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LETTER FROM MR. BUCHANAN

To the Editor of the Lancaster Journal.

The Cincinnati Advertiser was last night placed in my hands by a friend, containing an address from General Jackson to the public, dated on the 18th ult. in which he announces me to be the Member of Congress to whom he had referred, in his letter to Mr. Beverly of the 5th of June last. The duty which I owe to the public, and to myself, now compels me to publish to the world, the only conversation which I ever held with Gen. Jackson, upon the subject of the last Presidential election, prior to its termination.

In the month of December, 1824, a short time after the commencement of the Session of Congress, I heard, among other rumors then in circulation, that General Jackson had determined, should he be elected President, to continue Mr. Adams in the office of Secretary of State. Although I felt certain he had never intimated such an intention, yet I was sensible that nothing could be better calculated, both to cool the ardor of his friends, and inspire his enemies with confidence, than the belief that he had already selected his chief competitor, for the highest office within his gift. I thought General Jackson owed it to himself, and to the cause in which his political friends were engaged, to contradict this report; and to declare that he would not appoint to that office the man, however worthy he might be, who stood at the head of the most formidable party of his political enemies. These being my impressions, I addressed a letter to a confidential friend in Pennsylvania, then and still high in office, and exalted in character, and one who had ever been the decided advocate of General Jackson's election, requesting his opinion and advice upon the subject. I received his answer, dated the 27th of December, 1824, upon the 29th, which is now before me, and which strengthened and confirmed my previous opinion. I then finally determined, either that I would ask General Jackson myself, or get another of his friends to ask him, whether he had ever declared, he would appoint Mr. Adams his Secretary of State. In this manner, I hoped a contradiction of the report might be obtained from himself and that he might probably declare it was not his intention to appoint Mr. Adams.

A short time previous to the receipt of the letter to which I have referred, my friend Mr. Markley and myself got into conversation, as we very often did, both before and after, upon the subject of the Presidential election, and concerning the person who would probably be selected by General Jackson, to fill the office of Secretary of State. I feel sincerely sorry, that I am compelled thus to introduce his name; but I do so with the less reluctance, because it has already, without any agency of mine, found its way into the newspapers in connection with this transaction.

Mr. Markley adverted to the rumor which I have mentioned, and said it was calculated to injure the general. He observed that Mr. Clay's friends were warmly attached to him, and that he thought they would endeavor to act in concert at the election. That if they did so, they could either elect Mr. Adams or General Jackson at their pleasure; but that many of them would never agree to vote for the latter, if they knew he had pre-determined to prefer another to Mr. Clay, for the first office within his gift. And that some of the friends of Mr. Adams had already been holding out the idea, that in case he were elected, Mr. Clay might probably be offered the situation of Secretary of State.

I told Mr. Markley, that I felt confident General Jackson had never said he would appoint Mr. Adams Secretary of State; because he was not in the habit of conversing upon the subject of the election, and if he were, whatever might be his secret intention, he had more prudence than to make such a declaration. I mentioned to him that I had been thinking, either that I would call upon the General myself, or get one of his other friends to do so, and thus endeavor to obtain from him a contradiction of the report; altho' I doubted whether he would hold any conversation upon the subject.

Mr. Markley urged me to do so; and observed if General Jackson had not determined whom he would appoint Secretary of State, and should say that it would not be Mr. Adams, it might be of great advantage to our cause for us so to declare, upon his own authority: we should then be placed upon the same footing with the Adams' men, and might fight them with their own weapons.—That the western members would naturally prefer voting for a western man, if there were a probability, that the claims of Mr. Clay to the second office in the Government

should be fairly estimated; and that if they thought proper to vote for General Jackson, they could soon decide the contest in his favor.

A short time after this conversation, on the 30th December, 1824, (I am enabled to fix the time not only from my own recollection but from letters which I wrote on the day following, and on the 2d January, 1825,) I called upon General Jackson. After the company had left him, by which I found him surrounded, he asked me to take a walk with him; and whilst we were walking together upon the street, I introduced the subject. I told him, I wished to ask him a question in relation to the Presidential election, that I knew he was unwilling to converse upon the subject, that therefore if he deemed the question improper, he might refuse to give it an answer. That my only motive in asking it was friendship for him, and I trusted he would excuse me for thus introducing a subject, about which I knew he wished to be silent.

His reply was complimentary to myself, and accompanied with a request that I should proceed. I then stated to him, there was a report in circulation, that he had determined he would appoint Mr. Adams Secretary of State, in case he were elected President, and that I wished to ascertain, from him, whether he had ever intimated such an intention. That he must at once perceive how injurious to his election, such a report might be. That no doubt, there were several able and ambitious men in the country, among whom I thought Mr. Clay might be included, who were aspiring to that office, and if it were believed, he had already determined to appoint his chief competitor, it might have a most unhappy effect upon their exertions, and those of their friends. That unless he had so determined, I thought this report should be promptly contradicted under his own authority.

