EASTON GAZETTE.

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LETTER FROM SENATOR RIVES.

The following able and important Letter from Hon. William C. Rives of Virginia appeared in the Richmond Whig of Thursday, on the instance of a personal friend of the distinguished Senator, who, having learned that Mr. Rives had written to a gentleman of Hanover Co. a full expression of his views on the approaching Presidential contest, solicited and obtained a copy for publication. It will be seen that Mr. Rives, while frankly avowing that his opinions on the Currency and Distribution are not in accordance with Mr. Clay's, and on the Tariff not fully so, is yet decidedly in favor of our Champion for next President as against Martin V. Buren. In this he doubtless expresses the conviction of that large portion of the Conservatives who have stood aloof from the struggles of the last two years, but who are now buckling on their armor for a determined contest with Van Buren and the Sub-Treasury. Read, Whigs! and rejoice with us that each day renders doubly sure our assurance of the election of HENRY CLAY!

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1, 1844.

My Dear Sir:—It seems to be now definitely settled that the country is to be called upon to retract the solemn decision pronounced by it in 1840, upon the demerits of Mr. Van Buren's Administration, and to restore him to power without a solitary atonement for the past or pledge of amendment for the future. The indications which have been given here since the assembling of Congress, are too significant to be misunderstood. The Convention at Baltimore will have nothing to do but to register and proclaim the edict of the caucus in the Capitol.

In this state of things are we, who have so often testified in the face of the world our deep and earnest convictions of the fatal and demoralizing tendencies of Mr. Van Buren's whole system of political action, to stand aside with folded arms, and to shrink into an inglorious, I had almost said treasonable neutrality, because of some difference of opinion on questions of public policy from Mr. Clay, which a wise spirit of moderation and the recognized arbitrament of the public will, are daily narrowing in magnitude and extent? I humbly think not.

The election of Chief Magistrate of the nation is one of those vital processes provided by the Constitution of the country for the periodical regeneration of our system by a fresh infusion into it of the elements of popular health & virtue, in which no good citizen, unless under circumstances of a very peculiar character, can properly refuse to take a part, & to the extent of his influence and example, a decided & efficient part. When the vast moral and political influence of the office, as well as its direct attributes of positive and controlling power, are considered, it can never be a matter of indifference, or even of an equal balance of countervailing motives of preference or objection, who shall fill it. There is always a choice; and though the making of that choice may sometimes be embarrassed by conflicting considerations, arising out of a want of entire coincidence of opinion with either of the opposing candidates, it is only the more incumbent on us to determine our preference with care and deliberation, according to the best lights of our understandings; & when once conscientiously formed, fearlessly and unhesitatingly to act it out.

In the approaching Presidential contest then we ought not and cannot be neutral, and it, as every thing now indicates is to be the case, that contest shall be between Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Clay, I have as little hesitation in saying that there is but one line of action by which we can acquit ourselves of the full measure of our duty to the country; and that is, waiving all minor considerations to give a manly & determined support to Mr. Clay, in preference to Mr. Van Buren. For myself, I can conceive of no greater calamity to the nation, or deeper discredit to the cause and very name of popular government, than the re-election of Mr. Van Buren would be after the signal and overwhelming majority by which he was so recently deposed from power, upon the fullest canvass of his measures, policy and conduct.

The host of vindictive passions which follow in the train of restored governments—the crowds of hungry retainers, pleading the merit of past services, who press forward to claim the reward of their fidelity, or idemnity for sacrifices & losses incurred in the common cause—the infatuated and pertinacious attachment to ancient abuses—the arbitrary and self-willed habits nurtured in the former possession of power—the commitment to favorite but pernicious schemes of policy, have all concurred to give a sort of proverbial currency to the remark of a celebrated English statesman and historian, that the worst and most dangerous of all *revolutions* is a restoration.* That all these evils would be realized to the widest extent, and in their most unmitigated violence, in the restoration of Mr. Van Buren, none can doubt who have been attentive observers of the selfish and vicious system of party policy exemplified in the creed and conduct of himself and his friends, or who have not forgotten that memorable motto of party sagacity, so boldly emblazoned on the shields of his chozen followers, which in proclaiming 'to the victors belong the spoils of the vanquished,' shamelessly pointed to the offices and public trusts of the country as the rightful plunder of political warfare.

