

THE OLD SOLDIER.

SPRINGFIELD, FEBRUARY 1, 1840.

NATIONAL NOMINATIONS.

FOR PRESIDENT.

GEN. WM. H. HARRISON.

OF OHIO.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

GOV. JOHN TYLER.

OF VIRGINIA.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

B. S. MORRIS, of Galt County;
S. D. MARSHALL, of Gallatin;
E. B. WEBB, of White;
C. WALKER, of McDonough;
A. LINDON, of Sangamon.

“One Presidential Term,—the Integrity of the Public Servants,—the Safety of the Public Money,—and the general good of the People.”

The “OLD SOLDIER” will be published the 1st and 15th of every month, until the 1st of November next, on a medium sheet, for fifty cents, always in advance, except when responsible individuals become responsible for twenty numbers, and upwards, for the reason that the 50 cents will barely defray the expense of publication, consequently the losses, and expense of collection would fall on a few individuals not to be benefited in a pecuniary point of view by its publication. All communications addressed to S. FRANCIS & CO. Publishers, post paid, will receive prompt attention.

To our Subscribers and Friends.

We wish it distinctly understood, in the outset of our undertaking, that it is no money speculation. In common with our fellow citizens of the West, we know and feel that a reform in the administration of the Government, is absolutely necessary; and to effect this, we have volunteered our services in laying before the good people of Illinois facts, and a full and fair comparison of the relative merits of the two candidates now before the people, for the next Presidency.

We have fixed a price, for the publication, barely sufficient to pay the cost of printing and mailings, so that after paying our printer, not one cent will be left to us, if we receive 20 cents for every copy issued, to pay for ink and paper consumed in preparing our editorials. It will not, therefore, be expected of us, to send the paper to any one that does not pay in advance. The amount is so trifling, that it will not be expected. A sense of duty, and not gain, has impelled us “to push this little boat into the stream.” We feel that it is every man's duty to do all in his power, to change bad things to better; and this can be done, most certainly, by circulating correct information among the people; and if we can get money enough to pay our printer, it is all we ask; for the honor and glory of fighting under the glorious banner of the Hero of Tippecanoe and Thames, is compensation enough for us. Let all, then, resolve to do their duty. Let those who can afford it subscribe for a number of copies, and give them to those that need light, but are unable or unwilling to pay for it. Let county committees be vigilant and active in extending the circulation of the “Old Soldier,” and let every friend of reform and retrenchment be up and doing, and our efforts must and will be crowned with success.

We shall publish a large edition of the 1st No., so as to be able to supply any demand hereafter for back numbers; and we should like extremely well to be compelled to publish a second edition. A subscription has been raised for circulating a few copies gratuitously; consequently, those receiving it, that are not subscribers, will not be charged for the paper, should they continue to receive it, which we hope they will do.

As we commence our editorial career with the nomination of Gen. Harrison, we shall end it with the announcement of his election to the Presidency, in November next.

Letters received from different parts of the State, concur in representing the enthusiasm for Harrison as surpassing every thing of the kind ever before exhibited. From Maine to Alabama, Harrison Flags are streaming from all the Hotels and Log Cabins and every where the spirit of the sturdy yeomanry is vent-

To the Reader.

It is proper in the commencement of our undertaking, to announce the principles by which we shall be governed in conducting this paper. In the first place, we are thoroughly convinced of the goodness of the cause we advocate, and we shall not descend from the vantage ground of truth, and principle, to be misled or injured by a designing enemy. As either to imitate or injure an adversary, good men lose character by keeping company with bad ones, so a just cause and true reasons, may lose their power by being joined with error and mingled with falsehood.

We propose therefore, while we shall fearlessly expose corruption, and resist the usurpations of power, to employ only the weapons of truth and reason, and we rejoice while these are at our command, that the history of the country has shown, how potent they may become where the great body of the people are at once the judges of the conflict, and partakers in the strife. With this confidence and these arms, we enter our contest.

We intend to advocate the election of Gen. W. H. HARRISON to the Presidency, and the reasons of this choice will be presented in the columns of this paper; and these reasons are to be found in the character of the man, established during a long life of public service, in the goodness of his principles, and in the school of Washington, and in the history of the country, illustrated and brightened by his wisdom and his valor. We rely upon him to restore the country to its former prosperity, because he is, to use Mr. Jefferson's standard, “honest and capable.” We rely upon him to administer the government faithfully, because his life, has been a living commentary upon his devotion to the constitution. We rely upon him to maintain the glory of the Republic, because at home and abroad, in the public councils and on the battlefield, he has made that glory ours.

