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BY GEORGE HOWARD,

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DOMESTIC.

Mr. Van Buren.—The Albany (N. Y.) Argus states that Mr. Van Buren expected to embark for this country on the 10th inst. The Argus also contains the Correspondence between the committee of the republican members of the Legislature of New York and Mr. Van Buren, in relation to the recent conduct of the Senate of the U. States. The following is Mr. Van Buren's reply to the Committee:—

London, March 14th, 1832.

Gentlemen—Your letter of the 10th ultimo, communicating to me the views of the republican members of the Legislature of New York, in relation to the conduct of the Senate of the United States upon the subject of my nomination as minister to this country, has found me in the hurry and press of occupations, public and private, preparatory to my departure. This circumstance increases the difficulty which I would at any time feel in expressing in suitable terms, the emotions of my heart on receiving so eloquent a testimonial of sympathy and confidence.

I cannot but be deeply gratified and flattered by the approbation expressed of my public services, though I feel that in the warmth and excitement of the moment, that approbation has far exceeded my deserts. In exerting myself to the utmost to discharge the successive trusts with which I have been honored, I have but fulfilled the obligations incumbent upon every citizen: had my merits and success been tenfold greater, they would already have been more than repaid.

But while I dare not arrogate to myself the measure of applause so generously awarded to me, there is one testimonial which gives me the proudest gratification, and a part of which I hesitate not to accept and appropriate as my due. You tell me that the Democracy of New York have long felt themselves identified with my political career, and have appreciated my adherence to their faith under the most adverse circumstances. In the latter respect they have but done me justice. Looking upon the democratic principle as the pure life-stream of our government, I have endeavored to distinguish and adhere to it as closely as possible in its course through the mazes of party; and whenever I have found myself in danger of losing sight of it, I have resorted to the true spring head—the public will.

I believe this principle, maintained in its purity, and operating through the representative channel, to be the true secret of

internal order and prosperity—of external dignity and strength. It is congenial to all our institutions, and maintains them in a healthful operation. Whatever militates against their harmony, is some discordant principle, foreign to the genius of our constitution, and brought forth to subserve the pride, the passions, or the interest of individuals. Representative democracy is our national faith; and it is to be studied in the doctrines and example of its founders, not in the glosses and mal-practices of modern sectarians. It is neither factious nor intolerant, nor persecuting, for it is the public will, exercised for the public good, but cautiously respecting the property, the persons, and the opinions of individuals.

Such is the simple and uniform principle by which I have endeavored to regulate my political conduct; and I trust that, while rigid in my adherence to my own, I have always shown myself tolerant of what I may have considered the erroneous creed of others; for I have always borne in mind that a diversity of parties is inseparable from a free government, and perhaps indispensable to its welfare, and that it is therefore important to temper those differences by courtesy and moderation. Yet this conscientious adherence to my faith, has drawn upon me the attacks of pseudo republicans, loud in their professions in proportion as they were hollow in their hearts; and my forbearance has been repaid by an acrimony of abuse and a virulence of hostility almost without example in the treatment of any of my contemporaries.

That the enemies thus arrayed against me, are neither few in number nor subordinate in station, is well known; whether some of them, in their heat, have not returned evil for good, I leave for their hearts to determine. I spare them the humiliation of acknowledging instances wherein I have requited former hostilities by something beyond forgiveness. Yet this recent blow, dealt in bitterness, and, doubtless, intended to be fatal, however I may in the first instance have been shocked by the vindictive spirit which dictated it, has failed of its effect. My republican fellow citizens have promptly interposed a shield that has deadened the blow, and their heart cheering assurances have soothed the smarting wound.

Whether, in their eagerness to strike me down, my adversaries have not reached beyond their aim, and given a blow to the character of our institutions in the eyes of foreign nations, is a question not between them and me, merely; nor again between them and their country, alone; but between them and the friends of constitutional liberty throughout the world, who look to the conduct of our legislative bodies as the criterion of that representative system for which they are all so anxiously struggling. Fortunately, however, the character of our country and its institutions is so well established, and has received such accession of popularity abroad during the administration

of our present illustrious President, that I trust the discreditable effect of the act referred to, will be but temporary.

As to the motives alleged for my rejection, their futility has been so ably exposed on the floor of the Senate, and in the proceedings of the public meetings that have already reached me, that I shall not now attempt to take the subject out of hands which have proved themselves so capable of doing it justice. Indeed, overwhelmed as I am by the warm and affectionate sympathy of my friends, I can almost forget and forgive the act of my enemies that unintentionally called it forth.

To the democratic republicans of New York, I return the thanks of a heart overflowing with a sense of present, and a recollection of past kindness. Whatever of public distinction I may have obtained, or of public usefulness have effected, it is all the fruit of their early and abiding friendship. It was their unsolicited favor that first drew me from the walks of private life, and elevated me into office; it was their continued countenance that, for twenty years, sustained me through a succession of arduous tasks, and cheered and encouraged me under every trial; and though in my two last official stations I have been called from under their immediate auspices into a wider sphere of action, and the trust reposed by them has been sanctioned by my republican fellow citizens throughout the Union, yet I gratefully trace up the success of my whole career to its original source,—the spontaneous kindness and enduring confidence of the democracy of my native State.