But to return to the remark I have already made. Could any thing inflict a deeper wound on the cause of republican institutions than such a spectacle of levity and instability on the part of the constituent body as would be exhibited in the restoration of Mr. Van Buren, after the overwhelming condemnation of his administration pronounced by the almost unanimous electoral voice of the country but three short years ago?—Would it not render popular government a 'by-word & taunt' among the nations? In 1840 the American people, upon the fullest and most deliberate hearing of both sides of the political controversy—of the friends as well as of the opponents of Mr. Van Buren—recorded their votes against him by such a majority as never before signalized the retreat of any minister from power, and was till then utterly unparalleled and even unapproached in the history of our Presidential contests. Of the twenty six States composing the Union he received the votes of but seven, and all these (except one) among the smallest of the Confederacy; of the 294 votes of the Electoral Colleges he obtained but 60; & of the popular suffrages, a majority of 145 000, out of the free & enlightened citizens of America who voted in the election, gave in their accumulated verdict against him. And yet in the face of this solemn finding of the great inquest of the body of the nation—while the echo of the general voice which pronounced it has not yet died upon the ear—a bold attempt is made to induce the people to take back their own settled and well considered judgment, and in elevating again to the highest office of the Republic, the individual whom they had so recently and deliberately deposed, pronounce a flagrant sentence of stultification and incompetency upon themselves. I know not in what light other minds may view such a proceeding but to me it seems a contemptuous sporting with the sovereign constituency of the country, a sheer mockery and insult to the public intelligence.

And by what means is Mr. Van Buren to be again presented as the legitimate and anointed candidate of the Democratic party? Not certainly by the will of the great body of the party, who, we have every reason to believe, deprecate and deplore the madness and folly of the act, but by the secret and invisible agency of self-constituted conclaves & caucusses, controlled with absolute sway by a few bold and adroit political managers. I run no risk in saying that if the individuals composing the party throughout the Union could be interrogated, upon the voir dire to say whom they would prefer as the Presidential nominee of the party, three-fourths of them at the least and probably a far larger proportion, would unhesitatingly declare their preference for some new candidate. And yet in utter contempt of the popular sentiment of the party, and disdainfully rejecting the only equitable as well as practicable mode of arriving at the will of the majority through the medium of a fair, equal, and uniform popular representation in the nominating Convention, the friends of Mr. Van Buren (holding on to that old *machinery* of party discipline & subordination, derived to them from the the cunning order of the Jesuits through the bloody Jacobinical Clubs of Revolutionary France by which one or two active spirits are enabled to suppress the will and control the movements of vast and entire bodies of men) imperiously declared that he, and he only, shall be the candidate of the party. Is it not time that honorable and patriotic men, as they respect the dignity of their own characters, the privileges of freemen, and the sacred principles of Republican Government, should unite in one generous and virtuous struggle to overthrow effectually and forever, the tyranny of a system which if now submitted to, must finally convert our noble popular institutions into the worst of all dominations—that of an unscrupulous and sordid party oligarchy.