We have ever trusted in the calm deliberate judgment of the People. And now when the eyes of the wise and good are cast with painful anxiety upon the “signs of the times,” we desire to lay before them such facts as may enable them to form that judgment wisely and well. And while we are thus struggling for the success of principles upon which, not only the welfare, but the duration of the Union depend, our appeals to the “sabor second thought” of our fellow citizens will at least not be weakened by our deep conviction of the purity of the cause we advocate, and the fearfulness of the danger we would avoid.

One Presidential Term.

The Presidential term has been fixed by the Constitution at four years.—Washington desired to serve, but one term, and yielded reluctantly to the wishes of the People. A re-election has repeatedly taken place, and the example of Washington has served us precedent and authority. This would be well could we be assured that his example would be imitated, not only in serving 2 terms, but in all other respects. And if now, as formerly, the Presidential chair could be filled with men, who, like Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, had founded their principles, and had proved their patriotism, amid the dangers of the revolution, then the practice might be allowable. There is no doubt that it was the virtues of these men of the revolution which induced the people to require their services for a second Presidential term, and we have always considered it the highest tribute of public confidence paid to exalted patriotism.

That substitutes have been made to the fathers of the republic are gone from us forever; and the reasons of this provision of the Constitution should weigh with great force upon our minds, and induce us to limit the possession of the Chair to a single term. The evils arising from encouraging the President to become a candidate for re-election are numerous and apparent. The Executive must have a vast patronage. The appointing power is principally lodged in his hands. He is commanding-in-chief of the army and navy, exercises an immense control throughout every department of the government, and every portion of the Union. We do not now mention this as an objection, but to show the power that may be

brought to bear upon elections, where the feelings of the President shall be come enlisted.

That the President when a candidate should desire to be elected is natural and reasonable, that he should exercise his power to advance his success, is to be expected; and the British doctrine of “proscription for the sake of opinion,” and “to the victor belong the spoils,” will too often receive the sanction, not only of the flag-end of a party, but of the head of the nation.

When a citizen is selected as President of the United States, a just regard for the public interest and his own fame, requires that he should devote himself to the country, not to a faction—to the interests of freedom, not to the success of a party. He should be equally removed in feeling and in station from sectional and party combination. He should stand upon a height from whence he could look down, unshaken by fear or passion, upon the dissensions of friends, the violence of enemies, and act for the Union and the People.

This can be best done when the President serves but one term. But now the case is different, the President is a candidate not by a convention of the People, but of course it being the “order of succession,” and as a necessary result there are combinations, reconciliations, compromises and bargains; the measures of the Executive are to be tested, not by their usefulness, but their effect in gaining strength, and the question is not, does it cement the union? nor, does it promote the glory of the Republic?—but does it bring over to the President the captains of hundreds and the captains of files?

Gen. Harrison is pledged if elected to serve but one term, and this is one reason, why he should receive our support. We shall renew the subject.

Gen. Harrison's Capacity.

The supporters of Mr. Van Buren, attempt to pick a flaw in the moral or political character of Gen. Harrison, or to furnish any evidence of his unworthiness for the office of President; and unable to cite a single error in his history, which ought in justice to detract from his fame as a hero and statesman, and having nothing to justify the abuse heaped upon him, they invariably wind up with the cry of “Wretched Hero,” “want of capacity,” “big cabin and hard cider candidate,” and such like epithets of derision. These declarations most generally emanate from those that do not understand what capacity is, and who have not an original idea in their heads, and should one by accident ever get there, it would soon be drowned in the mass of ignorance and stupidity. It is men of this description that we hear prating about a “want of capacity!” for every man woman and child that knows any thing of the history of his country, and particularly of the west, knows that the name of Harrison is identified with his sufferings and privations, encountered in the acquisition of the country he so occupied by us. We appeal to the old soldiers of the west, who have learned from experience how to appreciate the hardships and privations of a frontier life, and who have shared with him the innumerable hardships of a trenched field in the service of their country; we ask such men as these, to compare the intellect, necessary for a President, with the judgment, foresight and moral courage necessary for a Commander-in-Chief of our armies, when surrounded by savage and civilized foes. The general is almost entirely dependent upon the united energies of his own mind, while the President has time for cool, deliberate reflection, and is surrounded by the wisdom of the nation as his constitutional advisers, if he have but honesty of purpose, and judgment to discriminate between right and wrong, he cannot materially err in the administration of the government; and who, that is acquainted with the history of the two candidates for the next Presidency, and that is guided by honesty of purpose, will pretend to give Mr. Van Buren, over Gen. Harrison, for capacity of intellect, and honesty of intention?

