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FROM THE DANVILLE REGISTER.
LETTER
FROM
JOHN A. GILMER, Esq.
OF NORTH CAROLINA.

We publish below a letter from John A. Gilmer, Esq., in response to the invitation of the Committee, inviting him to the Mass Meeting at Pitsylvania, North Carolina.

GREENSBORO, N. C. Sept. 17, 1856.

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letters of the 19th August and 8th September, inviting me to be present on the 1st October next, at Pitsylvania Court House, and to address a Mass Meeting of the friends of Fillmore and Donelson. Indispensable engagements have prevented a more early reply to the invitation; and these engagements, with the attention due to my private affairs, neglected during the past summer, will greatly to my regret, render it impossible for me to be with you at the time and place designated.

I can, however, truly say that my heart is with you in the cause, in which you are engaged; and I may also be permitted to assure you that whenever I can be satisfied that any efforts of mine would be instrumental in advancing this great cause, I am ready to go anywhere, to do anything honorable, and to make any sacrifice. I am entitled for the whole year and prepared to take any post; and even the present pressure of private interest, would not keep me away from your meeting, were I not satisfied that my presence is not needed on an occasion, which will command the services of many of our most distinguished and able co-laborers.

Though not accustomed easily to take alarm, I fully concur in the now general opinion of our fair-minded and sagacious statesmen, that we are in the most serious crisis of our history; and I feel as you feel, and as every honest man begins to feel, that all the glorious hopes brought into the world by the American Revolution, are now in most imminent peril. Madness seems to rule the hour; and everywhere, on the surface at least, we behold intense selfishness, unscrupulous fanaticism and remorseless ambition.

Like all such excitements, tending to the dissolution and ruin of the settled order of things, the threatening aspect of the times has conjured up from their hiding places the vulture brood that feeds upon the carcases of the dead—and these regarding our beloved country already in its dying agonies, are beginning to parcel out its remains, and to what their greedy bills for an infernal feast. The fall of our country would indeed furnish a glorious harvest to all the birds of prey from the four quarters of the earth; and where there is the least hope of such a sad consummation, we may expect a grand rally to that end, of all the energies of tyranny in every nation. All the leading powers of the earth, with perhaps one exception, are interested in the destruction of the Union of these States, and the hopes with which it is freighted; and he must be but little read in the lessons of history, and extremely ignorant of the characters of unjust power, as concentrated in the hands of despotic monarchs, who can doubt for a moment the active sympathy, backed with all the resources of their empires, of the rulers of Australia and France in behalf of those who are conspiring on her soil against the liberty of America.

The masses here were teaching to all others the value of Union among themselves, and in fact, they had by their example, already proved that a united people could not be enslaved by any power. Ambition can only attain its ends in usurping unjust authority, by dividing the masses who are alike sufferers, into a multitude of hostile and irreconcilable factions, hating and fighting each other, instead of making common cause against the common enemy. The most important lesson free and united America was brightly illustrating before the eyes of the deluded millions of the Old World, and whose union would instantly secure their own triumph and the fall of their oppressors; and hence we may expect the enemies of popular rights to be every where, and forever jealous of our growing strength and happiness.

Our rise seemed continually to presage their destruction, and with what unsuspected delight must they contemplate the apex of success in our midst of those arts and weapons, by which alone tyranny can hope to conquer freedom. All that is wanting here in experience and talent in the infernal art

of sowing distrust among the people, they will joyfully, but of course secretly, furnish; and they can aid the laborers in this cause by lessons and examples as old as the days of Nimrod, the first mighty hunter of men. Money, too will not be wanting, and if one monarch can afford to sacrifice two hundred millions of dollars and a hundred thousand of men to obtain one victory in order to give strength to his throne, how many thousands of millions would all the thrones of the world contribute to break down that cause which was daily undermining the cause of each.

It is said that one press received some hundred thousand dollars to advocate for a few months, one of the revolutionary and sectional factions into which the country is divided; and this fact and the views briefly presented above, will give us some faint idea of the forces secretly directed to work out the destruction of American freedom. This is an alarming view, not in the least exaggerated or overdone; but, condoned, it is set off by considerations which furnish good reason for consolation and hope.