And what are the wise and benignant measures of administrative policy which are promised us as the fruits of Mr. Van Buren's restoration? A return to the glories and blessings of the Sub-Treasury system—a renewed war upon the currency, commerce, and business of the country!—Just at the moment when by the mere fact of the withdrawal of the hostility of the Government, and that *its medicatrix naturæ* which is inherent in the energies of a free, enterprising and industrious people, all the business pursuits of the nation are regaining their prosperity and activity and the currency and exchanges of the country are finding their proper and natural level every thing is to be again thrown into confusion, and we are to be replunged into a chaos of wild and pernicious experiments, simply to signalize a remorseless party triumph, in the consummation of a measure openly at war with every great practical interest of the community. And to this would be added, by a natural and necessary connection, all that long train of congenial abuses which so ingloriously illustrate the era of Mr. Van Buren's former administration—multiplied schemes for extending Executive power and Presidential patronage profuse and profligate expenditures of public money the impunity and protection of faithless public officers purchased by the merit of their party services, a new brood of defaulters of the Hoyts and the Harrises—a race the entire disappearance of which since 1840 is one of the proudest proofs of the justice and necessity of the change then decreed by the voice of the people. But it were vain to attempt an enumeration of the teeming abuses that must ever attend the fundamental heresy of Mr Van Buren's political system, which, instead of regarding government as a high and holy trust for the good of the country, sees in it nothing but a *job* to be administered for the benefit of a *party*, of which the President is the head and *grand almoner*.

Now, I would ask, what is there to be apprehended from Mr. Clay's election which ought to have the weight of a feather in the scale, when compared with the fatal and destructive evils poisoning the vital elements of republican freedom and virtue, as well as the essential sources of national prosperity and happiness, which we have every reason to believe would inevitably follow, the restoration of Mr. Van Buren? We shall doubtless, have paraded before our eyes, in stereotyped horrors, the old and threadbare apparition of *the Tariff Bank and distribution*. On the subject of the Tariff I do not hesitate to say that Mr. Clay's creed developed in his recent letters, is in every respect as just as sound, and unexceptionable as that of Mr. Van Buren, and his practice infinitely better.—Mr. Clay did not vote for or approve the Tariff of 1828 consigned to an odious celebrity under the name of the Bill of Abominations which Mr. Van Buren and his friends carried by their votes.—It is an unfortunate coincidence considering the professions of Mr. Van Buren, that all the Tariffs which have been most complained of in the South owe their existence upon the statute book to the votes of himself or his friends.

It is no want of charity then, but the result of the most candid and deliberate consideration, when I express the decided opinion that Mr. Clay is far more to be relied upon for a practical adjustment of this delicate and complex subject, on terms just and satisfactory to all sections of the Union, (harmonizing their various interests by the golden rule of moderation which is the only pledge of permanence and stability in any arrangement that may be made,) than Mr. Van Buren. The wise and temperate spirit so strikingly exhibited in his letters which have been recently given to the public, sustained by his well known influence with his friends, and his own high and unquestioned character for frankness and decision, is a guaranty which no portion of the nation will lightly regard.

With respect to the Bank, if the country shall be reduced to a choice between the odious and grinding Sub-Treasury Scheme and a National Institution of Finance, properly guarded against abuse by the jealous restrictions of its charter as well as by a vigilant public supervision and control, I do not believe that the sober judgment of the people; under the pressure of such an alternative, would find any cause of quarrel against those who free from constitutional difficulties on this subject, should go for the latter in preference to the former. And as to the Distribution of the proceeds of the Public Lands, that stands necessarily and evidently adjourned, as a practical question, until the revenues of the nation, compared with its expenditures and engagements, shall be in a very different situation from that in which they now are, or are likely to be for years to come. My own individual opinions on these subjects have been so often and fully stated, that I need not repeat them here. What I mean to say at present is that these are issues either hypothetical and speculative, or neutralized be equal and opposing considerations on the other side and should not divert the mind for a moment from those higher and more urgent vital questions, which are the true tests of a sound and correct decision in the pending Presidential election. Those tests I have already adverted to. They are such as are inseparably connected with the purity, character, and preservation of the Government itself, and in my humble judgment, are overwhelmingly conclusive against the pretentions of Mr. Van Buren.

As little shall we permit ourselves, I trust, to be frightened from our propriety' by the old and hollow expedient of a senseless and arbitrary use of party names. Those who are so prone to ring the changes on the nomenclature of Federalist and Republican, would do well to remember that they have men, reading and inquiring men to deal with, and not children. Try Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Clay by any test derived from the authentic history of political parties in this country, or by the standard of those great principles which exist in the essential elements of our popular institutions and Mr. Clay stands before the world the far better Republican of the two.