Mr. Van Buren is a lawyer by profession, and a politician by practice; he has been reared in the lap of ease and luxury with every opportunity for study and improvement the world could afford; and with all these superior advantages, what evidence can we see, that he is a man of a capacity superior to Gen. Harrison?

It must be remembered that Gen. Harrison entered the army at the age of nineteen, and we all know that but little opportunity is afforded for mental cultivation in the camp or on the battlefield. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, it will be seen, on an examination of his despatches, his letters and speeches, which we shall hereafter publish, will com-

pare with the best productions of his more college bred competitor.

The same objections that are now made to General Harrison, were made to Gen. Jackson, and by the same kind of men too; and came with the same force, and with the same valuable services as Chief Magistrate. Is there a man now to be found that has read his immortal “Proclamation,” and his many messages, that does not question the cogency of what is not reiterated time and again that he could not spell the simplest words in our language?

We have too much confidence in the honesty and fair play of the cabinet, and when elected to believe that they will allow those kinds of accusations to induce them to refuse their support to the man that has shown himself worthy of their confidence, and entitled to their gratitude. The history of Washington and Jackson's administrations ought to satisfy every thinking man, that those who first serve their country faithfully and ably in the field, are capable of serving it in the cabinet; and when elevated to the highest station within the people's gift, as a just reward for their services, will never prove recalcitrant to their interests.

Indiana Convention.

The Indiana State Convention which lately met at Indianapolis, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Governor and lieutenant Governor, and a Harrison electoral ticket, was, perhaps, the largest representative body that ever assembled in the United States. No room in the State House was half large enough to hold them; there was scarcely room enough for them “out doors.” Sixty-eight counties were represented by more than one thousand delegates. Their enthusiasm even surpassed their numbers. To those present, it seemed as if the deaf had ears, and the dumb had a voice, and all came forth, and every object, living or inanimate, had been constituted a committee of three to shout the name of Harrison. Several scores of the old soldiers, who had served with him in the various campaigns, which he was engaged from 1794 to 1815 and who for many years before, had been neglected and forgotten, were present on the occasion. They, like the slain in the valley of the Tennesse, in the camp of Zolton, on whom the four winds had breathed, stood up, and with countenances deep marked by the scars of war, and the furrows of time, and with eyes brightly glistening with the tears of manly hope, and patriotic indignation, appealed, as with voices from the tombs of departed states, to the justice and gratitude of the nation in behalf of their illustrious, patriotic, and time honored command-in-chief, till that appeal be disregarded! Never.

Correspondence.

The following letter, received from an old Jackson man living in the Southern part of our State, we cheerfully insert in the first number of the “Old Soldier.” Similar indications are being given in all parts of the Union. In patriotic, and long and arduous services rendered to our country, there is great similarity in the lives of Gen. Jackson and Gen. Harrison, and it is almost needless that the friends of the one should be friends of the other; and there is nothing truer, than that a “man always acts safer, when he casts his vote for men of tried patriotism like Gen. Jackson and Gen. Harrison.”

TO THE EDITOR OF THE “OLD SOLDIER.”
GENTLEMEN: I was at the battle of Tippecanoe, under Gen. Harrison, and at the battle of New Orleans, under Gen. Jackson. I know both of these distinguished individuals intimately—both in war and in peace. I have already had the pleasure of voting for Gen. Jackson, to fill the highest station in the gift of man, three times; first, in 1824, secondly in 1828 and lastly in 1832; and if I live, my intention is to vote for Gen. Harrison, for the same high station, in November next. A man always acts safely, in voting for Gen. Jackson and Gen. Harrison. In youth and in age, in war and in peace, their services were over at their country's call; and in all the situations in which their eventful lives have been cast, they were never found wanting in the high qualities of mind and heart which adorn the statesman, the civilian or the warrior.

In hours of sobriety and contemplation, I have often contrasted the lives of Gen. Jackson with that of Gen. Harrison. The first is a man of the boldest and most striking points; more under the influence of feeling, of stronger partialities and prejudices, and, on some occasions, more inclined to control his judgment; unbalanced by prejudice, his mind is clear and strong, and always honest. To his strong prejudices and feelings, are to be attributed, his public acts of doubtful policy, and which, by his enemies, have been considered high-handed and arbitrary; but, knowing the honesty of his motives, I could always overlook any error of his public conduct. I have learned to trust a man of his tried patriotism, than another of more doubtful honesty, altho' his policy of government, in some points, might better coincide with my own views. Gen. Harrison likewise possesses a mind