Leaving out of view, for the present, every argument based on the higher and nobler virtues of patriotism, and a love of justice and freedom, for their own sakes, so eminently illustrated in the character of the American people, it is cause of great consolation at this crisis, to remember that they are equally distinguished by an intelligent sense of their own interests, and keenly sensitive to all the fluctuations of business affairs. Under the benign influence of a free and equal Government, the masses of our people have displayed an energy and enterprise unknown elsewhere; and the road to wealth and honor being open to all, all or a great majority are living in comfort surrounded by an abundance never found among the masses in other countries, animated by hopes of greater wealth and distinction, and happily absorbed in all the gainful arts of peace.

Such a people, whose enterprises have probed every corner of the earth, and has been rewarded with overflowing streams of plenty, surely cannot be easily tempted to cast away their earnings, to tear up their improvements, to burn down their own barns and houses, and to clothe themselves in the rags and wretchedness of poverty and oppression.

Behold their investments, the millions on millions of capital expended on enterprises whose success depends on the existence of the Union and the Constitution in their integrity! Will the people easily be persuaded to disperse that flag which has been their peace and safety at home and their strength and protection abroad? That flag in which the citizen can wrap himself and his down with safety in the Arabian desert—beneath which he can push his thriving trade with every advantage on every sea and river on the Globe—that flag which has opened to him and the American citizen alone to the secluded ports of Japan, which makes our merchants princes, and our mechanics and agriculturists sovereigns, the equals of kings, loved, feared, and protected in their pursuits of gain and pleasure in every mart and city and territory of the globe, savage or civilized!

Are they prepared—I mean the honest masses, on whom falls the weight of revolutions; are they prepared for the conversion of their factories into barracks for plundering soldiers—for having their ships blockaded in every port on their own coasts by hostile fleets from adjoining States to see their broad fields of golden grain foraged by the troops of rival nations—to witness their cities and towns in flames—to have their money turned into worthless rags in their pockets—their stocks of every kind destroyed—their lands depreciated in value—their property of every species liable to be seized on at any moment, for public uses and their being at the mercy of reckless bands of armed outlaws, parading every neighborhood on pretence of serving the interests of the State? In short, are the people prepared to have the whole United States converted in such deplorable scenes as those we now behold in Kansas?

Depend on it many as are the ambitious politicians and the reckless and restless outlaws of society who may eagerly pant for such occasions of strife and dissolution, the great body of our people, North and South, are too much interested in the honest arts of peace and the maintenance of right to desire or permit, when rightly informed, such a state of things. They wish an honest settlement of our difficulties; indeed they are very generally beginning to feel the dangers which threaten their interests.

And this brings me to the consideration of the real difficulty, which besets our way, and of the remedy. Experience is an excellent and safe guide whenever we are able to fall back upon it; and fortunately

for us in this instance, we have a case, exactly in point. Dangers precisely similar threatened us some four years ago. We all remember the portentous clouds, which hung upon the dawn of the Taylor administration, and the hopeless appearance of things which then shed a gloom over all the country. We remember also that these clouds passed away as suddenly as they had gathered, and to this dark and gloomy morning succeeded one of the brightest and most glorious in our history. As soon as there was seated in power, an administration sternly resolved to do right, at all hazards to itself, and to throw itself on the honesty and patriotism of the people, regularly North and South, East and West, the masses rallied enthusiastically to its support, the leaders were compelled to follow, the factions chiefs of sedition were rebuked into sullen acquiescence. Thus it appeared that the People were all right, and that all the difficulties were the work of ambitious and self-seeking plotters against the people's interests. They had, in all their aspirations, professed to be acting in the name of the people, but when the test was applied, it was obvious that they had only been operating in their own behalf and against the will and the wishes of those whom they misrepresented. Then the people, then displayed a healthy spirit of conservatism, moderation and prudence; and it needs but little information of human nature to satisfy us that it is impossible for a nation numbering millions of souls and covering a large portion of the earth's surface, to change suddenly, from a wise and thrifty people, well posted in their own interests, to a nation of madmen, drunk with insane passions and raving with desire to tear out its own vitals. It cannot be so without a direct miracle, and we can at once discover the origin of all our troubles.

As soon as the administration which had inaugurated such a bright day in our history had ceased, and a new one succeeded, faction with its Satanic cunning and perseverance, again began to ply its wicked art; and this time, unhappily, it found ears ready to listen to its delusive strains. It gained a foothold near the highest seat of power, and he, who was also often seated from his horse in the battles of Mexico, was soon the captive by honeyed accents of the forked tongue.

