

Hear those who served with him!

To the Editors of the Old Soldier:

Still keeping in mind the scenes and events of 1812 and '13, it is with pleasure I bear testimony to the humanity and bravery of our General—Wm. H. HARRISON,—being as well acquainted with him and his conduct, as any private soldier in his army. At the first address he made to his officers and soldiers at St. Mary's Block House, on the St. Mary's river, four regiments were formed in solid column around the Hero of Tippecanoe. I never can forget that on that occasion, he told his soldiers if there was any of them who could not stand the privations of a soldier's life—hard fighting, cold, hunger and nakedness—if he would make it known by hoisting his musket, he would give him an honorable discharge. But to the honor of 'Old Kentuck' only one man shouldered his musket. This was an evidence of his humanity, in giving to such as were unable to perform a soldier's duty, the privilege of returning to their homes. In that address to his soldiers, he said, that he would be with them in all their dangers—that he wanted to meet the enemy on equal terms, and to beat them, and save the lives of his brave soldiers. He also said it did not show good generalship in a general, although he beat his enemy, to get his army cut up. At the close of that speech the boys from 'Old Kentuck,' made the frontiers of Ohio ring with their shouts. For the present, I shall close my notice of this part of the campaign. But to you my companions, who bore arms, and were in the several memorable battles, where cannon roared, where shells flew, where muskets and rifles carried death before them—in which our brave General was always victorious—I would say, as we once flocked around him in victory, in "days that tried men's souls," we will gather round him again, spread our banners to the breeze, and contend for another glorious victory! There is no danger of being defeated. Our gallant commander never lost a battle!

Lift up your heads, my old worn out brother Soldiers! Your general is in the field—again rally around him. Do your duty, and your general at your head, on the 4th of March next, will mount the bastions, at the City of Washington, with the watch-word, "the White House is ours!" Defend the cause of your country, and its liberties. Remember, and bleed for the freedom we now enjoy, and let our determination be never to surrender our rights to men who will not administer the government right, and who care for nothing but office. You hear the abuse lavished on our beloved commander by his enemies. You know that their statements against him are false. Contradict them. Testify to the truth. Be brave as on the field of battle.—You once did your duty and prospered, and you will prosper again. Load and prime—Be always ready. JAMES G. WEBB.

Lick Creek, Sangamon County,
March 2, 1840.

To the Editors of the Old Soldier:

As some of those those publications devoted to the interests of Mr. Van Buren bring up the testimony of Gen. Harrison's enemies to prove that he (the General) is not a great man; I will take the testimony of one of his political enemies (personal ones he has none) to prove that in no section of the Union an honest office-holder, or friend of his country, has any thing to fear should General Harrison be elected to the Presidency of the United States.

I took the trouble to write to a friend of mine, an Old Soldier, not unknown in the History of the late war with Great Britain, and who served his country in the field at the same time Gen. Harrison did. This gentleman lives within two or three miles of Gen. Harrison's farm, knows him well, and has for many years past,—who is an old Jackson man and Van Buren man. Hear what he says:—

"With regard to your enquiries about Gen. Harrison, I can say, I set store by him, and as to the report that he is an abolitionist, it is not the case—he is in favor of colonization. He is an honest man and a friend to his country. He is no party man, and if elected President, he will not turn any one out of office on account of political opinions if they conduct themselves well and are honest.

"I heard General Harrison in his public address at our last fall election, state, that 'he was not a party man, and that he had never given a party vote in his life, and never should.'"

Respectfully yours,
WM. B. POWELL.

Springfield, Ill. March 12, 1840.

To the Editors of the Old Soldier:

Sometime since I obtained ten subscribers for the Old Soldier, and the postmaster at Marietta forwarded the money and the names; but the papers have not been received. I am an old, frail man—had determined not to meddle in politics any more; but I served under Gen. Harrison in 1812 and '13—marched with the first troops that marched to where Fort Meigs was built,

and assisted in erecting the same; and I know the General to be a man of undoubted bravery and military skill, in whom unlimited confidence was placed, by both officers and men, and if my life is spared I will exert all the influence I have to aid the election of the General. I could tell many anecdotes of the late war, of which I was an eye witness. I reserve them for the proper time. I remain, &c.

STEPHEN RIGDON.

Pleasant Valley, Fulton County, 1st March, 1840.

