

SOUTHERN CITIZEN.

WHAT DO WE LIVE FOR, BUT TO IMPROVE OURSELVES AND BE USEFUL TO ONE ANOTHER?

VOLUME III.

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From the Fayetteville Observer.

THE ACCEPTANCE.

LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE TO GEN. HARRISON.

Harrisburg, 7th December, 1839.

To Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison:

Sir: The undersigned, a Committee appointed by the National Democratic Whig Convention, assembled at Harrisburg to nominate Candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, have the honor to inform you that, by a resolution of that body, passed unanimously this day, you were nominated a Candidate for the Presidency, and the Hon. John Tyler, of Virginia, a Candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States.

The undersigned have the honor to be, with the highest respect,

Your obedient servants,

JOHN OWEN, of N. C., Chairman,

ELISHA W. ALLEN, of Mo.,

JAMES WILSON, of N. H.,

ISAAC C. BATES, of Mass.,

JAMES F. SIMMONS, of R. I.,

WILLIAM HENRY, of Vermont,

CHARLES DAVIS, of Connecticut,

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F. ANDREW SHULZE, of Pa.,

REVERDY JOHNSON, of Md.,

JAMES W. PEGRAM, of Virginia,

THOMAS METCALF, of Ky.,

JACOB BURNETT, of Ohio,

DOUGLASS MCGUIRE, of La.,

G. MASON GRAHAM, of La.,

T. C. TUPPER, of Mississippi,

WILLIAM H. RUSSELL, of Mo.,

GEORGE W. RALPH, of Illinois,

HENRY W. HILLIARD, of Ala.,

GEORGE C. BATES, of Michigan,

GENERAL HARRISON'S REPLY.

North Bend, 10th December, 1839.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant.

However objectionable in the opinion of many of our fellow-citizens may be the mode of selecting a candidate for the two highest offices of the Government by a General Convention, the peculiar circumstances in which the party opposed to the present Administration were placed, seem to have left them no alternative to secure that unity of action necessary to their success. The number of States represented, and the varied characters of the Delegates to

whom the delicate task of nominating the candidate was committed, leaving no room to doubt that their decision was in accordance with the wishes of the majority of their constituents, I accept with gratitude the nomination which, in obedience to a resolution of the Convention, you have done me, gentlemen, the honor to communicate.

But however highly I may value this evidence of the attachment and confidence of so large a portion of my fellow-citizens, I must beg you to believe, gentlemen, that no one is more thoroughly convinced than I am, that in selecting a retired and unpretending individual to be their candidate, the Convention were influenced by circumstances often occurring in popular governments to set aside the higher claims of other citizens, although founded upon the possession of the most distinguished talents and the performance of the most eminent services to their country, united to every other quality necessary to the discharge of the duties of Chief Magistrate of this great Republic.

It may perhaps be expected that I should embrace this occasion to declare the principles upon which the Administration will be conducted, if the efforts of my friends to place me in the Presidential Chair should prove successful.—But having, in a letter to the Hon. Harmar Denny, and in another to the Hon. Sherrod Williams, both of which have been made public, given my views at some length of the character and extent of the powers vested by the Constitution in the President, I consider it unnecessary to repeat them here.

I deem it, however, gentlemen, proper at this time to renew the assurance heretofore frequently made, that should I be elected to the Presidency, I will under no circumstances consent to be a candidate for a second term.

With the highest consideration, gentlemen, for yourselves and those you represent,

I am, your fellow-citizen,

W. H. HARRISON.

To the Hon. John Owen, of North Carolina, Chairman, &c.

FROM THE COMMITTEE TO GOV. TYLER.

Harrisburg, 7th December, 1839.

To Gov. John Tyler:

Sir: The undersigned, a Committee appointed by the National Democratic Whig Convention, assembled at Harrisburg to nominate Candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, have the honor to inform you that, by a resolution of that body, passed unanimously this day, Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison, of Ohio, was nominated a Candidate for the Presidency, and you a Candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States.

The undersigned have the honor to be, with the highest respect,

Your obedient servants,

JOHN OWEN,

of North Carolina, Chairman, &c.

GOV. TYLER'S REPLY.

Williamsburg, (1st) }
December 16. }.