Our President, with perhaps no evil intentions, (indeed it is possible that his impulses were of a kindly nature) was deliberately tapped by the Van Burens—a frame of evil humor—and while floundering in the wills of the great Magician of Kinderhook, he involved himself, his administration, and the country, in a miserable trouble and confusion. Every effort he made to extricate himself from the treacherous hook that had been so cunningly baited for him in New York, only complicated his difficulties, while he lashed the troubled waters into more furious excitement; and now a short term of four years, beginning under one favorable auspice than that of any President in our history, not excepting Washington, is about to terminate in the darkest night that has yet visited this continent since the discovery of Columbus made it the hope of the oppressed.

Thus, gentlemen, we see the cause of our difficulty, and we know the remedy that proved perfectly efficacious five or six years ago, and all we have to do is to apply it.—If Washington could be raised from the dead, would he be called a patriot or honest man, who would refuse to listen to his voice? And yet we have one among us, who for four years was tried as severely as Washington was tried—who came from the far West as unscathed as Washington came—and whose administration by the confession of such enemies of Washington, and such haters of Fillmore as Gov. Wise, is proclaimed to be "Washington-like throughout." His exercise of the highest power was declared to be wise, moderate, self-denying and beneficial by all the leaders of all the factions, now combined against him; and "Washington-like" is the meed of praise universally accorded at the close of his term of power, when men have few flatterers and no interested sycophants.

The return of this Washington-like statesman to power, every one feels would at once change the whole aspect of things into a more hopeful one.—Every one feels that it would make peace certain, insure the preservation of the Constitution in its purity, and give stability to all the honest trades of the country—that it would in short, cause business everywhere to revive and flourish, investments to be freely made, confidence between man and man to continue, prices to remain firm, and property and labor to be productive. That it would enable the people still to grow in hope, to buy and build with the expectation of enjoying in peace and freedom a good return for their labor, enterprise and capital; while all feel

also that the election of any other, may begin one of those commotions, which render every thing insecure and worthless except daring ambition, political cunning and military prowess.

But these are the stock in trade of only a few of our population, and why then will the people not elect the people's candidate? They say he cannot be elected. Who says so? Gentlemen, I have recently canvassed my own beloved State, and notwithstanding the result of the election, I am proud of the result. I have made, and I can say, and do say sincerely and with an honest heart, that it is my deliberate opinion, after a full opportunity of holding, that an immense majority of the people prefer for President, Millard Fillmore of New York. And you, gentlemen, and any others, can easily find out a similar feeling among the honest masses everywhere.—You have only to accost the first plain, honest intelligent citizen you meet, whose only interest is the welfare of the country, and get from him a candid expression of his sentiments, and you find he prefers Fillmore, if he could be elected. And the answer is the same at the North and the South, and where so many answer thus, why can he not be elected? Proceed for this reason viz., that the self-seeking politicians of the country are opposed to him, and have systematically endeavored to mislead the people on the subject of his strength. Of course, those who have brought our troubles on us did not wish to see their dear respects all blasted by the reappearance in power of him, who represents the basis of peace, tranquility, union and justice; and they have complimented him, and shown their own low opinion of popular intelligence, by the arts resorted to, to defeat him. They dared not to impeach his integrity, or the justice of his administration; and hence from the very start, they resolved every where, and perseveringly, to pervade the public mind with the idea that a Washington-like statesman could not be returned to power.

The whole thing originated with the leaders; and gentlemen, this is the falsehood we have to meet, North and South. We have only to induce the people to take their first choice—only to get them to vote for the man they prefer, and he will sweep the field. And now, gentlemen, permit me to say that one great reason of my opposition to all other candidates, is that whatever the men themselves might be, they were brought out by those who were conspiring to defeat the hope of the country, by systematic efforts to sow mistrust among the people, and make each man believe that his neighbor was not with him in his honest preference for an honest man.

Fremont, as we all know, is the impersonation of honest sectionalism, the candidate of sectionalism. If we are so far gone that the South must array itself in a solid general rebellion; if—which Heaven forbid!—it has come to the spirit of our Union to depart, and for the North and South to take a stand against each other, then in the name of common sense, let us to import, in this awful crisis of our fate, for our first commander, guide and champion, in this first perilous essay for dominion, an old cautious, timid, self-seeking, shabby politician from the interior of Pennsylvania? A man whose moral courage our great military hero mistrusted, and who, to say the least occupied a most equivocal position; an intimate spirit when the noble and generous Clay was politically assasinated?