In that great array and struggle of the two parties of the country (among the most memorable in our history) which arose out of the controversy & war with England in 1812, where was Mr. Clay and where was Mr. Van Buren? Mr. Clay gallantly leading the Republican host in the House of Representatives, and sustaining the administration of Mr. Madison with all the energies of his patriotism and eloquence; Mr. Van Buren uniting with the Federalists to depose that illustrious man from power and to supplant his Administration! Try them again by that standard which Mr. Van Buren himself in a most elaborate speech delivered in the Senate of the United States in 1828 declared to be the true and legitimate distinction between the Federal and Republican parties—the one seeking to extend, the other to restrain Executive power. The public have not forgotten the various schemes so sedulously devised or countenanced by Mr Van Buren during the whole period of his administration and fully exposed at the time to augment Executive patronage, discretion and power; and nothing surely has more eminently distinguished the career of Mr. Clay than his constant and persevering efforts to restrain, and to provide new dikes and securities against the enlargement or abusive exercise of the powers of that department of the Government. Judging them, then by Mr Van Buren's own definition of political parties, as correctly laid down by him in 1828, but totally lost sight of in his subsequent practice, let the sober and impartial judgment of the country decide which is the Federalist and which the Republican.*

It is impossible for any reflecting man to contemplate the actual and prospective condition of the country without seeing in it already the germ of new difficulties and troubles, which may, in their approaching development, agitate our glorious Union to its centre. The Oregon and Texas question in our foreign relations; at home, a deficient revenue, with all its ordinary sources pressed up to their farthest productive limit, and some of them there is reason to apprehend, beyond; the Tariff controversy reopened, with all the conflicting interest & passions which never fail to be awakened by it; &, added to these, the rekindled fires of the abolition excitement—each and all of them are questions which carry in their bosom the fearful elements of civil discord and intestine strife. The worst and most dangerous aspect they present is, that all of them bring into immediate and opposing array, if not into angry and hostile collision, the sectional interests and feelings of the different geographical divisions of the confederacy.

Whose, at such a moment, is the master spirit that may have power to still the rising tempest before it sweeps with destructive fury over the face of our yet happy Union, or, should this prove hopeless and impossible, whose the commanding genius to ride the whirlwind and direct the storm?' To preside over the destinies of a great republic, in a crisis of such complicated difficulty and peril calls for something more than the arts of the mere party politician. It demands the highest moral and intellectual qualities of the statesman—courage, selfpossession, elevation of character and elevation of views—a nobleness and generosity of nature that attracts confidence and can inspire enthusiasm; the spirit of persuasion and the spirit of command combined.—Let the annals of the country, in some of the darkest moments which have ever lowered upon its fortunes, be consulted, and they will answer whether HENRY CLAY or MARTIN VAN BUREN is the man for such a crisis.

I have thus my dear sir, with the frankness due to our relations of friendship, personal and political, given you my views on a subject which is soon to absorb so large a portion of the public attention, and to which no good citizen can be indifferent. I flatter myself they will meet your concurrence, and that of our republican friends who have acted with us in the trying scenes through which we have passed; but, in any event, I am sure they will be received by you with kindness and cordiality' in the spirit of which I pray you to believe me, most truly and faithfully yours.

W. C. RIVES.

COL. EDMUND FONTAINE, Hanover.

* In the speech alluded to (made on the 12th of February, 1828, on the powers of the Vice President as presiding officer of the Senate) Mr. Van Buren comments on the 'attempt' of Mr. Adams, in his inaugural address, 'to trace the origin of the two great political parties, which,' he adds, 'have divided the country since the adoption of the Constitution to the present day;' and, after rejecting Mr. Adams's theory, he gives his own in the following words: They (the two great political parties of Federalist and Republican), arose from other & very different causes.—They are, in truth, mainly to be ascribed to the struggle between two opposing principles; that have been in active operation in this country from the closing scene of the Revolutionary war to the present day—the one seeking to absorb, as far as practicable, all power from its legitimate sources, and condense it into a *single head*; the other, an antagonist principle, laboring as assiduously to resist the encroachments and limit the extent of *Executive* authority."