Gentlemen: The manner in which, as the organs of the Harrisburg Convention, you have communicated to me, is accepted with a sensibility greatly augmented by the fact, that whilst it is a result in no way contemplated by me, it was attended by the unanimous concurrence of that enlightened and patriotic body. To have my name associated with that of the eminent Patriot who is put in nomination for the first office, is

of itself regarded by me as no ordinary honor. His long and faithful services to the country, at the council-board and in the field, have won for him a distinguished name in history; and furnish the surest guarantee that should he be elevated by popular voice to the chief Executive office, his administration of governmental affairs will be just, and prudent, and wise. With the Constitution for his guide, and the good of his country his only aim. I doubt not that his exertions would be exclusively directed to uphold the one, and to advance the other. The friend and supporter of JEFFERSON, of MADISON and MONROE, and the immediate descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, can be none other than true to his early Republican creed, and the devoted advocate of free principles and popular rights.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, Your most obedient servant,

JOHN TYLER.

John Owen, Esq., and others of the Committee.

Washington, April 7, 1836.

TO GEN. WILLIAM H. HARRISON.

Sir: I consider it the right of every citizen of the United States to ask and demand, and to be fully informed of the political principles and opinions of those who are candidates for the various offices in the gift of the People, and the imperious duty of the candidate to frankly and fully avow and declare the opinions which he entertains. I, therefore, as a voter, a citizen, and an individual, feeling a deep and abiding interest in the welfare and prosperity of our common country, and an ardent desire to see the perpetuity of our free and happy form of government, take the liberty of asking you to give me your opinion and views on the following subjects:

1st. Will you (if elected President of the United States) sign and approve a bill distributing the surplus revenue of the United States to each State, according to the federal population of each, for internal improvements, education, and to such other objects as the Legislatures of the several States may see fit to apply the same?

2d. Will you sign and approve a bill distributing the proceeds of the sales of the public lands to each State according to the federal population of each, for the purposes above specified?

3d. Will you sign and approve bills making appropriations to improve navigable streams above ports of entry?

4th. Will you sign and approve (if it becomes necessary to secure a safe and secure revenue and to afford a uniform sound currency to the People of the United States) a bill (with proper modifications and restrictions) chartering a Bank of the United States?

5th. What is your opinion as to the constitutional power of the Senate or House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, to expunge or obliterate from the journals the records and proceedings of a previous session?

A frank, plain, and full answer to the foregoing inquiries is respectfully and earnestly solicited. Your answer desired as soon as possible. I intend to send your answer for publication.

I have the honor to be your humble and obedient servant.

SHERROD WILLIAMS

GEN. HARRISON'S LETTER TO SHERROD WILLIAMS.

North Bend, May 1, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th ultimo, in which you request me to answer the following questions:

1st. Will you, if elected President of the United States, sign and approve a bill distributing the surplus revenue of the United States to each State, according to the federal population of each, for internal improvement, education, and to such other objects as the Legislatures of the several States may see fit to apply the same?

2d. Will you sign and approve a bill distributing the proceeds of the sales of the public lands to each State according to the federal population of each, for the purposes above specified?

3d. Will you sign and approve bills making appropriations to improve navigable streams above ports of entry?

4th. Will you sign and approve (if it becomes necessary to secure a safe and secure revenue and to afford a uniform sound currency to the People of the United States) a bill, with proper modifications and restrictions, chartering a Bank of the United States?

5th. What is your opinion as to the constitutional power of the Senate or House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, to expunge or obliterate from the journals the records and proceedings of a previous session?

From the manner in which the four first questions are stated, it appears that you do not ask my opinion as to the policy, or propriety, of the measures to which they respectively refer; but what would be my course, if they were presented to me (being in the Presidential chair of the United States) in the shape of bills, that had been duly passed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

From the opinions which I have formed of the intention of the Constitution, as to cases in which the veto power should be exercised by the President, I would have contented myself with giving an affirmative answer to the four first questions; but, from the deep interest which has been and indeed is now felt in relation to all the subjects, I think it proper to express my views upon each one separately.

I answer, then, 1st. That the immediate return of all the surplus money which is, or ought to be, in the Treasury of the United States, to the possession of the People, from whom it was taken, is called, for by every principle of policy, and, indeed, of safety to our institutions, and I know of no mode of doing it better than that recommended by the present Chief Magistrate, in his first annual message to Congress, in the following words: "To avoid these evils it appears to me that the most safe, just, and federal disposition which could be made of the surplus revenue, would be its apportionment among the several States according to the ratio of representation."

