

Williamsborough Recorder.

UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE LAWS—THE GUARDIANS OF OUR LIBERTY.

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No. 1027.

From the National Intelligencer.

We have great pleasure in presenting to our readers the following letter from the Hon. Joseph L. Williams, a respected Representative in Congress from the State of Tennessee, which explodes the foundation of one of the contemptible efforts to disperse the Republican candidate for the Presidency:

TO THE EDITORS.

Messrs. Giles & Seaton: Please publish in the Intelligencer the subjoined extract of a letter from Gen. Harrison, under date of the 28th ultimo. It is in answer to a communication which I addressed to him, relative to that ignominious submission to the Cincinnati Committee which has been so often ascribed to him. He repels the imputation that his thoughts are subject to the accepting or dictation of a committee.

The publication of the annexed portion of his letter is due to Gen. Harrison. It will be appreciated by the candid and just of all parties. To give it authenticity, is a sufficient motive for connecting my name with its publication.

Yours respectfully,
JOSEPH L. WILLIAMS.

Washington, June 6, 1840

Extract from Gen. Harrison's Letter.

All the connexion which I ever had with the Corresponding Committee of the Whigs of Hamilton county (that which I suppose has been alluded to,) is, that I requested the committee, through its chairman Major Gwynne, to give the information sought for, in some of the numerous letters I received, in relation to my political opinions, and events in my past life. This was to be done by sending to the writers of those letters the documents which contained the information they sought. He was, also, authorized, in cases where further opinions were asked for, to state my determination to give no other pledges of what I would or would not do, if I should be elected to the Presidency. The reasons which had induced me to adopt this determination are contained in a letter written to a committee in New York, and which will, I presume, be soon published. With neither of the other members of the committee did I ever exchange one word, or, by letter, give or receive any suggestions as to the manner in which the task in which I had assigned to the committee was to be performed. Indeed, I did not know, until very recently, who were the members of the committee. I had a strong doubt of their being my political and personal friends; such I found them to be.

As it has been asserted that I employed this committee to write political opinions for me, because I was unable to write them myself, it may be proper to say, that I was never in the habit of doing this; and that in all the Addresses, Letters, Speeches, General Orders, &c., which have been published under my name and with my sanction, there is not a line that was written or suggested by any other individual. I do not claim for these productions any merit; nor would I consider myself blameable had I received the occasional assistance of my friends in this way; but I mention it, to show how totally reckless are my political enemies in the assertions they make in relation to me.

From the National Intelligencer.

GEN. HARRISON AND HIS ADVERSARIES.

Among the demonstrations of the Richmond Enquirer, boasted of in the third number of its "Views," is one which escaped our notice in its preceding number, but which we are glad that the Enquirer has attracted our attention to. The substance of it is, that General Harrison was appointed Minister to Colombia by Mr. Adams, late President of the United States, which seems to be imputed to the General as a deadly political sin.

But, in his appointment upon this mission to a sister Republic, can any thing be found to sustain the charge, insinuated by the Enquirer, that General Harrison is not "calculated to support the principles of the Republican party?" If he was not entitled to this distinction by every consideration that should govern a patriotic President in selections for office, then it must be admitted that experience furnishes no rule on which the appointing power can safely rely, and that the offices of the country might as well be distributed by lottery. A splendid military career, commencing almost in his boyhood, had carried his own and his country's name as far as her eagles flew. With equal honor he had served her in the walks of peace. He had discharged high civil trusts, legislative, administrative, and diplomatic, with signal ability; he was known as the protecting genius of an extended and exposed frontier; he had received high tokens of confidence from Presidents Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, as well as from the first President Adams, and he had shown that he deserved them all. His country knew him as a competent and faithful servant, true in council and trusty in peril; as a friend often tried, and never found

wanting." If such a man as Wm. H. Harrison was not fit to be Minister to Colombia, we should be glad to learn where one could have been found. We challenge the Enquirer to a comparison of this appointment with any diplomatic mission sent by the Jackson or the Van Buren Administration. We will not say to the Southern Republics only, but to Europe, or any where else, from the very highest to the lowest of our Ministers abroad. Though Gen. Harrison was not permitted by the ruthless spirit of party to remain long at Colombia, he remained long enough to make a glorious addition to his fame by his celebrated letter to Bolivar—a communication called forth by peculiar circumstances, and fraught with sentiments as wise and noble as its composition is admirable.

