

A trust which has been confided to his hands by his fellow citizens, and in which they are as deeply interested as he is. A virtuous man will pursue the path of honor and probity, rather than that of interest: and a great man will study his country's good more than his own popularity. I am forced to think there must be some mistake in your representation of the republican party in your section of the state. Its opinion there has been unequivocally expressed, concerning Mr. Clinton, by the unexampled unanimity with which he was put in nomination for the presidency, and I do not understand, in virtue of what arrangement, he should frustrate that choice. His friends do not act for his benefit in this question; nay they would be offended at the supposition. However well they wish him, they feel a dearer regard for their country, and therefore, they are desirous of rescuing it, in a season of so much peril, out of the feeble hands in which it is now placed. In this case they consider Mr. Clinton no more than the instrument of the public safety, and they prefer him for his superior fitness.

If a portion of our citizens are systematizing measures, calculated, as you say, to deaden the energies of the nation, is this not a most pressing reason for placing at the head of the government a man of energetic character, who is able to repress faction and control the dissatisfied? If Mr. Madison could not stop the growth of these evil doings in the tranquil season of prosperity, it is not to be expected that he can subdue them now, rendered more intractable by the hardships of the times, and when his own authority is weakened by disasters, which are obviously the result of folly.

Would to God that the supporters & friends of the constitution would stand forth, we should then see a prompt reprobation of those disgraceful intrigues which prostituted the representatives of the nation in *Electioneering Instruments*, and exhibit them at the seat of government, under the eye and influence of the executive, in the officious and unhallowed act of naming a president for the people.

Would to God the supporters and friends of the Constitution did seriously reflect on the whole of that scene, they would then reprobate as I believe, that act more criminal than ever the caucus intrigue itself, which staked the honour and fortune of America against an office, which brought on war without preparation, and if we may judge by the manner in which it is conducted, leaves us no hopes that in the present hands it will enable us to avenge our violated rights or retrieve the tarnished glory of our country. If the elevation of Mr. Clinton was a matter of bargain and sale, his pretensions might be surrendered for any present or future advantage. But while the friends of the constitution throughout the Union look to him for his country's sake, he cannot in duty decline the service they assign him. What honour, what principle would there be in abandoning a great contest, vitally affecting the representatives of the people and the purity of the government?

A contest solemnly entered into by the state of New-York, supported with an animated and generous zeal by the state of Pennsylvania, and sanctioned by the approving voice of many of the wisest patriots in the whole republic. To make such a contest the subject of an arrangement would be, as it strikes me no less cowardly than unprincipled. Nor can I see why the more manly and patriotic course, whatever be its issue, should destroy the prospects of Mr. Clinton, and deprive this nation, at a future period of his services. On the contrary, it must always redound to his credit, that in his person the first stand was made against the highly dangerous and unconstitutional practice of making a designation of president under executive influence; that with him the usurped authority of the states was resumed in this essential article; that the principle of rotation amongst them was recovered; and the dangerous monopoly in an ambitious state endeavored to be defeated, and the interest and dignity of those that are more particularly agricultural and commercial, maintained in practice.

There is one more consideration which I shall submit to your judgment; that is, that the republican party will be infallibly broken down if a stop be not speedily put to the undue means employed by the present cabinet to extend its influence. Recollect the downfall of the federalists? Can we stand by the same, or even worse means, than those which caused their overthrow. In a word, I am clear, that the re-election of Mr. Madison will be the ruin of the republican party, and that if it pertinaciously support him, it will deserve its fate, and lament it at leisure.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

RICHARD RIKER.

Hon. Ambrose Spencer and John Tayler.

Resolved unanimously, that this committee approve the answer of Richard Riker, Esq. to the foregoing letter addressed to him by Ambrose Spencer and John Tayler, Esqrs.

Resolved, that the above proceedings of this committee be forwarded to confidential republican friends in the different states, to be used at their discretion.

Sign'd, William W. Gilbert, Thomas Addis Emmet, Samuel A. Lawrence, John H. Sicks, John M. Keison, Jacob de la Montagnie, Samuel Harris, Elbert Herrington, Gurdson S. Mumford, Matthias B. Falmadge, Benjamin Ferris, Peter Wilson, Preserved Fish.

At a convention of the republican committee, acting under the authority of the general committee of correspondence, appointed by the republican members of the

* The celebrated Irish Patriot, who died a martyr to his love of liberty, was the brother of this gentleman.

legislature of the state of New-York, to promote the election of the honorable De Witt Clinton to the presidency of the U. States at the ensuing election, held at the city of New-York, the 13th day of October, 1812.