This proposition has reference to a state of things which now actually exists, with the exception of the amount of money thus to be disposed of—for it could not have been anticipated by the President that the surplus above the real wants or convenient expenditures of the Government would become so large, as that retaining it in the Treasury would so much diminish the circulating medium as greatly to embarrass the business of the country.

What other disposition can be made of it with a view to get it into immediate circulation but to place it in the hands of the State authorities? So great is the amount, and so rapidly is it increasing that it could not be expended for a very considerable time on the comparatively few objects to which it could be appropriated by the General Government; but the desired distribution amongst the People could be immediately effected by the States, from the infinite variety of ways in which it might be employed by them. By them it might be loaned to their own banking institutions, or even to individuals—a mode of distribution by the General Government which I sincerely hope is in the contemplation of no friend to his country.

2d. Whilst I have always broadly admitted that the public lands were the common property of all the States, I have been the advocate of that mode of disposing of them which would create the greatest number of freeholders; and I conceived that in this way the interests of all would be as well secured as by any other disposition; but since, by the small size of the tracts in which the lands are now laid out, and the reduction of the price, this desirable situation is easily attainable by any person of tolerable industry, I am perfectly reconciled to the distribution of the proceeds of the sales as provided for by the bill introduced into the Senate by Mr. Clay

the interests of all seem to be well provided for by this bill; and as from the opposition which has hitherto been made to the disposition of the lands heretofore contemplated by the representatives of the new States, there is no probability of its being adopted, I think it ought no longer to be insisted on.

3d. As I believe that no money should be taken from the Treasury of the United States to be expended on internal improvements but for those which are strictly national, the answer to this question would be easy but from the difficulty of determining which of those that are from time to time proposed would be of this description. This circumstance, the excitement which has already been produced by appropriations of this kind, and the jealousies which it will no doubt continue to produce if persisted in, give additional claims to the mode of appropriating all the surplus revenue of the United States in the manner above suggested. Each State will then have the means of accomplishing its own schemes of internal improvement. Still there will be particular cases when a contemplated improvement will be of greater advantage to the Union generally, and some particular States, than to that in which it is to be made. In such cases, as well as those in the new States, where the value of the public domain will be greatly enhanced by an improvement in the means of communication, the General Government should certainly largely contribute. To appropriations of the latter character there has never been any very warm opposition. Upon the whole, the distribution of the surplus revenue amongst the States seems likely to remove most, if not all, the causes of dissection of which the internal improvement system has been the fruitful source. There is nothing, in my opinion, more sacredly incumbent upon those who are concerned in the administration of our government than that of preserving harmony between the States. From the construction of our system, there has been, and probably ever will be, more or less jealousy between the General and State Governments; but there is nothing in the Constitution—nothing in the character of the relation which the States bear to each other—which can create any unfriendly feeling, if the common guardian administers its favors with an even and impartial hand. That this may be the case, all those to whom any portion of this delicate power is entrusted should always act upon the principles of forbearance and conciliation; ever more ready to sacrifice the interest of their immediate constituents rather than violate the rights of the other members of the family. Those who pursue a different course, whose rule is never to stop short of the attainment of all which they may consider their due, will often be found to have trespassed upon the boundary they had themselves established. The observations with which I shall conclude this letter on the subject of the veto power by the President will apply to this as well as your other questions.

4th. I have before me a newspaper, in which I am designated by its distinguished editor "The Bank and Federal Candidate." I think it would puzzle the writer to adduce any act of my life which warrants him in identifying me with the interest of the first, or the politics of the latter. Having no means of ascertaining the sentiments of the directors and stockholders of the Bank of the United States (which is the one I presume, with which it was intended to associate me) I cannot say what their course is likely to be in relation to the ensuing election for President. Should they, however, ever give me their support, it will be evidence at least that the opposition which I gave to their institution in my capacity of representative from Ohio in Congress proceeded, in their opinion, from a sense of duty which I could not disregard.

The journals of the second session of the thirteenth, and those of the 14th Congress, will show that my votes are recorded against them upon every question in which their interest was involved.—I did, indeed, exert myself in the Senate of Ohio to procure a repeal of the law which had imposed an enormous tax upon the branches which had been located in its boundaries at the request of the citizens. The ground of those exertions