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GEN TAYLOR'S LETTER TO THE HON. JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL.

Head Quarters Army of Occupation, Camp near Monterey, Mexico, August 3, 1847.

Hon. JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL—Dear Sir—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter of the 7th ult., which has just reached me, in which you say, "I had the honor of being called on last evening to address a mass meeting of the Whigs of the City and County of Philadelphia. At that meeting your name was frequently mentioned in connection with the office of Chief Magistrate. I stated to that meeting, as I had before stated in my place in the House of Representatives at Washington, that you were a Whig—not indeed an ultra partisan Whig—but a Whig in principle."

At the last Presidential canvass, without interfering in any way with the same, it was well known to all with whom I mixed, Whigs and Democrats, for I had no concealments in the matter, that I was decidedly in favor of Mr. Clay's election; and would now prefer seeing him in that office to any individual in the Union certainly much more so at any time to myself.

I will not say I would yield my pretensions, for I have not the vanity to believe I have any for that distinguished station, but would acquiesce, not only with pleasure, in such an arrangement, but would rejoice that the Republic had one citizen more worthy and better qualified than I am to discharge the important duties appertaining to that position, and no doubt there are thousands.

Be this as it may, if ever I occupy the White House, it must be by the spontaneous movement of the people, without action of mine in relation to it; without pledges other than I have previously stated; a strict adherence to the provisions of the Constitution; so that I could enter on the arduous and responsible duties appertaining to said office untrammelled; so that I could be the President of the country and not of a party.

With considerations of great respect and esteem, I remain your obedient servant. (Signed) Z. TAYLOR. We have some little glimmerings of hope. I have this moment received a note from Gen. Wool, commanding at Saltillo, about 70 miles in advance of the place towards the city of Mexico, of which the following is an extract:—"I have but a moment to say I have received information through J. Sanchez, that General Scott was still at Puebla on the 17th ult.; that the Mexican Congress had convened, and that it had conferred the power on Santa Anna to negotiate for peace, subject to the approval of Congress, and that an armistice had been proposed."

LETTER FROM THE HON. JOHN SEREANT

Addressed to the Committee of invitation of the Buena Vista festival in Philadelphia.

Dear Sirs—Your kind invitation of the 11th, to attend the festival of the 22d instant in commemoration of the birthday of Washington, and of the greatest achievement of General Taylor, was duly received. It is doubtful whether I shall be able to be with you on the occasion, my engagements here not leaving me at liberty to follow my own strong inclination. My whole heart, however, will be with you. I prefer General Taylor, as the candidate of the Whigs, for the Presidency of the United States to any citizen who has been named.

This is no hasty opinion, thoughtlessly adopted, and adhered to, because it has been taken up. It was formed deliberately, with a full sense of the importance of the coming election, and has been confirmed by everything I have since become acquainted with touching this eminent citizen. Neither is it upon the ground, singly or even considerably, that he is the most available candidate; though it must be admitted, that where merits are equal, this is a consideration not to be disregarded.

A great and good party, like that of the Whigs whose sole object is to support the constitution and promote the welfare of our country, ought not to waste or endanger its strength, by the indulgence of personal and individual preference however well deserved, if they have a tendency to deprive us of the co-operation of masses of our fellow citizens, who agree with us in our general views, but cannot accept the terms which we would make indispensable to mutual aid. The time is coming if it be not already come, when a power must be raised up under the constitution, to check the wild and unconstitutional adventures begun and prosecuted under the authority of a party convention; or in the sober judgment of the wisest among us, we are all in danger of ruin.

But how is such power to be raised up under the Constitution? It can only be by the ballot box. And how can it be raised up? No otherwise than by a strong and decided demonstration in the beginning, and then lodging it in hands where it will be preserved, and then increased, and executed beneficially for the public of the United States, under the guidance of wisdom, patriotism, firmness and moderation, with an ample portion of public support.