If the time has not come to fight sectional hate with sectional hate, then I am opposed to Buchanan and Fremont because their friends are opposed to him whom all acknowledge to be the safest and best man for the whole Union at this great crisis of its fate.

I am for Mr. Fillmore because we all know him to be honest, capable and faithful by the best and surest of tests, which can be applied to mortals, while Mr. Buchanan already believes every argument urged as to his disinterestedness and self-denial by refusing to leave the field, and thus insure the election of the man whom we all know to be the best hopes of the country. Can any pretend that in office, the highest office on earth, with all its splendors and temptations about him, Mr. Buchanan will deny himself as Fillmore did, for the public good, when he refuses now to surrender even a remote chance for the Presidency, when that surrender would, if made in favor of Fillmore, at once give peace and stability to our distracted country?

Can any one—will any one dare to doubt the course of him who so nobly breathed the storm of 1850, 1851, if similarly situated? His resolution then was, as all admit to sacrifice himself for the public good; and as facts and acts in the lives of men, when under severe trials and temptations,

are the only certain evidences of their character, we have a perfect right to say that if Mr. Fillmore's withdrawal would give us a President, whose election would restore hope and peace to the country, that he would not for one moment hesitate.

This is a proud boast we can make of our champion; and I know that you and I and all those who now support the great statesman of New York, would instantly desert him if we supposed him unwilling to make such an end. Gentlemen, it is a glorious reflection to remember that all history will accord this proud position to Fillmore and his friends. But when Mr. Buchanan not only refuses to deny himself for the public good, but is willing to countenance the idea that a Washington-like administration cannot be again restored to power, then I have seen enough of his patriotism and disinterested zeal for the public good. The man stands confessed in this one act—it is enough and more than enough; for we all know that an avowal from him would give us a Washington-like President and save the Union.

As to Fremont, I need say no more. I am persuaded that even amid the tremendous efforts made to delude the people at the North his position, as the impersonation of the spirit of sectional hate, of fanaticism, of prejudice, of false charges against a generous people, of civil war, of fraternal strife, will in the end be understood and appreciated. Thus I am for Fillmore because he has once before saved the country in just such a crisis; because he has been tried by the highest test applied to human character, and approved by the honesty of the whole country; and because he is the real choice of the people; and because, while knowing this, it would be to lend myself to a delusive and electioneering trick to defeat the popular wish, were I to pretend otherwise and urge that he is not available.

And in this connection permit me to call your attention to a paragraph from the Detroit Tribune, with the endorsement of the New York Times, the leading and most respectable free soil paper at the North. It looks plausible, and if it be true, then it appears that we came near having Fremont put up as the Democratic leader instead of its opponent—in a word, the very factions now so fiercely fighting each other, were both aiming to get the same man for standard bearer, and the Free-soilers stealing a march on the party led by the Van Burens, we happened, by this circumstance alone, not to be called on by the Cincinnati convention to shout for Fremont as the hope of the South, instead of shouting against him. We find the facts of that incident, which we have known for some time, stated in the following paragraph, from the Detroit Tribune, giving a report of a speech made there on the 28th ult., by a gentleman from California:

IMPORTANT POLITICAL STATEMENT.—The Hon. George C. Bates, of California, in the course of his speech, made the following important political statement:—"When he (Mr. Bates) was expected to sail for California in August 1855, he was persuaded by Mr. Palmer, of the firm of Palmer, Cook & Co., bankers of San Francisco, to remain until October, when he and Col. Fremont would accompany him thither. Mr. Bates postponed his departure as desired. But when the time for his departure arrived, Col. Fremont, although his trunks were packed, did not go, but ordered his baggage to the Metropolitan Hotel instead. This was in consequence of the following facts: Gov. Floyd of Virginia, had just arrived in New York city for the special purpose of having an interview with Col. Fremont, and the result of that interview was an offer made to Col. Fremont by Gov. Floyd in behalf of the Democratic Party, he having advised with the leading men North and South, of the nomination for the Presidency. He said that party wanted a new man, a man of integrity, and well known man, a man of integrity, and well known man, after listening patiently, and even submitting to two separate interviews, and knowing the platform he was expected to stand upon, replied: that while deeply sensible of the high distinction of the proposition made to him, and flattered by the promises it extended, yet with his opinion of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, it would be impossible for him to entertain the proposition. He considered that repeal an infamous breach of pledged political faith, and should never desire denouncing the act and its authors. Col. Fremont planted himself impregably on this position. Mr. Palmer being cognizant of these facts, communicated them forthwith to Hon. N. P. Banks and Hon. Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, and they came and saw Col. Fremont, and to state the brief result of that interview, he consented to lead the hosts of freedom in this campaign if the people should call him to that position. All this happened late in September, 1855, if we correctly recollect Mr. Bates' statement. He gives time, names and places, and vouches for the entire accuracy of the above statement."