The fall of Alamo, or the last days of Crockett.

A pamphlet with this title has been issued in St. Louis, it is by John Henry Brown, a gentleman who has resided many years in La Vanca, Texas, and written from observation and correct information derived by enquiry on the spot. It gives an account of Fannin's Massacre, as well as the battles of Conception, Goliad, San Antonia, and in fact the whole history of the war. We copy a part of the narative of

THE DEATH OF CROCKETT.

Colonel Crockett, wounded and closely pursued by a number of the enemy, retreated into the church, felling them as they approached. He stationed himself in a niche, in the corner, determined to face the foe to the last, and sell his life dearly; with his favorite rifle and a superabundance of side arms, he hewed and shot them down with the same awful certainty which was wont to characterize his indomitable spirit. His position rendered access to him impossible, except by a direct and exposed approach in front; and after some eight or ten of them were laid dead before him, a feeling of awe seemed to seize hold of the assailants—One of them, who could speak a little broken English, probably preferring to have the signal honor of capturing so noble a specimen of American valor, to present to his 'dread master,' said to Crockett, 'Surrender, senor' A flash of the most sovereign scorn darted from the fiery eye, and as it pierced that of the enemy, he seemed to be transfixed. In a voice of thunder, Crockett answered—'Surrender! No!—I am an American!' and as he spoke he sent a ball through the heart of the paralized foe. He appeared for the moment like a wounded tiger, strengthened and buoyed by each additional wound; now hewing them down with his well tried sword—next dealing death with his fire arms. His person was literally drenched with his own blood; his strength must soon yield to its loss—Yet such physical power, wrought to the highest degree of excitement, can perform incredible prodigies. This was the last concentrated energy of a powerful man, aroused, animated and guided by one of the noblest attributes of man—love of liberty. He knew for what his life was about to be sacrificed; that devastation and buchery would follow the footsteps of his heartless foes; that helpless woman would be sacrificed to satiate the cruel desires of the conqueror; and feeling the holy inspiration of a dying patriot, he fought manfully till the loss of blood and approach of death stayed his upraised arm; his rifle was broken to pieces, his pistols fell to the floor, and nothing but his faithful sword was left. In the agony of death with a terrible grasp, he brought this last weapon upon the head of the nearest assailant, and fell victoriously across his body, into the arms of death.—In this corner of the church there were TWENTY SIX dead Mexicans, and no other American having fought or fallen at that point, it is considered beyond all reasonable doubt that all of them fell by the hands of Tennessee's favorite son! All were now dead. Not a man left to relate the wonderful deeds of this illustrious band of heroes! Not a compatriot left to rear a monument to their memory! But, ah! no monument is required to perpetuate their fame. So long as freedom has an abiding place in America, will their heroic deeds and proud names be held sacred!

A TALKING MACHINE.—The New Y. American gives the following account of a talking machine which is in that city—

MACHINES VERSUS MEN—*Congress Superseded.*—It is even so—we have seen—we have heard—a machine talk! We heard it say 'Mr. Speaker,' in a tone so distinct and startling, that no Speaker could have failed to be attracted by it; and then it went on, now in German now in English then in Latin—and to its tongues there need be no end—to utter whatever was desired.

We assure our readers that this thing of wood and paint, caoutchouc and keys, did distinctly articulate as though having trachea, larynz, glottis and epiglottis, tongue, palate and gums—each acting as in the living human subject. The tone alone was not natural, but the syllables & words entirely so; and there beside it, sat its ingenious & patient German inventor, Mr. Faber, playing as on a piano on the sixteen keys—no more—which causes the utterance of all language.

For fourtenn years this unwearying mechanician has labored at this invention. The letter E was that of which he found it most difficult to give the sound. He devoted to the accomplishment of that one sound, seven years! and he has accomplished it. By long continued anatomical investigation, he first mastered all the physical minutiæ of the organs of speech, and then, mainly out of India rubber prepared so as to resist the changes of temperature; he imitated all these organs, and by springs moves the parts as they are moved in life.

