

THE OLD SOLDIER.

SPRINGFIELD, MARCH 2, 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 Cook County;

S. D. MARSHALL, of Gallatin;

E. B. WEBB, of White;

C. WALKER, of McDonough;

A. LINCOLN, of Sangamon.

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

Meeting of the “Old Soldiers.”

At a meeting of a number of the Old Soldiers of the North Western Army, under the command of Gen. HARRISON in the late war with Great Britain, convened in the town of Springfield, Illinois on the 25th Feb. 1840, JOHN LINDSAY, Esq. was called to the chair, and Gen. T. M. NEALE appointed Secretary—when, the meeting being organized, on motion of Dr. John Todd, seconded by Gen. James Duncan, the following address was unanimously adopted, and signed by those present:

ADDRESS.

It was suggested by an Old Soldier and Jackson man in the last Number of the “Old Soldier,” that the Soldiers who knew, and served, and fought under Gen. Harrison during the late war, should meet in Convention at some suitable place on the 4th of July next. We, the undersigned, citizens of Springfield and vicinity, having been under the command of Gen. Harrison during the late war, have noticed this suggestion with great approbation, and second it most cordially.

It is the appropriate duty, as it will be the pride of those whose honor was so carefully and sacredly guarded by our beloved Commander during our respective campaigns in the late war, to come forward now and defend him from the aspersions and false charges, attempted to be cast upon him by the retainers and supporters of the present administration. Those who were present and know the charges to be untrue, and to have no existence in fact, (and are but the “sober second thoughts” of those, who having no character of their own, are elevated and expect to be elevated by the destruction of character, however pure and elevated, of those who are, or are supposed to be, in their way to promotion,) are, we humbly conceive, a fit organ to make known the truth on this subject.

Entertaining these feelings, we are as ready to defend the character of Gen. Harrison as we were to defend our Country from its foes—Savage, Foreign and Domestic. We therefore invite all who served under him in the late war, residing in Sangamon county, and desirous to see him elevated to the Presidential chair, to meet us on the 2d Saturday of March next, at the Court-house, to adopt such measures as may be deemed advisable to carry into effect the object designated.

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| John Lindsay, | James Q. Wills, |
| Thomas Constant, | John Datzell, |
| John Sherill, | Benjamin Talbott, |
| Jas. W. Maxey, | J. M. Cabiniss, |
| John Todd, | Jas. M. Duncan, |
| Thos. M. Neale. | |

On motion of Gen. Duncan, seconded by Capt. T. Constant, the following resolution was in like manner adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend to the Soldiers of the late war, favorable to the election of Gen. WM. H. HARRISON to the Presidency, to hold meetings in the Counties in which they reside, in order to consult on the best means of producing unity of action in promoting the cause of the Old Soldier.

On motion,
Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Sangamon Journal and the Old Soldier.

The meeting was then adjourned to the second Saturday, 14th of March, 1840.

JNO. LINDSAY, Com'n.

T. M. NEALE, Secretary.

We are receiving by every mail the proceedings of Harrison meetings, from every quarter of the State, accompanied with requests for publication in the columns of the “Old Soldier.” We regret our inability to comply with the requests. A brief notice of them all would fill up our entire columns.

Gen. Harrison has these recommendations in his favor—

He is an honest man.

He is a pure patriot.

He is a veteran soldier, who has fought for his country.

His principles are sound on the leading questions of the day.

He is, in a violent partisan, and has no party prejudices or resentments.

To the Readers of the Old Soldier.

Some time since the undersigned sent a Circular to particular individuals in several Counties of this State, urging them to use their best exertions to organize, and form into “battle array” the friends of Gen. Harrison, for the approaching contest. This Circular we marked “Confidential.” We did so, because we knew, that nothing short of the utmost secrecy, on the part of even our own friends, could enable it to “clear the clutches” of the Post Office, and reach any tolerable portion of its points of destination. As we anticipated, it has been pirated from the mail, and published in the Van Buren papers. Of course, all copies of it, which have not reached their addresses, will not now be permitted to do so. We therefore urge upon our friends in those counties, which this circular has never reached, (if the paper containing this article shall ever reach them) to go to work, and organize themselves in the most efficient manner, for routing the enemies of the country and of Gen. Harrison, from the councils of the nation.

The Van Buren papers raise many objections to the Circular in question. They affect the greatest horror, that it should have been marked “Confidential.” Had they not better reserve their horror for the contemplation of the fact, that their friends “robbed the mail” to get hold of it? And does not the fact, that they did thus rob the mail, justify them, even judicially require, every honest man to use every possible precaution, to enable his communications to pass unobscured through the post offices, to their destination?