I mentioned, it had already probably done him some injury, and proceeded to relate to him the substance of the conversation which I had held with Mr. Markley. I do not remember whether I mentioned his name, or merely described him as a friend of Mr. Clay.

After I had finished, the General declared, he had not the least objection to answer my question. That he thought well of Mr. Adams, but had never said or intimated, that he would, or that he would not, appoint him Secretary of State. That these were secrets he would keep to himself—he would conceal them from the very hairs of his head. That if he believed his right hand then knew what his left would do, upon the subject of appointments to office, he would cut it off and cast it into the fire. That if he should ever be elected President, it would be without solicitation and without intrigue upon his part.—That he would then go into office perfectly free and untrammelled, and would be left at perfect liberty to fill the offices of the Government, with the men, whom at the time, he believed to be the ablest and the best in the country.

I told him that his answer to my question was such an one as I had expected to receive, if he answered it at all; and that I had not sought to obtain it, for my own satisfaction. I then asked him, if I were at liberty to repeat his answer. He said I was perfectly at liberty to do so to any person I thought proper. I need scarcely remark that I afterwards availed myself of the privilege. The conversation upon this topic here ended, and in all our intercourse since, whether personally, or in the course of our correspondence, General Jackson never once adverted to the subject, prior to the date of his letter to Mr. Beverly.

I do not recollect that General Jackson told me, I might repeat his answer to Mr. Clay and his friends; though I should be sorry to say he did not. The whole conversation being upon the public street, it might have escaped my observation.

A few remarks, & I trust I shall have done with this disagreeable business forever. I called upon General Jackson, on the occasion which I have mentioned, solely as his friend, upon my individual responsibility, and not as the agent of Mr. Clay, or any other person. I never have been the political friend of Mr. Clay, since he became a candidate for the office of President, as you very well know. Until I saw General Jackson's letter to Mr. Beverly of the 5th ult., and at the same time was informed by a letter from the Editor of the United States' Telegraph, that I was the person to whom he alluded, the conception never once entered my mind, that he believed me to have been the agent of Mr. Clay or of his friends, or that I had intended to propose to him terms of any kind from them, or that he could have supposed me to be capable of expressing the "opinion that it was right to fight such intriguers with their own weapons."—Such a supposition, had I entertained it, would have rendered me exceedingly unhappy, as there is no man upon earth, whose good opinion I more

valued, than that of General Jackson. He could not, I think, have received this impression, until after Mr. Clay and his friends had actually elected Mr. Adams President, and Mr. Adams had appointed Mr. Clay Secretary of State. After these events had transpired, it may be readily conjectured in what manner, my communication might have led him into the mistake. I deeply deplore that such has been its effect.

I owe it to my own character to make another observation. Had I ever known, or even suspected, that General Jackson believed I had been sent to him by Mr. Clay or his friends, I should have immediately corrected his erroneous impression, and thus prevented the necessity for this most unpleasant explanation. When the editor of the United States Telegraph, on the 12th October last, asked me by letter for information upon this subject, I promptly informed him by the returning mail, on the 16th of that month, that I had no authority from Mr. Clay, or his friends, to propose any terms to General Jackson in relation to their votes; nor did I ever make any such proposition; and that I trusted I would be as incapable of becoming a messenger, upon such an occasion, as it was known General Jackson would be to receive such a message. I have deemed it necessary to make this statement, in order to remove any misconception, which may have been occasioned, by the publication in the Telegraph of my letter to the Editor, dated the 11th ultimo.

With another remark I shall close this communication. Before I held the conversation with General Jackson, which I have detailed, I called upon Major Eaton, and requested him to ask General Jackson, whether he had ever declared or intimated, that he would appoint Mr. Adams Secretary of State, and expressed a desire, that the General should say, if consistent with the truth, that he did not intend to appoint him to that office. I believed that such a declaration would have a happy influence upon the election, and I endeavored to convince him that such would be its effect. The conversation between us was not so full, as that with General Jackson. The Major politely declined to comply with my request, and advised me to propound the question to the General myself, as I possessed a full share of his confidence.

JAMES BUCHANAN.
Lancaster, 8th Aug. 1827.

From the National Gazette.