Be pleased, gentlemen, to make to the republican members of the Legislature of New York, my warmest acknowledgments for the high honor they have conferred upon me; and to accept for yourselves, with the assurance of my individual respect, my sincere thanks for the affectionate manner in which you have conveyed their sentiments to me.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obt' serv't and friend,

M. VAN BUREN.

To N. P. Tallmadge, &c.

Nullification vs. Southern Convention.—The Charleston (S. C.) Mercury says:—It appears by the proceedings of a recent meeting at Salem, that the Union party have either taken, or are about to take their stand, for a Southern Convention. This course, it seems, has been recommended by the leaders of that party, and they are preparing to pursue it. Now, there are only three slight objections to this policy. The first is, that a Southern Convention cannot be obtained, and that this movement is only an effort to gain time, and to prevent the State Rights party still longer from doing any thing definitive. The second objection is, that if a Southern Convention could be obtained, it would be unconstitutional, it being expressly provided in the Federal Constitution, that "No State shall enter into any compact or agreement with any other State,

unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay." The third is, that a Southern Convention might and probably would lead to the formation of a separate Southern Confederacy, and would therefore carry in its bosom the seeds of disorganization and disunion. This scheme of a Southern Convention, therefore, we humbly apprehend, will not go down with the people of Carolina. They have been told to wait and wait too long already, and they have no idea of waiting a year or two longer to see whether the Union party are in earnest, or, if they are, whether they can succeed in procuring a Convention of all the Southern States. They have no idea, moreover, of waiting for a Convention which not only cannot be obtained, but which if obtained, would be utterly unconstitutional, and tend directly and inevitably to a dissolution of the Union. The people of Carolina, (that is the large majority, composing the State Rights party,) are for supporting the Constitution, not for violating it—for preserving and strengthening the Union, not for dissolving it. They cannot, therefore, adopt a plan which is at once contrary to the Constitution, and essentially revolutionary in its character. They are content with the peaceful and constitutional remedy of Nullification, and will adhere to that. They desire nothing but to remedy the infractions of the Constitution, and to redress the grievances under which they labor, and Nullification is abundantly sufficient for these purposes, without having recourse to any Southern Compact or Convention. When South Carolina nullifies the Tariff, the other Southern States will either support her, or they will not. If they will support her, then there is no necessity for a Southern Convention. If they will not, then of course they will not consent to a Convention for the purpose of nullification, the only valuable purpose for which it could assemble. In every point of view, therefore, a Southern Convention is equally unnecessary and improper.

The War begun.—We learn, with regret, that the acrimonious language which has of late characterized the struggle between the Union and Nullification parties of Sumter, has at length terminated in blows and violence. Fifteen or twenty individuals are said to have been arrayed on each side, armed with sticks, clubs and missiles, several of whom experienced slight, and one or two, serious injuries. We are in possession of some of the names and particulars, but forbear making them public until the statement undergoes more general confirmation.—*Charleston Gaz.*

The Cherokees.—Gen. Newnan, one of the Representatives of Georgia, in Congress, writes to one of his constituents, under date of the 14th ult. "that the Cherokee delegation at Washington have at last consented to recommend to their people, to make a treaty with the Govern-

ment, upon the general basis, that they shall acquire a patent for lands over the Mississippi, and at a proper time, be allowed a delegate in Congress. The delegation will either obtain power from home, to make a treaty at Washington, or retire and make arrangements to treat at New Echota. We hope no extravagant demands on the part of the Cherokees, will prevent this long agitated question from being speedily brought to such a termination, as will conduce to the best interests of Georgia and the general Union."—*Ral. Reg.*

Affray at Washington.—Various accounts of an affray at Washington, between Mr. Houston, formerly Governor of Tennessee, and Mr. Stanberry, a member of the House of Representatives from Ohio, have reached this city. It is not our wont to meddle with affairs of this nature, leaving it to gentlemen to settle their difficulties in their own way, and to the civil authorities to interfere when the public peace is invaded. As this matter, however, has received the action of Congress, from one of the parties being a member of that body and having laid a complaint before the House, it becomes proper to take some notice of it. In consequence of a charge of a fraud against Mr. Houston, in a speech published in the National Intelligencer, purporting to be a report of certain remarks made in the House of Representatives by Mr. Stanberry, the former person is said to have addressed a note to the latter, asking him whether the expressions ascribed to him had been uttered by him. This note was delivered by Col. Johnson, of Tennessee, to whom Mr. Stanberry made answer that he denied the right of Col. Johnson's principal to question him on the subject. On Friday evening, Houston meeting Stanberry, "asked him (according to the Standard's account of the affair,) if his name was Stanberry. He replied in the affirmative—then I will give you a thrashing, (said Houston) and commenced belaboring him with a hickory stick. During the affray, Stanberry drew a pistol and snapped it at him. Houston knocked it from his hand and took possession of it, and still retains it."—*N. Y. Ev. Post.*

Virginia.—Notice has been given, over the signatures of a number of individuals, that a Convention of delegates will assemble at Charlottesville, Va. on the 12th day of June next, to nominate a ticket of Electors pledged to support Andrew Jackson as President, and Philip P. Barbour as Vice President of the U. States at the ensuing election.—*Ral. Star.*

Fatal Rencontre.—The N. Orleans Emporium says, that on the 1st ultimo, an affray occurred at Monroe, Louisiana, between Charles Morehouse, Register of the Land Office, and J. Morgan, late Sheriff of Orachitta parish; in which Morehouse was so badly wounded as to cause his death on the succeeding Wednesday.—*ib.*