To this recall of Gen. Harrison from Colombia, allusion was made in a speech delivered in the Senate of the United States, on the 4th of March, 1830, by one of the truest patriots and most eloquent orators who ever graced that assembly, John M. Clayton, now Chief Justice of Delaware:

"Take another case," said Mr. Clayton, "and inform us why the gallant Harrison, the hero of Fort Meigs, the victor at Tippecanoe and the Thames—a veteran in council as well as in the field, distinguished for his virtues in all the relations of the citizen, the soldier, and the statesman—why, I ask, was he proscribed as unfit to represent his country abroad, and withdrawn from Colombia to make room for Thomas P. Moore? He had scarcely arrived at Bogota—the ink was still fresh on the Executive record which informed the President that it was the advice of the Senate that he should represent us there, when the order for his removal was announced. This could not have been done for any official misconduct. There had been no time to inquire into that. Was his fidelity distrusted then? Or how did the public good require his dismissal? Think you it will tell well in the annals of history, that he who had so often perilled life and limb, in the vigor of manhood, to secure the blessings of liberty to others, was punished for the exercise of the elective franchise in his old age? Sir, it was an act, disguise it as we may, which, by holding out the idea that he had lost the confidence of his country, might tend to bring down his gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. But the glory he acquired by the campaign on the Wabash, and by those hard earned victories for which he received the thanks of the Legislature of Kentucky, and the full measure of a nation's thanks in the resolutions of Congress, can never be effaced; and any effort to degrade their honored object will recoil on those who make it, until other men, in better days, shall properly estimate his worth, and again cheer his declining years with proofs of his country's confidence and gratitude."

We have emphasized the last clause of this eloquent extract, to work a prophecy, of which, if any thing can prevent the fulfillment in the most conspicuous manner, it will not be such means of disparagement and detraction as are resorted to by the organs of the Administration. Every libel which it pays or promises to pay for, on the gallant old soldier, and true-hearted citizen, seems only to fix the people yet more firmly in their generous resolve to "cheer his declining years" with the highest possible proof "of his country's confidence and gratitude."

Gen. Harrison's Letter to Mr. Lyons.

The following correspondence between Mr. Lyons, the Whig elector for the Richmond district in Virginia, and Gen. Harrison, has been published in the Richmond Whig. This, like all the other letters of the General, is clear and explicit; and to every unprejudiced mind will conclusively show how utterly without foundation are the charges brought up against him of being an Abolitionist, a Federalist, &c. In a few days his letter to the Whig members of the New York Legislature will be published, and will still more distinctly define the General's position, and show that he is now, what he always has been, a friend to the South, and a sound Republican.

To the Editors of the Whig:

GENTLEMEN—I send you herewith a copy of a letter addressed by me to Gen. Harrison, and his reply to it. My letter furnishes the whole explanation of the cause which induced me to write it—and the reply conclusively vindicates the positions heretofore taken by the Whigs in respect to the opinions of Gen. Harrison. The Abolition humbug is at an end, and the Enquirer and the "Secretary of the Van Buren Committee" can no longer ride upon that bubble. The Enquirer will now be relieved from the painful duty of charging Abolitionism upon Gen. Harrison, while the Editor was satisfied, as he confessed, (as I have been most credibly informed,) that he did not believe

he was an Abolitionist. I am sure the Editor will find pleasure in retracting this imputation upon a venerable patriot, of whom he formerly thought so well and spoke so kindly, and will announce to his party that if this charge is to be repeated, they must find another to do the "dirty work." There will be some, perhaps, who will say, as they or others have done, that if Gen. Harrison be not an Abolitionist, he is the candidate of the Abolitionists—that is, that they will vote for him. Even this is not true; although I am sure that many of Mr. Van Buren's drummers and trainers, and possibly some of his captains, feared it might be true, and therefore have been most anxious to draw from Gen. Harrison a new expression of his opinions, with the view thereby to secure the votes of the Abolitionists for Mr. Van Buren, and secure his election.

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

I am happy, also, in saying, that I believe that the Editor of the Enquirer (if not, the Secretary of the Committee,) will find another source of pleasure in the confirmation now afforded to him of the judgment formerly pronounced by him upon Gen'l Harrison, when he declared not only that he was a Democrat, but a Democratic General, at the head of a victorious army. He spoke then as he really felt—The same patriotic and Republican spirit moved him when he pronounced the "mild" but "modest and courageous Harrison" "a Democratic General," which prompted him to denounce another very arbitrary General, as "a Tyrant," and to deprecate his election as "a curse." If the distinguished Editor has not the satisfaction to know that he was right in both opinions, he will not therefore find the less gratification in the conviction that he was right in one of them; and therefore promptly retract the charge, made in a moment of forgetfulness, (to which even the brightest age is subject,) that Gen'l Harrison is a Federalist. He will not longer permit Gen. Harrison to be assailed in his paper, because he was the personal friend of John Adams, whose name is identified with our Revolution as one of its earliest, ablest, and most fearless advocates.—Those who "pig in the same truckle bed" (to use a favorite phrase of the Editor) with Benton, Blair, Kendall and Duncan, cannot think it a reproach to be the personal friend of a Revolutionary patriot, in whom Washington confided, and of whom Mr. Jefferson said to Mr. Madison, "Mr. Adams and myself were cordial friends from the beginning of the revolution." His deviation from the line of politics on which we had been united, has not made me less sensible of the rectitude of his heart;—and to Mr. Gerry, "I entirely commend your dispositions towards Mr. Adams, knowing his worth as intimately, and esteeming it as much, as any one, and acknowledging the preferences of his claims, if any I could have

had, to the high office conferred on him." Let those who support all the abuses, robberies, and usurpations, which have characterized the present administration of the federal government, who denounce its leading measures as dangerous to liberty, and yet swear to "sink or swim" with "the man," denounce the patriot who achieved that liberty which they surrender to "the man," and proclaim it a sin to think well of him who was the friend of Washington and Jefferson—it will, perhaps, not excite surprise, (but I mistake the people of Virginia if it does not excite disgust,) and may be in keeping with the spirit of the times; for such things have happened before. The good and the great are always most reviled, and

The little boyman with his Peter bell,
Will sneer at him who drew Achitophel.
Very respectfully, yours,
JAMES LYONS.