But, again, it is objected that we, the undersigned, are the editors of “The Old Soldier,” as it is urged appears from this confidential Circular. This assumption the Circular does not warrant. In it, we say “the Old Soldier” will be *superintended* by us. Of course we are responsible for its contents; and we desire to shun no part of the responsibility, arising from its management. But while we say this, we also say to the friends of Gen. Harrison every where, that they, as well as we, are the editors of “the Old Soldier.” And we now invite them—particularly those who have seen Gen. Harrison, where cowards dared not show their heads—where storms of “lead and iron hail” carried death and desolation in their course—where his erect figure, stationed on the loftiest rampart, and seen from every part of the theatre of action; and his voice, rising in trumpet tones above the roaring of the death-dealing tempest,—gave “form and spirit to the war;” them, we invite to aid us, in filling its columns with such “burning truths” and “confoending arguments” as may sear the eye-balls, and stun the ears of the Old hero’s thousand-tongued calumniators.

What credit or discredit “the Old Soldier” may derive from *our names*, is not for us to determine. We have not thrust those names upon the public; but now that our enemies have, we only say: “There they are; let those assail them who can.” Upon the authority of those names, (whether that authority be good or bad,) we assure the readers of “the Old Soldier,” that nothing shall appear in its columns, as facts, which we do not, on the fullest investigation in our power to make, believe to be true. No “vile falsehood” shall enter them. It is our intention, that our friends every where may, without fear of successful contradiction, repeat what ever they may find, stated as a fact, in the columns of “the Old Soldier.”

But the Van Buren papers object to the friends of Gen. Harrison organizing. We urge that organization; and we insist that it is not for our opponents to inveigh against it. They set us the example of organization; and we, in self defence, are driven into it. If they now wish *disbanding*, let them again set the example. Let them *disband* their *disbanding* army of “forty thousand office holders,” a part of whose regular tactics it is to suffer letters and papers from the mails, and with Gen. Harrison, may all learn that we know a candidate for the Presidency.

With our own friends, we justify—we *justify*—organization on the score of necessity. A disbanded yomanry cannot successfully be re-organized as a soldierly.

The organization of the war of 1812-13-14, 1814, 1815, that previous to that

war, there was no organization amongst them; but that, immediately on learning that an organized foe was invading their land, they, too, organized—met—conquered—killed and drove the foe beyond the “world of waters.” To those old soldiers we say—An organized army of office-holders is now fitting out an expedition against your old commander. They are coming armed—(not with bristling steel, because that bedazzles their eyes—not with powder and balls, because the smell of sulphur offends their nostrils, but) with falsehood, slander, and detraction, upon the characters of yourselves and your chieftain, established in the hard and bloody conflicts with your country’s invading enemies. That army too, must be met. Organization must again be had. We, your sons, and younger brothers, will form the rank and file; you shall be the generals, and commanders-in-chief. Thus organized, we will meet, conquer and despoise Gen. Harrison and the country’s enemies, and place him in the chair, now disgraced by their effeminate and luxury-loving chief.

A. G. HENRY,
R. F. BARRETT,*
E. D. BAKER,
J. F. SPEED,
A. LINCOLN.

*Dr. BARRETT having taken the office of Food Commissioner, does not think it proper for him longer to participate in the superintendence of the “Old Soldier,” and he, therefore, withdraws from it.

Which is the Federalist—which is the Abolitionist—Gen. Harrison or Martin Van Buren?

Those who read the Van Buren papers of the day, cannot have failed to observe, that their conductors, determined to prostrate Gen. HARRISON at all events, and, having no charges founded in truth to make against him, fill their columns with the cries of Federalist! Federalist! Abolitionist! Abolitionist! This course of theirs, leads us, to seek out the proper answer to the question at the head of this article—“Which is the Federalist—which the Abolitionist—General Harrison or Mr. Van Buren?”

Though it is the latter in the question, we will first enquire which is the abolitionist?

About the year 1820, the Missouri Territory formed for herself a State Constitution, and asked the Congress of the United States to be admitted into the Union. This Constitution admitted slavery. Immediately the members of Congress, and the people throughout the Nation, took sides, and arrayed themselves most fiercely on the question of admitting Missouri, those in favor of excluding slavery, questions from Congress, and leaving them to the States, in favour of the admission; and those in favour of the unconditional Abolition of slavery at whatever hazard, against it.

Never was a political conflict in this country so fierce or so fearful. Many of the wisest and best men in the Nation, gave up all for lost. They despairingly, though confidently predicted, that the Union must be blown into a thousand fragments by a final explosion of its excited and angry elements. Among those who viewed this question as most momentous and alarming, was the immortal THOMAS JEFFERSON. He wrote letters to individuals in all parts of the nation, expressing his great apprehension of the destruction of the Union, and urging them by all his powers of argument and weight of character, as the only means of preserving that Union, to do their utmost to have the Missouri Constitution accepted.