Anecdote of Mr. Fillmore.
A writer in the New York commercial Advertiser furnishes the following anecdote of Millard Fillmore while he was an apprentice in a clothier's establishment in Livingston county New York.

"A shopman, an apprentice in the same work belonging to highly respectable neighboring family, on a visit to his parents, on one occasion where the affairs of the falling mill became the topic of conversation, exclaimed to his mother, in an earnest tone, 'Oh! you don't know what a singular fellow Millard is.'—'What of him now?' inquired. 'Why he has no fun in him, we all had an invitation to a quilting the other night, in our neighborhood; the boys in the shop, with the girls in the family all went, but him, and would you believe it? that with all our persuasion, we could not get him started, he would stay at home alone; we all went, he had music, and dancing, and fine sport; and when we returned he was reading in an old book, and had been reading all alone the whole evening. Did you ever hear of so queer a lad?' The good mother promptly checked him, and answered, 'Ah!

There is no doubt, we believe, of the substantial accuracy of this statement.
New York Times.

Finally, gentlemen, I am for Mr. Fillmore

because he is the best man—so confessed on all sides; and because in all public and private matters, honesty is the best policy and the only one worthy of honest and honorable men. When they say to us virtue and patriotism are in a miserable minority, therefore you ought to choose among the evil factions of the times, one of which must triumph, they appeal to men in whom they suppose the love of freedom and the love of right have ceased to be the ruling passions. They appeal to our meager instincts, and tacitly confess that they mean by love of country, the desire of being on the side of its rulers, whether they be just or unjust. If all men were such there would soon cease to be a United States of America, and there would never be another free country. If all men were such there never would have been a Thermopylae or Marathon—a Bunker Hill or York Town, a Leonidas, or Hampden, or Washington. If the country's party really be the weakest of all the parties of these evil times, then why should not this little hand stand the more manfully to its arms, and with all the memories of the past, and the hopes of the future, burning in its breast, resolve, as patriots in all ages have resolved, to pledge their lives, their fortune and their sacred honor to the cause, and untainted by fight or chains, to fall, if fall they must, with their backs to the field and their feet to the foe. They should never surrender their arms or their organization on any pretext, before or after battle, whatever its issue; and knowing if the country falls, the hopes of the rights of all honest men and of all their posterity will inevitably perish with it, let us fall if fall we must, fighting nobly and bravely in its defence.

Truly,
JOHN A. GILMER,
Messrs. J. H. Carrington, David H. Glack, Thos. P. Atchison, E. E. Keen, John Gilmer, W. T. Sutherland, Allen Mitchell, L. M. Shumaker, A. S. Buford, A. H. Moorman, Samuel Berger, Wm. L. Pannell, William H. Payne, G. B. Thornton, Committee.

Praise is grateful, let it come from any source. We believe it is Cervantes who has acutely remarked, Praise from a fool or censure from a madman is not without its influence upon us; however we may despise the source whence it emanates.—We were drawn to these reflections from reading the speech of Ex. Gov. Floyd of Virginia, in reply to Mr. Speaker Banks, lately delivered in Exchange, in the city of New York, before an immense concourse, that speech, among other things, Ex-Gov. Floyd, himself a Democrat, and a candidate on the Democratic Electoral ticket in Virginia, took occasion to bear the following honorable testimony to the American party in the State of New York; and we commend it to the attention of those Southern Democrats who have publicly denounced the members of the American party as "traitors," "dark lantern heroes," "mid-night conspirators," &c., &c., terms as false and slanderous in themselves as oppugnant to propriety and courteous. Ex-Gov. Floyd said:

"I find from a student of one week in New York that the enemy of democracy is not the American party. There are bonds of union between democracy and the American party. I will tell you what these bonds are. They are the bonds of justice, of truth, of patriotism and of right. (Bravo.) They are the bonds of the constitution and of the Union."

We say this language of a distinguished son of the Old Dominion is in honorable contrast with that too usual with opposition creators; and is gratifying from the fact that in the asperities of heated political contests, there are yet some who rise superior to them, and are capable of doing justice to a political opponent.—*Wilmington Herald.*

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