These requirements appear to me to be happily answered by the character and qualifications of Gen. Taylor. In his brief but successful campaign on the Rio Grande he attracted the admiration of the world. He filled up the measure of his fame at Monterey and Buena Vista. His countrymen at once accorded to him one portion of the prize bestowed upon Washington as next to him, "the first in war."

From that day his name was historical. And who was this great soldier who in a very few months had achieved such extraordinary distinction? All eyes were turned toward him, his life was eagerly inquired into and scrutinized. And what has it been found to be? A life of duty, devoted to his country and his fellow men, and without spot or blemish. A life, too, which had every where done them distinguished honor.

It is not to be wondered at that the heart of his countrymen were rapidly drawn towards him. Their affection for him was prompt, but it was not inconsiderate, nor bestowed upon an unworthy man. Wise as he is brave, with a heart full of kindness and humanity; free from affectation and selfishness; sympathizing with the sufferings which his duty obliges him to witness and to the utmost of his power relieving them; doing generous justice to all without jealousy or the least sinister apprehension of his receiving the estimation of his own merits; conducting every trust reposed in him to a successful issue, without blame or reproach,—always obedient to the Constitution and laws,—who can doubt that such a man is fitted for the highest employments, and can safely be trusted with the powers of the Chief Executive Magistracy of the Union?

As far as observation has enabled me to discern, this is the judgment of the whole people and in my opinion, a wise and just judgment. I am willing to follow it, and to be thankful that at such a time, so good a man seems to be offered for our relief from the perils which threaten our institutions.

It may be admitted that Gen. Taylor is a soldier—nay, that he is a very great and distinguished soldier. But is this a well founded objection to him? The notion that profession has a determining influence upon character is in my humble opinion neither philosophical nor just; and it has no sanction from experience. Where lust of power is in the heart, or a lawless ambition, it will seek its gratification by the means within their reach, whatever they may be.

But that the military profession regularly cultivates the vicious propensity, or affords a tempting scope for its indulgence, all history, and especially our own, contradicts. What shall we say of Washington? What can we say of Gen. Taylor? Who ever heard of his indulging in an outrage of art or of speech, or having shown an overbearing and arbitrary temper? Always calm, always submissive to the dictates of duty, never for an moment forgetting what he owes to his country and to her laws, and what is due others there is no trait in his character so striking as the quiet repose he exhibits in the midst of that commanding energy, which inspires all around him with an unbounded confidence in their leader, and devotion in their cause.

Nor is it just to exclude from civil employment, even the highest all who have worn a sword in the service of their country. Still less would it be politic thus to exclude them, "weakening the link that binds them to and drive them" to conclude that they are a sort of proscribed beings who have nothing to look to but their own swords. The body of youth, who enter into the military service, are fully equal to the like number of any other pursuits and those educated at West Point can certainly not be out ranked by those educated anywhere else. They are as valuable to society, as dear to their friends and relatives, and as capable of contributing to our social, civil and political welfare. Let us therefore strengthen their civil and social feelings, by showing to them that all the privileges of our free institutions belong to them in common with all others, and that the enjoyment of them requires nothing but that they should do their duty as soldiers and maintain their character as citizens. And when a great and good man, like Gen. Taylor, appears among us, for his further encouragement make it evident that his profession constitutes no objection to the highest civil advancement.

Some will say, further—indeed have said, that Gen. Taylor is not a Whig, and therefore, cannot be a Whig Candidate. This objection, it must be admitted is entitled to great respect and should always be treated with that tender caution which is due to each other from the members of our great political family. In this spirit I would earnestly but kindly and respectfully, call upon them to remember the condition of our public affairs and then to consider that the loss of the next Presidential Election will be a great disaster to our country, and not less to the Whig party, which, with all my long cherished attachment to that party is the order in which these things are to be regarded. Having made this remark, let us consider how the matter really stands upon the public proofs before us.