While this question—this truly Abolition question;—this only question by which the doctrines of Abolitionism were ever brought to a direct issue, was distracting the Nation—where were Gen. Harrison and Mr. Van Buren; and how were they acting? Gen. Harrison was in the Ohio State Senate, voting against the Abolitionists, for the admission of Missouri: Mr. Van Buren was in the New York Senate, voting with the Abolitionists, instructing and requesting the New York Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote against her administration.

For the truth of what we here say as to Gen. Harrison’s course on this question, we refer the reader to the Journals of the Ohio Senate for 1820 and ‘21; and as to that of Mr. Van Buren, to the proceedings of the 29th day of January, 1820, spread on the Journals of the New York Abolition.

Which, then, is the Abolitionist?

We now enquire which is the Federalist? No question has ever more clearly shown who belonged to the Republican party, and who to the Federal, than that of the last war with Great Britain—the Republicans being for the war, and the Federalists against it.—On that question what were the parts respectively taken by Gen. Harrison and Mr. Van Buren? By the War President Mr. Madison, General Harrison was appointed Com-

mander-in-Chief of the North-Western army, took command of it, successfully defended Fort Meigs through two sieges made by a combined army of British and Indians, and finally closed the War in that quarter by overhauling that combined army on the river Thames, dispersing the Indians, and killing their Chief Tecumseh; capturing the whole British force, and compelling their commander, General Proctor, to seek personal liberty, by deserting them, and escaping singly on horseback. This, briefly, is the part Harrison took.

We now turn to Mr. Van Buren. On the 3d of March, 1813, Mr. Madison’s first term of service, as President, expired, and during the autumn previous, an election was held to choose a President for the succeeding term. The Republican party put up Mr. Madison for re-election; and the Federal anti-war party put up De Witt Clinton, in opposition to him. Mr. Van Buren supported and voted for Mr. Clinton—thus acting with the Federalists upon the most pertinent Republican and Federal issue that has ever been made before the nation. Afterwards, in 1814, and while Mr. Van Buren was a member of the New York Senate, a proposition was before that body for raising troops in aid of the war, and he voted against that proposition.

For the proof of this last fact see the Journal of the New York Senate for September, 1814.

The foregoing are the facts upon which the question at the head of this article may properly be decided.

With you, Old Soldiers—you, who, with Harrison, defended the North-Western frontier amidst the frosts and snows of a Canadian winter, while Van Buren, by his opposition to Madison, endeavored to strike nerveless the arm that supported you;—you who saw, amidst the triumphant yell of savages, your companions in arms, butchered like bees in a slaughter pen, while Van Buren, in the warm halls of legislation, was voting against sending you assistance;—you, who, with Harrison, were adjusting cartridge boxes, and musket locks, and snuffing gun-powder; while Van Buren was adjusting ruffles, and whiskers, and snuffing cologne water—with you, we say, we most proudly leave this question, not the least distrustful the decision you will give it.

PARTY NAMES.

Great party excitement in any nation is an evil deprecated by all impartial and observing patriots. General Jackson in his letter to Mr. Monroe, of 1817, upon the formation of his cabinet, makes some forcible and pertinent observations on the evils of party spirit. He says that “names are but bubbles,” and advises Mr. Monroe to form his cabinet without regard to party distinctions. This letter elevated Gen. Jackson in the estimation of his countrymen, perhaps as much as his victory at New Orleans. It evinced an elevation of sentiment rarely equalled. At the close of Mr. Monroe’s administration, a small minority of the republican members of Congress, in opposition to the known will of a large majority, nominated Wm. H. Crawford, as the republican candidate for the Presidency. Mr. Van Buren was at the head of this minority, and so far did he and his coadjutors carry their opposition to Gen. Jackson, that his letter to Mr. Monroe’s private papers and published, and censured by all the newspapers under their control—the Richmond Enquirer and the Albany Argus leading the van.

The New-York Evening Star states, on what it deems indisputable authority, that the British Government have ordered a line of military defences to be erected on the whole line of our Northern frontier. It is further stated that the British government will not recede from its claims of territory on our North-eastern Boundary. There is certainly a “speck of war” on the horizon—enough at least to require the services of Old Tippecanoe in the presidential chair.

CORRECTIONS.—In the 1st No. of this paper is to be found the following paragraph, extracted from another paper:

“Gen. Harrison at the age of 19, received the appointment of Ensign in the Revolution—”

“To some this may appear untrue; and to prevent all misapprehension, we make the following explanation:—At the close of the Revolutionary War, the army was disbanded, except a few troops necessary to garrison our military posts, and protect the frontier settlements. Gen. Harrison received the appointment of Ensign from Gen. George Washington, in that army that had served in the revolution, and was at that time called the Revolutionary Legion, or army. And such was our understanding of the matter in question.

In the second No. there was a typographical error in the date of Gen. Harrison’s letter on the subject of “selling white men for debt.”—As printed it reads “Dec: 21st, 1331,” when it should read December 21, 1821.