Richmond, April 11th, 1840.

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

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

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

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

JAMES LYONS.
Cincinnati, Ohio.

To Gen. H. Harrison.

Gen. Harrison's Reply.

North Bend, 1st June, 1840
My dear Sir—As I received your letter of the 11th inst. I was very unwell, and could not attend to it, which I regretted very much. I am commonly called, which I do not object to, increased by writing to you for some time to do so in the same way. When I received your letter I had increased my anxiety, and I have not yet been able to do so, through it, even with the aid of my conscience keeping me from it, although I have adopted the expedient of getting rid of a large portion of my consulting

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

In 1799, I was selected by the Republican party of the Territorial Legislature to be their candidate for the appointment of delegate to Congress. Between Mr. Arthur St. Clair, Jr., (the son of Gov. St. Clair,) the Federal candidate, and myself, the votes were divided precisely as the two parties stood in the Legislature, with the exception of one Republican who was induced by his regard for the Governor to vote for his son. The vote was 11 to 10, not one of the nine Federalists voting for me. Before I left Cincinnati, the Republican members made me promise not to suffer my known opposition to the measures of the Administration to interfere with the attainment of the great object for which I was sent. Upon my arrival in Philadelphia, I was received by Mr. Adams in the most flattering manner. At his dinner parties, where I was often a guest, he seemed to take great pleasure in speaking of my father's services in the Revolutionary Congress, relating many anecdotes to show his devotion to the cause, and the effect which his pleasantries produced in cheering them in the gloom, which the occasionally unpromising state of their affairs often produced. I had no conversation with Mr. Adams on politics, farther than to explain to him my views in relation to the change in the system of selling the public lands, which I was glad to find he approved. As soon as the law was passed for the division of the North Western Territory, I was informed that it was the intention of Mr. Adams to nominate me to the Government of Indiana. I hesitated not a moment to declare that I would not accept it, although very much pressed to do so by several leading Federal members of Congress. I was not long in discovering the motives of those gentlemen. There had been some meetings of the people of the territory, in which resolutions had been adopted recommending me to the President for the Government of the territory, (North Western) instead of Governor St. Clair.

These resolutions, with correspondent addresses, had been forwarded to the President and Senate. Now it so happened that two distinguished Senators had fixed their eyes upon the same office. One of them, who had been most urgent for me to go to Indiana, had large possessions in the North Western Territory, which was probably one reason for wishing to go there. But the main object was to secure the territory to the Federal party, when it should become a state; which it was known would soon be the case. To carry out this plan, it was necessary to get me out of the way. The appointment was pressed upon me, notwithstanding my refusal to take it. At length, my relations and friends, the Messrs. Nicholas, Wilson Cary of the Senate, and John of the House, prevailed on me to accept it. They pointed out the advantages to myself, and assured me that there was no doubt of Mr. Jefferson's election in the ensuing November, and that I would be continued Governor of Indiana, and some republican succeed Gov. St. Clair in the North Western Territory.

I therefore accepted the appointment, with a determination, as Indiana had no voice in the choice of the President, that I would give you a full account of my connexion with the Presidency of Mr. Adams. I will conclude by saying, that Mr. Jefferson lost no time after his inauguration, to assure me of his favor and his confidence, and I think there is sufficient evidence that I retained both to the end of his administration.

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

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

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

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

Very truly yours,
W. H. HARRISON.

From the Madisonian.

NEW YORK UNDOUBTED.

The following letter from a well known and esteemed member of the House of Representatives from the Empire State, whose devotion to republican principles has been long and consistent, will increase the confidence those who know best, every where entertain, in regard to

for which I was sent. Upon my arrival in Philadelphia, I was received by Mr. Adams in the most flattering manner. At his dinner parties, where I was often a guest, he seemed to take great pleasure in speaking of my father's services in the Revolutionary Congress, relating many anecdotes to show his devotion to the cause, and the effect which his pleasantries produced in cheering them in the gloom, which the occasionally unpromising state of their affairs often produced. I had no conversation with Mr. Adams on politics, farther than to explain to him my views in relation to the change in the system of selling the public lands, which I was glad to find he approved. As soon as the law was passed for the division of the North Western Territory, I was informed that it was the intention of Mr. Adams to nominate me to the Government of Indiana. I hesitated not a moment to declare that I would not accept it, although very much pressed to do so by several leading Federal members of Congress. I was not long in discovering the motives of those gentlemen. There had been some meetings of the people of the territory, in which resolutions had been adopted recommending me to the President for the Government of the territory, (North Western) instead of Governor St. Clair.

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