Happier than the Titan, he has not provoked the anger of the Gods, by enduring this material creation of his hands with the ethereal spark; but so far as talking is characterisuc of man, he has made a man. And to go back to Congress and its danger from this invention; it will be obvious to any one examining this model—and it will we understand, soon be exhibited—that a State has nothing to do, but to buy a number of those fellows of wood and India rubber—(the latter material has long been in use for the consciences of public men)—equal to that of their representation on the floor—send them down by mail to Washington, with an organist under legislative instructions—the very case for application of this theory of representation! —and he, connecting the 15 from Virginia, or the 34 from New York to one set of keys, could always give a unanimous expression to the opinion of the Old Dominion, or the Empire State.

The advantages of this system are innumerable—first, that of cheapness, because one live eating and drinking man only would be required for each State—then good morals—these fellows would neither drink, gamble, nor covet their neighbors' wives;—next State unanimity—and finally preservation of decorum and the overthrow of the code of honor—as these fellows have only heads and no hands for the use of the pistol the Bowie knife or their rifle.

Truly, we hardly dare venture to enter upon the vast field opened to future improvements in Legislative bodies by these creations of this modern Prometheus—but whenever he shall have made his arrangements to let the world see and hear his Talker, we will recall the attention of our readers to the subject.

We find the following in a New Orleans Loco Foco paper:

"*Hickory from the Hermitage*—The editor of the New Orleans Herald has received a consignment of four splendid Hickory Canes, cut by General Jackson himself, on his own grounds. These 'chips of the old block' were sent for presentation to four prominent Democrats of New Orleans."

Too late; quite too late. The 'Clay Clubs' have the field, and the Hickory Clubs are warped, broken and useless—The mistletoe, sacred to silence, solitude, and sucking—that old parasitical plant, is now to take the place of the hickory.—*U. S. Gaz.*

☞General Jackson was born on the 14th of March, 1767, and will consequently be 77 years of age on the 14th of next March. Mr. Clay was born on the 12th of April 1777, and will consequently be 67 years old on the 12th day of April, next

Young women are being employed in all sorts of duties now in Paris. They are even assuming the places of the clerks in counting houses. Grant in his new york says—

"Indeed, the young Parisian women are beginning to be trained as clerks for the banking and commercial houses.—They are found to be steadier and more attentive than young men. In one of the first and wealthiest banking houses in Paris, you may now see every day two interesting daughters of the principal partners, one of them eighteen years of age, the other twenty, at work at their desks during business hours, and discharging their duties as clerks, with dispatch, correctness, and cheerfulness. Indeed, the plan is working so well that the government itself is beginning to employ young females in the public offices."

NUTRITIVE QUALITIES OF TEA.

At a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Peligot read a paper on the chemical combinations of tea. M. Peligot states that tea contains essential principles of nutrition far exceeding in importance its stimulating properties, and shows that, as a stimulant, tea is, in every respect, one of the most desirable articles in habitual use. One of his experiments on the nutritive qualities of tea, as compared with those of soup, was by no means in favor of the latter. The most remarkable products of tea are—1st, the tannin, astringent property; 2d an essential oil, to which it owes its aroma and which has a great influence on its price in commerce; and 3d, a substance rich in azote, & crystallisable called theine which is also met with in coffee, and is frequent called cafeine. Independently of these substances there are eleven others of less importance, which enter more or less into the composition of all the kinds imported into Europe. What was most essential, as regards the chemical and hygienic character of the plant, was to ascertain the exact proportion of the azoted (nitrogenised) principles which it contains. M. Peligot began by determining the total amount of azote in tea, and finished by finding that it was from 20 to 30 per cent. greater than in any other kind of vegetable. M. Peligot states, that, by reason of this quantity of azote, and the existence of cafeine in the tea leaf, it is a true aliment.

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