We insert to-day Mr. Buchanan's account of his conference with General Jackson, to which the latter refers in his late address to the public. It being probable that there will be other statements from different sources, we shall postpone the particular commentary which we are disposed to make on the whole case. As, in the absence of all proof, a public character so exalted as the Secretary of State, was not to be presumed to have been privy to any corrupt plans or proposals, so a personage like General Jackson ought not to be accused nor even suspected of wilful misrepresentation or deliberate slander, while there is scope for the supposition that he misapprehended Mr. Buchanan. Considering the circumstances of the time, the General's feelings towards Mr. Clay, and the tenor of Mr. Markley's discourse reported by Mr. Buchanan, we are not surprised that a misapprehension did occur. The General was imprudent, and we think, inconsistent, in answering Beverly; and has exposed himself in several parts of his letters, to strictures which it will be difficult for his friends to repel: But we cannot believe that he has proclaimed any other than his real impressions, however erroneous these may be, or whatever share antipathy and resentment against Mr. Clay, may have had in prompting him to disclose them as he has done.

We regard this controversy in general, as unfortunate in reference to the national character, according to the uses to which it is turned by the electioneering partisans on each side. The endeavor of one party is to convict the first minister of the President, and incidentally the President himself, of the vilest intrigue, fraud and bargain; and the other party labor to fix upon a candidate for the chief magistracy, who received ninety nine electoral votes at the last election, the stigma of gross and studied calumny, uttered for the purpose of advancing his claims to office and degrading his competitors. We should pray the zealots to practise a little charity and forbearance in behalf of their country, if they cannot consent to be somewhat kind and generous to individuals; old public servants, to whose characters and achievements, homage has been so often paid throughout the Union. If either of the objects of this unpatriotic warfare were now to die suddenly, we should hear, at once, in all likelihood, only a grand chorus of panegyric on their memories.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

From the National Journal.

The following brief notices of some of the distinguished men of Great Britain may not be unacceptable to your readers. The facts have been collected from different sources, and are such as may be relied on. I will commence with the sketch of the life of the present Minister of Great Britain—

THE RIGHT HON. GEORGE CANNING.

This eminent individual is the son of an English lawyer, who died while he was an infant. The care of his education was assumed by his uncle, who died before his charge had left Eton, from whence he was sent to Oxford, where he became acquainted, and formed a close friendship, with Lord Liverpool—a friendship which has never been interrupted.

In 1793 Mr. Canning was elected a member of Parliament for Newton, in the Isle of Wight, and not long after was employed as joint Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Canning followed the fortunes of the late Mr. Pitt, retired with him from office in 1801, and returned with him in 1803, was appointed Treasurer of the Navy. In 1807, he succeeded Lord Howick, as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, which he held till the 12th of October, 1809, when, in consequence of a duel with Lord Castlereagh, he resigned. In 1815 he was sent as Minister to Lisbon; and in 1816, was appointed President of the Board of Control, which, however, he resigned in 1820, with a view to avoid taking any part in the prosecution of the late Queen. In 1822, he was made Governor-General of India, but before he could enter upon the duties of his new office, Lord Castlereagh put an end to his life, and Mr. C. was restored to his former post of Foreign Secretary, which he held till the present year, when his highest ambition was gratified by being elevated to the post of Premier of England.

Mr. C. is said to have a high sense of honor, and to be animated by what the world would call feelings of chivalry. He has been engaged in some affairs of honor in the course of his life. He fought a duel with Lord Castlereagh, and challenged Sir F. Burdett.

Mr. C. is considered as the most splendid Parliamentary orator of his age. His person is said to be tall and well proportioned, surmounted with an elegant Shakespearean pile of forehead. His action is appropriate and graceful, though, perhaps, somewhat too theatrical, and his voice is deep and musical, neither too loud nor too low. His wit is keen but playful, his style elaborate, and his language showy. His principal excellence is said to consist in overthrowing the arguments of his antagonists, which he does with great force and sprightliness.—"There is not," (says the panegyrist,*) a man living whose appearance is calculated to put you in better humor with official men, with Parliamentary orators, with Englishmen, with mankind in general, or even (saving a tinge of envy,) with yourself, than this amiable, eloquent, and, as the event has proved, liberal, and truly English Secretary. Without having a single trace of pedantry, or foppery, or affectation about him, Mr. Canning has more of the real art of the orator than any man in the house. In the range of his power, and in the depth of knowledge, more especially on philosophical subjects, he is inferior to Brougham; but in all those qualities which are calculated to dazzle and win an enlightened audience, he is decidedly superior."

THE REV. EDWARD IRVING.