We know, then, that Gen. Taylor is not of the opposite party. This is a great deal & without dwelling upon it, I leave it to every Whig to consider for himself. The more he ponders upon it the weightier he will find it to be. "It excludes at once," a host of dangers which no Whig would be willing to incur.

But, in addition, without personal acquaintance with General Taylor, never having had a communication with him verbal or written, I firmly believe that he holds our cardinal principles in common with us and that he holds them with a tranquility which neither fear, nor flattery, nor seduction, nor temptation, nor influence

him to yield or to relax. His lofty position raises him above them. His characteristic integrity and firmness of purpose, render him unassailable by them. They cannot approach him. He is unsurpassed in his estimate of merit and liberally just in appreciating it where it is real. In this respect, as well as others he is more like Washington than any man who has lived since his time.

I am unable to say whether or not General Taylor, has declined being the exclusive candidate of a party, nor does it seem to me material. He has never sought to be a candidate at all. The position he occupies, has been spontaneously assigned to him by his countrymen. He has not declined it, and I am not satisfied that he is at liberty to change it. Judging from the past history of his life he will take the post assigned him and will neither shrink from or desert it.

One word more, and this long letter will be brought to a conclusion. The next President of the United States, to be able to carry on the government beneficially to the public, ought, if possible to come in with a support greater than a mere party election can give, even with the poor, precarious addition a very success usually brings with it. He should have the Country with him. In this view the great and deserved popularity of General Taylor, is not to be regarded or lightly esteemed, but to be considered as a power to do good.

Yours, very truly, JOHN SERJEANT. Messrs. E. Joy Morris, Charles Gilpin, S. S. Kelly, George A. Landell, Peter Glasgow, John Wistar, Jr., William B. Mann, George Erey.

LAND HO.

The sight of land to the storm-tossed mariner is not more welcome, than the prospect of peace to our citizens, wearied and disgusted by the long continuance of this destructive and unprofitable war with Mexico. For the first time since its commencement, we can now indulge in a reasonable hope of its conclusion on the basis of a treaty framed so as to make a compromise of conflicting opinions.

If peace is at last attained, let the praise be awarded where it is justly due, to Gen. Winfield Scott—whose firmness, foresight and sagacity have secured this blessing for the two Republics, whose mutual interest should prompt them to strengthen the bonds of amity, recently covered.

For this consummation so devoutly to be wished, no thanks are due to our most pugnacious President, who commencing his glorious reign with "54, 40, or fight," and securing neither on that occasion, determined to get both the "fight" and the territory elsewhere—and who backs in the reflected glory from the battle field at which he was the hero—by proxy. All the efforts of Mr. Polk to terminate this war, after he and his partisans, like mischievous children, had become frightened at the first of their own kindling, have been most miserably abortive. Witness that master stroke of diplomatic policy, the transaction known as Santa Anna's Wishes, the command of General Taylor, of which even he himself expressed his illigant scorn! Witness the fire in front and rear to which Gen. Scott has been subjected—and the timid and bungling mission of Faunt, a stumbling block and annoyance in the gallant veteran's thorough. In short, let the whole conduct of this war by the Administration be examined, and it will be found the most wretched "mixing of shreds and patches" that has ever palmed off upon a people for a system of policy.

Not that we again repeat, that the President cannot claim the honor of terminating this war as the most undeniably and the equivalent merit of having succeeded in it. That honor is due to the hero of Landy's Lane, Chippewa, Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, and the well fought battle fields of the Valley of Mexico, who tempering the valor of the soldier with the moderation of the statesman, has brought to terms an enemy hitherto deaf to all propositions of peace. The coincidence is not a little curious, that the Messenger bearing to the President from the successful General of the tidings of the crowning exploit of the campaign, should pass on the route, in celebration of that President, charged by him with a duty, humiliating and revolting to the pride of the veteran soldier, who has deserved so well of the country, which will repay him better than his chief magistrate. Haggard and harassed throughout this campaign by all the annoyances that a petty malice could devise, and finally suspended from his high command, that General, like the "Exile of Monterey," yet towers in public estimation high above the partisan President, who monopolizes all the merits of others, but saddles them with his own blunders, and whose blunders may even yet disappoint the general hope and prayer for a speedy and an honorable peace.

