anxiety pressing heavily upon me, as I thought of the fearful consequence of a mistake on my part, or the want of judgment on the part of others. I knew there were wives who had given their husbands to the field—mothers who had clothed their sons for battle; and I knew that these expecting wives and mothers were looking for the safe return of their husbands and sons. When to this was added the recollection, that the peace of the entire West would be broken up, and the glory of my country tarnished if I failed, you may possibly conceive the anguish which my situation was calculated to produce. Feeling my responsibility, I personally supervised and directed the arrangement of the army under my command. I trusted to no Colonel or other officer. No person had any hand in any disposition of the army.—Every step of warfare, whether for good or ill, was taken under my own direction, and by none other, as many who now hear me know. Whether every movement would or would not pass the criticism of Bonaparte or Wellington, I knew not; but whether they would induce applause or censure, upon myself it must fall.

But, fellow citizens, still another motive induced me to accept the invitation which had been so kindly extended to me. I knew that here I should meet with many who fought and bled under my command—that I should have the pleasure of taking them by the hand, and recurring, with them, to the scenes of the past. I expected, too, to meet with a few of the great and good men yet surviving, by whose efforts our freedom was achieved. This pleasure alone would have been sufficient to have induced my visit to this interesting spot upon this equally interesting occasion. I see *my old companions* here, and I see not a few of the revolutionary veterans around me. Would to God that it had ever been in my power to have made them comfortable and happy—that their sun might go down in peace! But, fellow citizens, they remain unprovided for—monuments of the ingratitude of my country. It was with the greatest difficulty that the existing pension act was passed through Congress. But why was it restricted? Why were the brave soldiers who fought under Wayne excluded? Soldiers who suffered far more than they who fought in the revolution proper. The revolution, in fact, did not terminate until 1794—until the battle was fought upon the battle ground upon which my eye now rests (Miami.) There never was a treaty of peace with the Indians. War continued with them from the commencement of the revolution until the victory of Wayne, to which I have just alluded.—The great highway to the West was the scene of unceasing slaughter. Then why this unjust discrimination? Why are the soldiers who terminated the war of the revolution, in fact excluded while those by whom it was begun, or a portion of them are rewarded? I will tell you why. The poor remnant of Wayne's army had but few advocates, while those who had served in the revolution proper, *had plenty of* friends.—Scattered, as they were, over all parts of the Union, and in large numbers, they could exert an influence at the ballot box—They could whisper thus in the ears of those who sought their influence at the polls:—"Take care, for I have waited long enough for what has been promised The former plea of poverty can no longer be made. The treasury is now full. Take care, your seat is in danger." "Oh! yes; every thing that has been promised shall be attended to if you will give me your votes." In this way fellow citizens, tardy, but partial, justice was done to the soldiers of the revolution. They made friends by their influence at the ballot box. But it was different with Gen. Wayne's soldier's. They were but a few in number, and they had but one or two humble advocates to speak for them in Congress. The result has been, justice has been withheld.

I have said that the soldiers under Wayne experienced greater hardships even than the soldiers of the revolution. This is so. Every one can appreciate the difference between an Indian and a regular war. When wounded in battle, the soldier must have warmth and shelter before he can recover.—This could always be secured by the soldier of the revolution. In those days, the latch string of no door was pulled in. When wounded, he was sure to find shelter and very many of those comforts so essential to the sick, but which the soldier in an Indian war cannot procure. Instead of shelter and warmth, he is exposed to the thousand ills incident to Indian warfare. Yet no relief was extended to those who had thus suffered.

After the war closed under Wayne, I retired; and when I saw a man poorer than all others, wandering about the land, decrepid and decayed by intemperance, it was unnecessary to inquire whether he had ever belonged to Wayne's army. His condition was a guarantee of that—was a sufficient assurance that he had wasted his energies among the unwholsome swamps of the West, in the defence of the rights of his fellow citizens, and for the maintenance of the honor and glory of his country.