Whereas, It has been represented to this committee, that an open letter has been addressed to a republican of this city, friendly to the presidential nomination of the honorable De Witt Clinton, and written by two gentlemen of the city of Albany, containing a proposition to the friends of Mr. Clinton, that he should relinquish his pretensions to the presidency of the union in favour of Mr. Madison: and it having been ascertained by this committee, not only that the said letter was exhibited, and its contents communicated, by its bearer to other gentlemen friendly to the re-election of Mr. Madison, but also that copies of it have probably been forwarded to Pennsylvania, and other states, which this committee apprehend would only be done for electioneering purposes: and this committee are therefore desirous to know the truth of this alleged extraordinary interposition on the part of those gentlemen:

Therefore, Resolved That a sub committee consisting of two members, be desired to call upon the person to whom the said letter is addressed, and to request him to furnish this committee with the original letter, and his answer thereto, and that they report accordingly.

The said sub committee report, that having communicated the request of this committee to the gentlemen to whom the letter was addressed, he consented to furnish them with the said letter, and his answer thereto, which are herewith submitted.

From the N. Y. Statesman.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE UNION.

We recommend the following circumstance to the careful perusal of our fellow citizens—and it may not be amiss for them to read it before they have settled the pending election. If they can spare time to peruse and reflect upon it, they may here see with what readiness their representatives can overlook them in the pursuit of office.

When the house of representatives were last spring in secret conclave on a subject which is not yet made public, JAMES FISK, member from Vermont, started from his seat, and indignantly declared, "that he would no longer give his support to the executive in these half way measures of war; for that he was now convinced that the whole system was nothing but a plan of electioneering to secure the re-election of a president to office." So saying, he took his hat and departed from the capitol. A member who heard these words, and saw this scene, said, "Mr. Fisk will hear from the president soon, and change his mind." Mr. Gholson informed the president that Fisk had determined to oppose the war measure. In the space of four days afterwards, the president did nominate the said James Fisk to the office of "Judge in the Indiana Territory!" The Senate confirmed the nomination, and Mr. Fisk was, all at once a warm, fixed, and boisterous advocate for war. We give this to the public on the authority of a member of congress, who heard the declaration of Fisk, and knows the other circumstances above related to be fact.

That Fisk, an obscure man from the state of Vermont, is now a judge in the Indiana Territory, by commission, is a fact! and we advise the Vermonters, and all other citizens of America, before they give implicit faith to their misrepresentatives, to inquire what office they hold under Mr. Madison. This may serve better to account for the blind and persecuting zeal of Doctor Shaw, David Robinson and other men of "similar virtue" than all the logic in the world.

From the N. Y. Statesman.

Judge Fisk—We pledge our word and honor to prove the anecdote of this man, as related in our paper of Friday last, true.—Let Mr. Fisk deny it if he dare. We have observed the paragraph on that subject in the Public Advertiser, but as the editor of that paper has no business to interfere in an affair belonging to Mr. Fisk and especially as he is an object of universal contempt, we cannot, by condescending to notice him, be diverted from concerns of much greater moment. The member of Congress who heard Fisk's declaration and was eye witness to the other facts, told us the anecdote.—And now, may eternal infamy settle on the head of every scoundrel, who would either give or take a bribe to sell his country. Whom the cap fits let him wear it.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT.

From the National Intelligencer.

Copies of letters from Maj. Gen. Van Rensselaer of the New-York militia, to Maj. Gen. Henry Dearborn, transmitted by the latter to the Department of War.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Lewisstown, Oct. 14, 1812.

SIR—As the movements of the army under my command, since I had last the honor to address you on the 8th inst. have been of a very important character, producing consequences serious to many individuals; establishing facts actually connected with the interest of the service and the safety of the army; and as I stand prominently responsible for some of these consequences, I beg leave to explain to you, sir, and through you to my country, the situation and circumstances in which I have had to act, and the reasons and motives which governed me; and if the result is not all that might have been wished, it is such, that when the whole ground shall be viewed, I shall cheerfully submit myself to the judgment of my country.

In my letter of the 8th inst. I apprized you that a crisis in this campaign was rapidly advancing; and that (to repeat the same words) "the blow must be soon struck or all the toil and expence of the campaign go for nothing; and worse than nothing, for the whole will be tinged with dishonor."

Under such impressions, I had on the 5th inst. written to brigadier general Smyth, of the United

States' forces, requesting an interview with him, Maj. gen. Hall, and the commandants of the United States' regiments, for the purpose of conferring upon the subject of future operations. I wrote major general Hall to the same purport. On the 11th, I had received no answer from Gen. Smyth; but in a note to me of the 10th, general Hall mentioned that general Smyth had not yet then agreed upon any day for the consultation.

In the mean time, the partial success of Lieut. Elliott, at Black Rock, (of which, however, I have received no official information) began to excite a strong disposition in the troops to act. This was expressed to me through various channels in the shape of an alternative; that they must have orders to act; or, at all hazards, they would go home. I forbore here commenting upon the obvious consequences to me, personally, of longer withholding my orders under such circumstances.