To TAYLOR, or SCOTT, and to their gallant Comrades then, be awarded all the glory acquired in the War—to the President and his evil Counsellors, the responsibility for the heavy price in life, limbs and treasure, which it has cost the Country. This is the only fair and equitable mode of making the division. We honor the intrepid men who extinguished, while we abhor the incendiaries who kindled the conflagration.

Be sober, be industrious, read, reflect, be temperate, be virtuous, be patriotic, be patriotic, be patriotic.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. S. It has pleased Divine Providence to call home a great and patriotic citizen. Your Quincy Adams is no more. At the advanced age of more than fourscore years, he was suddenly stricken from his seat in the House of Representatives by the hand of disease on the 21st, and expired in the Capitol a few minutes after seven o'clock on the evening of the 23d of February, 1848.

The Union (Barbutean) Convention. We were somewhat surprised to find in the Equivocal Tuesday last, what purported to be an account of the proceedings at the late Barbutean Convention at Utica, New York, in which all that concerned the subject of slavery and the Wilmot Proviso was studiously omitted. We have not before us a copy of the whole address which was adopted, on motion of Mr. John Van Buren. The N. Y. Express presents as follows, the substance of its leading for on these delicate points.

On the subject of the Wilmot Proviso, or the extension of slavery into territory to be acquired from Mexico, the address is decided in sustaining the doctrine adopted at the Herkimer Convention, last fall. It traces the history of restrictions on the extension of slavery, and allows the following as the feeling of the Democracy of New York: "But in demand of the citizens of this great State that after we have by reasonable action, and what was at the time, though erroneously regarded as a great success, succeeded in abolishing slavery from its borders, they should, on this day, in the middle of the 19th century, in full view of the improved opinion of almost all mankind upon the subject of the ingrate and incalculable advantages in the increase and prosperity of our State in so small degree attributable to this very exemption, make themselves parties, either directly or virtually, by action or inaction, to the original institution of slavery by force in territories which are now exempt from it, is most unreasonably indeed."

It is what we are persuaded that no enlightened or candid man at the South can possibly expect at our hands, however plausible the pretensions are in which the sacrifice is asked, and for making which they could not fail to despise us, if done upon the impulse of a desire of political promotion. This reiteration of the Wilmot Proviso, by the ardent portion of the Democracy of the Empire State, is by far the most important of their declarations. It settles the question of Democratic harmony being induced by the oversteering efforts of Buchanan, Dallas and Cass at Southern conciliation.

We are glad to see, that whilst the Barbutean address holds that there are portions of the territory of Mexico, which can spare without materially weakening her condition, and which would, in commercial and other points of view, be important that the United States should own; it also avows something like a conservative doctrine in the following sentence: "Whatever effects upon the population of Mexico, may in the process of time be produced by the increased migration from the United States, to which the present war will certainly lead, are not, at this time, wholly unsuspecting to commit the decision of this great and flourishing Republic to an union with a population like that of which she is at this moment composed."

The board named that the Convention nominated General Taylor for the Presidency, and Mr. Dix for the Vice Presidency, arose from the adoption of resolutions in their praise, but having no personal evidence to these offices. The following is the resolution in regard to General Taylor: "Resolved, That Major General Zachary Taylor be and he is hereby recognized as the hero of our country, for his heroic conduct and valor in the cooling and courage on the field of battle, has shown himself to be not only a distinguished military chief, but a man of great mental and moral power, and whose whole life has been evidence of a strong heart, and honest heart, and a republican simplicity of character."

No nomination was made for President and Vice President by the Convention, leaving that matter to the decision of the National Convention to meet at Baltimore on the 15th of May. A resolution was adopted, expressing confidence in the chief wisdom and public and private virtue of Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, and James W. Polk, of Tennessee.