Well, fellow citizens I can only say, that if it should ever be in my power to pay the debt which is due these brave but neglected men, that debt shall first of all be paid. And I am very well satisfied that the government can afford it PROVIDED THE LATCH-STING OF THE TREASURY SHALL EVER BE MORE CAREFULLY PULLED IN. Perhaps you will ask me for some proof of my friendship for old soldiers. If so, I can give it you from the records of Congress. When the fifteen hundred dollar law was reported, I opposed it, as I opposed changing the pay of members of Congress from six to eight dollars until we had done justice to, and provided for these soldiers. You will find my votes upon this question, among the records of Congress, and my speech upon it, in the published debates of the time.

I will now, fellow citizens, give you my reasons for having refused to give pledges and opinions more freely than I have done since my nomination to the Presidency. Many of the statements published upon this subject, are by no means correct; but it is true that it is my opinion that no pledge should be made by an individual when in nomination for any office in the gift of the people. And why? Once adopt it, and the battle will no longer be to the strong—to the virtuous—or to the sincere lover of his country; but to him who is prepared to tell the greatest number of lies, and to proffer the largest number of pledges, which he never intends to carry out. I suppose that the best guarantee which an American citizen could have of the correctness of the conduct of an individual in the future, would be his conduct in the past, when he had no temptation before him, to practice deceit.

Now, fellow citizens, I have not altogether grown grey under the helmet of my country, although I have worn it for some time. A large portion of my life has been passed in the civil departments of government. Examine my conduct there, and the most tenacious democrat I use the word in its proper sense; I mean not to confine it to parties, for there are good men in both—may, doubtless discover faults, but he will find no single act calculated to derogate from the rights of the people.

However, to prove the reverse of this, I have been called a Federalist. [Here was a loud cry of "the charge is a lie—a base lie. You are no Federalist."]—Well, what is a Federalist? I recollect what the word formerly signified, and there are many others present who recollect its former signification also.—They know that the federal party were accused of a design to strengthen the hands of the general government at the expense of the separate States That accusation could not, nor cannot apply to me. I was brought up after the strictest manner of Virginian anti-federalism. St. Paul himself was not a greater devotee to the doctrines of the Pharisees, than was I, by inclination and a father's precepts and example, to anti-federalism. I was taught to believe that sooner or later that fatal catastrophe to human liberty would take place—that the general government would swallow up all the state governments, and that one department of the government would swallow up all the other departments. I do not know whether my friend Mr. Van Buren (and he is, and I hope ever will be, my personal friend) has a throat that can swallow every thing: but I do know, that if his measures are all carried out, he will lay a foundation for others to do so, if he does not.

What reflecting man, fellow citizens, cannot see this? The Representatives of the People were once the source of power. Is it so now? Nay. It is to the Executive mansion now that every eye is turned—that every wish is directed.—The men of office and party, who are governed by the seven principles of John Randolph, to wit, the five loaves and two fishes, seem to have their ears constantly directed to the great bell at head quarters, to indicate how the little ones shall ring.

But to return. I have but to remark that my anti federalism has been tempered by my long service in the employ of my country—and my frequent oaths to support her general government: but I am as ready to resist the encroachments on State rights, as I am to support the legitimate authority of the Executive, or the general government.

Now, fellow citizens, I have very little more to say, except to exhort you, to go on, peacefully if you can—and you can—to effect that reform upon which your hearts are fixed. What calamitous consequences will ensue to the world if you fail! If you should fail, how the tyrants of Europe will rejoice If you fail, now will the friends of freedom, scattered, like the few planets of heaven, over the world, mourn, when they see the beacon light of liberty extinguished—the light whose rays they had hoped would yet penetrate the whole benighted world.

If you triumph it will only be done by vigilance and attention. Our personal friends, but political enemies, remind each other that "Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty." While journeying hitherward, I observed this motto waving at the head of a procession composed of the friends of the present administration. From this I inferred, that discrimination was necessary in order to know who to watch. Under Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, the eye of the People were turned to the right sources—to the administration. The administration, however, now say to the People, "you must not watch us, but you must watch the Whigs! Only do that, and all is safe!" But that, my friends, is not the way. The old fashioned republican rule is to watch the government. See that the government does not acquire too much power. Keep a check upon your rulers. Do this, and liberty is safe. And if your efforts should result successfully, and I should be placed in the Presidential chair; I shall invite

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