Of this gentleman, who has lately acquired so much celebrity as a preacher, I believe but little of his life is yet known. He was born in Annon, on the borders of Scotland. At 18 he taught mathematics, afterwards moved to Kirkcaldy, in Fifeshire, where he was engaged to teach in a respectable Academy, and where he was first known as a clergyman. He subsequently removed to Edinburgh, where he was heard by the celebrated Dr. Chalmers, who liked his manners so much, that when Mr. Irving made a visit to some friends in Ireland, he invited him to become his assistant in the laborious duties of his ministry. Mr. Irving accepted his offer, though he had intended to devote himself for some time to solitary travel—and when in Glasgow, he excited almost as much curiosity as Chalmers himself. The members of the Caledonian Church, in London, having heard of Mr. Irving, prevailed upon the proper authorities to invite him to come up to the Metropolis as a candidate for the vacant place in that Church. Mr. I. complied with the invitation, and was introduced as the Assistant of Dr. Chalmers. The four successive days he occupied the pulpit on trial, satisfied those who had invited him, of qualifications to

fill the vacancy. For some time, however, his congregation in his little church did not exceed fifty persons; but in a very short time, such was his popularity, it increased to a number large enough to have filled St. Pauls. Seven thousand pounds were immediately raised to build a national Scotch Church, and the foundation stone was laid in July, 1824, by the Earl of Braddane. Towards the erection of this Church, the most distinguished scholars, nobility, and members of Parliament of Great Britain subscribed; and it has become, from the wonderful popularity of the preacher, a place of such fashionable resort, that the access to it, unless at a very early hour, is almost impossible.

Mr. Irving's personal appearance is much in his favour; his figure is tall and elegantly formed; his face is striking, if not absolutely fine; his hair dark and glossy; and his complexion a clear iron grey. He has a defect or obliquity in his vision, which, it is said, after the curiosity and admiration he has excited have ceased, often leads to the inquiry whether it be an advantage to the preacher or not. Mr. I. shines more by flashes, than by continuity of thought—his enthusiasm is said not to be deep or lofty, or his genius burning or intense. His mind, however, is one of no ordinary powers—he has a *mens devinor*, and wields its energies with great force and skill. A writer in the New Monthly, in speaking of him, says—"he has shrunk from no opinion, however paradoxical: he has scrupled to avow no sentiment, however obnoxious: he has scouted prevailing fashions: he has opposed the spirit of the age, and not consulted the *esprit de corps*: he has turned religion and the Caledonian Chapel to topsyturvy: he has held a play book in one hand and a Bible in the other, and quotes Shakespeare and Malancthon in the same breath: he has taken the thorns and briars of scholastic divinity, and garlanded them with the flowers of modish literature: he has done all this, relying on the strength of a remarkably fine person and manner, and through that he has succeeded."

HENRY BROUGHAM, Esq. M. P. F. R. S.

This eminent orator and lawyer was born in Scotland about the year 1778. He was educated in Edinburgh, in the house of his grand-mother, the sister of Dr. Robertson, the historian. He is a descendant of the family of Brougham of Brougham, in Westmoreland, and is heir to the title. He was called to the bar of Scotland, in 1800, but soon left it to enter upon his career in England, where his fame, as a writer, had preceded him. He first appeared at the bar of the House of Commons, against the orders in Council, where he realized the expectations which had been formed of him, by the power of his eloquence. He was soon elected a member of Parliament, which afforded a fine arena for the display of his peculiar talent of invective, and the depth and variety of his knowledge. In 1820 he was selected as the Queen's Attorney General, and though after her death he was obliged to return to the stuff robes of a junior barrister, yet his business continued to increase, and his fame to keep pace with it. Mr. Brougham first distinguished himself as a contributor to the far famed Edinburgh Review, which he furnished with many articles of great merit, and afterwards by several separate productions in his own name. The most elaborate of these was his "Enquiry into the Colonial Policy of the European Powers," which at once displayed the extent of his research, the power of his intellect, the correctness of his observation, and the clearness of his political views. Mr. B. always prepares himself before he speaks; he places no reliance on spontaneous effort, and his oratorical displays always evince great previous labours and exertion. His knowledge of science, elegant arts, languages, popular discoveries, and legal subtleties, is various and profound. "The resources of the man," (says the author of *Babylon the Great*), are really astonishing; and one would almost imagine that he had realized the ancient Scythian fable, by killing the foremost man in every department of knowledge, and possessing himself of their intellectual inheritances."

His figure is fine, his person tall and graceful, and his voice powerful and easily modulated. His style is said to be distinguished by antiquated, but eloquent phraseology, and his invective is keen and terrible. In addressing the House, he commences with a voice low and unpretending, and rises by degrees to an almost deafening roar; then sinks again to a whisper, but a whisper so distinct that no syllable is lost, and so extraordinary that the effect is irresistible. This decaying of the voice is, however, the prelude to the development of his whole force and energy, which come upon his hearers like a peal of thunder. "We be to the man," (says the author I have quoted