The late John Quincy Adams. We observed in the Washington papers, Orders from the War and Navy Departments, directing at each Military post and Naval station, that the National Flag shall be displayed at half-mast, and saluted. The following is the announcement of the President:

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. S. It has pleased Divine Providence to call home a great and patriotic citizen. Your Quincy Adams is no more. At the advanced age of more than fourscore years, he was suddenly stricken from his seat in the House of Representatives by the hand of disease on the 21st, and expired in the Capitol a few minutes after seven o'clock on the evening of the 23d of February, 1848. He had for more than half a century filled the most important stations and offices, from that of Member of the United States House of Representatives, to that of President of the House of Representatives, which he was a venerable and most distinguished member will doubtless procure the appropriate recognition he observed on each of respect for the memory of distinguished citizen. The Nation mourns his loss, and as a further testimony of respect for his memory, I direct that all the Executive offices at Washington be placed in mourning, and that all business be suspended during this day and tomorrow. JAMES M. POLK.

SPLENDID PREMIUM PLATES.

FOR THE Subscribers to the Columbian Magazine.

Sent by mail to any part of the United States, free of Postage. THE COLUMBIAN MAGAZINE, for 1848, edited by JOHN INMAN and ROBERT A. WEST. A repository of the choicest American literature, entirely original, and of the most costly original embellishments. The Columbian Magazine enters upon a new year with prospects increasingly bright and promising. It has attained a proud position in the public estimation. The press, universally, and with a generous kindness which the Proprietor gratefully acknowledges, has borne testimony to the superiority of its literature and the profusion and elegance of its embellishments; while its immense and constantly increasing circulation, shows that the press has buttered the general sentiment, and affords such agreeable evidence that it has met the expectation of all, that it seems to the Publisher almost unnecessary to speak of the future.

It cannot be necessary to say much of the conduct of the literary department of the Columbian. The gentlemen who have so long and satisfactorily discharged that duty, continue their efficient services, and the Publisher is happy to announce that he has made arrangements with several of the most distinguished writers in this country, whose regular contributions will enrich the Magazine; while, as heretofore, the merit of its articles, quite so much as the fame of its writers, will be the passport to its pages. Elevated sentiment and pure morality will distinguish all the literature of the Columbian Magazine.

The paper on which the Columbian will hereafter be printed, is manufactured expressly for the purpose, by one of the largest and most highly esteemed makers in the Union, and the typography will be of proportionate neatness and elegance. The Publisher respectfully solicits from authors, artists, subscribers and agents, a continuance of the confidence hitherto so generously awarded the Magazine. As an earnest of the liberality with which he intends to conduct that department of his work, he has prepared, as a large enticement, a magnificent full length Portrait of Washington, price two dollars, in stipple and mezzotint, which will be presented gratis, free of postage, to every zealous subscriber to the Columbian Magazine, who will send to the publisher \$3 in advance, postage paid. It is an engraving of such superior merit, and the subject is of such profound and abiding interest, that he cannot doubt that the gift will highly gratify the receiver, and largely swell the list of his subscribers. He successively, also, the following unusually liberal terms of publication, it being understood that the subscriptions are in cash.

For \$3, the Magazine and Engraving of Washington.

For \$5, two copies of the Magazine, and the Engraving with each. The great National Picture of the Declaration of Independence, just published. This picture, which was painted by Col. Trumbull for the House at Washington, and originally engraved on copper by A. B. Howard, has been re-engraved on steel, and is the result of two years' labor. It contains portraits of all the signers, and should be in every American home in the home of every American citizen. The size of the engraving is 31 by 31 inches, it is printed on the best plate paper, 39 by 39 inches. Price, \$3. Every person who will send to the Publisher of the Columbian \$4, post paid, shall receive a copy of this Engraving and a copy of the Mag-