I had a conference with — as to the possibility of getting some person to pass over to Canada and obtain correct information. On the morning of the 4th, he wrote to me that he had procured the man who bore his letter to go over. Instructions were given him; he passed over—obtained such information as warranted an immediate attack. This was confidently communicated to several of my first officers and produced great zeal to act; more especially as it might have a controlling effect upon the movements at Detroit, where it was supposed general Brock had gone with all the force he dared spare from the Niagara frontier. The best preparations in my power were, therefore, made to dislodge the enemy from the Heights of Queenstown, and possess ourselves of the village, where the troops might be sheltered from the distressing inclemency of the weather.

Lieut. Col. Fenwick's flying artillery, and a detachment of regular troops under his command, were ordered to be up in season from Fort Niagara. Orders were also sent to gen. Smyth to send down from Buffalo such detachment of his brigade as existing circumstances in that vicinity might warrant. The attack was to have been made at 4 o'clock in the morning, by crossing over in boats from the Old Ferry opposite the Heights. To avoid any embarrassment in crossing the river (which is here a sheet of violent eddies) experienced boatmen were procured to take the boats from the landing below to the place of embarkation. Lieut. Sim was considered the man of greatest skill for the service. He went ahead, and in the extreme darkness, passed the intended place far up the river; and there, in a most extraordinary manner, fastened his boat to the shore, and abandoned the detachment. In this front boat he had carried nearly every oar which was prepared for all the boats. In this agonizing dilemma, stood officers and men, whose ardour had not been cooled by exposure through the night to one of the most tremendous north east storms, which continued unabated for twenty eight hours, and deluged the whole camp. The approach of day light extinguished every prospect of success, and the detachment returned to camp. Colonel Van Rensselaer was to have commanded the detachment.

After this result, I had hoped the patience of the troops would have continued until I could submit the plan suggested in my letter of the 8th, that I might act under, and in conformity to the opinion which might then be expressed. But my hope was idle; the previously excited ardour seemed to have gained new heat from the late miscarriage—the brave were mortified to stop short of their object, and the timid thought laurels half won by an attempt.

On the morning of the 12th, such was the pressure upon me from all quarters, that I became satisfied that my refusal to act might involve me in suspicion, and the service in disgrace.

Viewing affairs at Buffalo as yet unsettled, I had immediately countermanded the march to General Smyth's brigade, upon the failure of the first expedition; but having now determined to attack Queenstown, I sent new orders to General Smyth to march; not with the view of his aid in the attack, for I considered the force detached sufficient, but to support the detachment should the conflict be obstinate and long continued.

Lieut. Col. Christie, who had just arrived at the Four Mile Creek, had late in the night of the first contemplated attack, gallantly offered me his own and his men's service; but he got my permission too late. He now again came forward; had a conference with Col. Van Rensselaer, and begged that he might have the honor of a command in the expedition. The arrangement was made. Colonel Van Rensselaer was to command one column of 300 militia; and Lieut. Col. Christie a column of the same number of regular troops.

Every precaution was now adopted as to boats, and the most confidential and experienced men to manage them. At an early hour in the night, Lieut. Col. Christie marched his detachment by the rear road, from Niagara to Camp. At 7 in the evening Lieut. Col. Stranahan's regiment moved from Niagara Falls; at 8 o'clock Mead's; and at 9 o'clock Col. Blau's regiment marched from the same place. All were in camp in good season. Agreeably to my orders issued upon this occasion, the two columns were to pass over together, and soon as the heights should be carried, Lieut. Col. Fenwick's flying artillery was to pass over; then major Mullany's detachment of regulars; and the other troops to follow in order.

At dawn of day the boats were in readiness, and the troops commenced embarking, under the cover of a commanding battery, mounting 2 eighteen pounders and 2 sixes. The movement was soon discovered, and a brisk fire of musketry was poured from the whole line of the Canada shore. Our battery then opened to sweep the shore; but it was for some minutes too dark to direct much fire with safety. A brisk cannonade was now opened upon the boats from 3 different batteries; our battery returned their fire, and occasionally threw grape upon the shore, and was itself served with shells from a small mortar of the enemy's. Col. Scott, of the artillery, by hastening his march from Niagara Falls in the night, arrived in season to return the enemy's fire with 2 six pounders.

The boats were somewhat embarrassed with the eddies, as well as with a shower of shot; but Col. Van Rensselaer, with about 100 men, soon effected his landing amidst a tremendous fire directed upon him from every point; but to the astonish-

ment of all who witnessed the scene, this was a serious misfortune to the van, that in a few minutes after landing, Col. Van Rensselaer received four wounds; a ball passed through the right thigh entering just below the hip bone; another shot passed through the same thigh, a little below the third through the calf of his left leg; and a fourth caused his heel. This was quite a crisis in the expedition. Under so severe a fire it was difficult to form raw troops. By some mismanagement of the boatmen, Lieut. Col. Christie did not arrive until some time after this, and wounded in the hand in passing the river. Col. Van Rensselaer was still able to stand; and with great presence of mind ordered his officers to proceed with caution and storm the Fort. This service was gallantly performed, and the enemy driven down the hill in every direction. Soon after this both parties were considerably reinforced, and conflict was renewed in various places. Many of the enemy took shelter behind a stone guard house, where a piece of ordnance was now briskly served. I ordered the fire of our battery directed upon the guard house, and it was so effectually done, that with eight or ten shot the fire was silenced. The enemy then retreated behind a large store house; but in a short time the route became general, and the enemy's fire was silenced, except from a one gun battery, so far down the river as to be out of the reach of heavy ordnance, and our light pieces could not silence it. A number of boats now passed over unnoticed, except from the one unladen gun. For some time after I had passed over the victory appeared complete; but in the expectation of further attacks, I was taking measures for fortifying my camp immediately. The direction of this service I committed to Lieut. Town of the engineers. But very soon the enemy were reinforced by a detachment of several hundred Indians from Chippewa. They commenced a furious attack; but were promptly met and repulsed by the rifle and bayonet.

By this time, I perceived my troops were embarking very slowly. I passed immediately over to accelerate their movements; but to my utter astonishment, I found that at the very moment when complete victory was in our hands, the ardor of the unengaged troops had entirely subsided. I rode in all directions—urged the men by every consideration to pass over—but in vain. Lieutenant Col. Bloom, who had been wounded in action, returned, mounted his horse and rode through the camp; as did also Judge Peck, who happened to be here, exhorting the companies to proceed—but all in vain.

At this time a large reinforcement from Fort George were discovered coming up the river. As the battery on the hill was considered an important check against their ascent, the heights, measures were immediately taken to send them a fresh supply of ammunition, as I had learned there were left only 20 shot for the 18 pounders. The reinforcements, however, obliged to the right from the road, and formed a junction with the Indians in the rear of the heights. Finding, to my infinite mortification, that no reinforcements would pass over; seeing that another severe conflict would soon commence; and knowing that the brave men on the heights were quite exhausted, and nearly out of ammunition, all I could do was to send them a fresh supply of cartridges. At this critical moment I dispatched a note to gen. Wadsworth acquainting him with our situation—leaving the course to be pursued much to his own judgment, with assurance that if he thought best to retreat, I would endeavor to send as many boats as I could command, and cover his retreat by every fire I could safely make. But the boats were dispersed—many of the boatmen had fled panic struck, and but few got off. But my note could but help more than have reached gen. W. about 4 o'clock, when a most severe and obstinate conflict commenced, and continued about half an hour, with a tremendous fire of cannon, flying artillery and musketry. The enemy succeeded in repossessing the battery; and gaining advantage on every side, the brave men who had gained the victory, exhausted of strength and ammunition, and grieved at the unpardonable neglect of their fellow soldiers, gave up the conflict.

I can only add that the victory was really won; but lost for the want of a small reinforcement—One third part of the idle men might have saved it.

I have been so pressed with the various duties of burying the dead, providing for the wounded, collecting the public property, negotiating an exchange of prisoners, and all the consequences consequent of such a battle, that I have not had time to forward this dispatch at as early an hour as I could have wished. I shall soon forward you another dispatch in which I shall endeavor to point out to you the conduct of some most gallant and deserving officers. But I cannot in justice do this without expressing the very great obligations I am under to brigadier general Wadsworth, Col. Van Rensselaer, Col. Scott, Lieut. Col. Blau, Christie and Fenwick, and captain Gibson. Many others have also behaved most gallantly. As I have reason to believe that many of our troops fled to the woods with the hope of crossing the river, I have not been able to learn the probable number of killed, wounded, or prisoners. The slaughter of our troops must have been very considerable. And the enemy have suffered severely.

General Brock is among their slain, and his aide-camp mortally wounded.

I have the honor to be, sir, With great respect and consideration,

Your most obt. servant,

(Signed) S. VAN RENSSELAER, Major general.

Major general DEARBORN.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Lewisstown, 15th October, 1812.

SIR—For any further particulars respecting the action; the present situation and movement of our troops; the appearance of the enemy's situation; and our future prospects, generally, I beg leave to refer you to Capt. Dorr, who will have the honor to deliver you this dispatch. Capt. Dorr is an intelligent officer, and much reliance may be placed on his information and judgment.

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) S. VAN RENSSELAER, Major general DEARBORN.