To the Editors of the Old Soldier:

GENTLEMEN, I have been of late much mortified to hear so many different tales respecting the conduct of Gen. Harrison at the battle of Tippecanoe. Some say the Indians chose the place for the encampment the night previous to the battle. Some say Harrison acted cowardly by exposing others, thereby securing himself from danger. Some say one thing, and some another; and most I believe is said by those who do not know whether what they say be true or false. As to the charge of the Indians selecting the encampment, I pronounce it to be false; the encampment was selected by a couple of officers sent by Gen. Harrison; and as far as my knowledge extends a better one could not be found to repel an Indian foe.—It was elevated, nearly surrounded by open prairie, and a sufficiency of wood. On the charge of Gen. Harrison's attempting to shun danger, he appeared to me to expose himself unnecessarily,—wherever danger was, there was he encouraging his men. My own opinion was then, and is now, that his daring conduct, was the great stimulus to officers and men, which alone prevented a disaster similar to the one known as St. Clair's defeat. The Indians rushed to the charge with all the fury of demons; his presence every where completely roused the soldier in every man—he fluffed or faltered, though many fell. The same spirit that animated the commander in chief, by his daring feats, was caught by his men, and all appeared determined to conquer or die. I have long been an observer of Gen. Harrison's conduct, in the field and in the councils of the nation, and will say that he is in every instance acquitted himself with honor and to the interest of his country.

Yours, H. HUCKLEBERRY.

March 9th, 1840.

Gen. Harrison's De-

Mr. POLLOCK, of

Mr. Speaker, I have heard members of this house charge Gen. Harrison with cowardice, when he defended and protected them from the war-knife and tomahawk of Indians, when they were sleeping in their mothers' arms. I know individuals who were with him in the battle of the Thames, Fort Meigs, &c. I know, sir, that cannon balls, and chain-shots, and bomb shells, flew thick around him in the battles. The gentleman from Clermont, (Mr. Buchanan,) said that Gen. Harrison was not, during the battle of Fort Meigs, near enough to have the scales knocked off of him. Well, sir, if he was not near enough to have the scales knocked off, he was near enough to have the scales and dirt knocked on to him by cannon balls.—(Who saw it? asked some member.) I saw it. Sir, I was in that battle. I saw a cannon ball strike within two feet of Gen. Harrison during that fight. I was there. I saw bomb shells and chain-shot flying. I saw Gen. Harrison there, and he was in the hottest and hardest of the fight; and where balls flew thickest, and where steel met steel the fiercest, there would you find Gen. Harrison. I speak of what I know, and what my eyes have seen. Gen. Harrison is not a coward; and those who call him a coward know nothing of him. He was a brave, prudent, and fearless General. He took the right course during the last war—he acted a noble part, and his country has honored him for it.—Ask the soldiers who fought by his side; whose arms were nerved by his presence; whose hearts were cheered by his valor; and who were led to triumph and to victory by his courage, bravery, and skill, if Gen. Harrison was a coward—and they sir, will tell you not! Sir, I have done. I only wished to give my testimony in favor of General Harrison and to state what I have seen, in opposition to the statements of those who are ignorant of his character, and who know nothing of his bravery and skill.

To the Aids of the Old Soldier.

May we expect the Old Soldier to come to our doors—to give him a hearty welcome to walk in and tarry with us? or, are his duties so numerous in receiving the surrender of the sword of the enemy, in the acknowledgement that they believe, and henceforth they shall consider him their true friend. If so, we must confess that our attachment to him is so great, our desire to honor and serve the Old Soldier so strong, that we will willingly and cheerfully call and receive him.

Springfield, Ill. MANY CITIZENS.

We understand! The Old Soldier's aids are too busy! But he will be glad to receive his friends at all times. The string of his door "will never be pulled in!"

A Tippecanoe Club has been formed at Harrisburgh composed entirely of those who supported Mr. Van Buren at the last election.

An Old Soldier's Testimony.

The "Ohio Freeman," a paper which espouses neither side in politics, is edited by Capt. DUFFY a gentleman who has served fifteen years in the military service of the United States. This gentleman thus speaks of the veteran Warrior of the West:—

GENERAL HARRISON.—As must be very evident to my numerous readers, I have neither the time to write nor the room for long articles. Yet if I were to perpetrate a long article, I think it would be in favour of General HARRISON. I know full well the light I am viewed in by those who pretend to all the consistency in the world, and who would fain make people believe that they were the only patriots in the world, because they would probably prove themselves to be the merest slaves and sycophants to their party. I hear of men, of their character, who belong to all sides—who are one day in raptures with the Freeman, and on the next would serve him as was served poor Captain Belisarius—that is, tear out his very eyes and send him off to beg his bread!

But, as I am no office-hunter, and have no claims to make for services rendered my beloved country—she having paid me up as I performed my duty—I may, as an honest and disinterested witness, be permitted to say just what I think of one, and of all her venerable and well-tried patriots; and I may at this time particularly allude to one of them, whom a certain party have nominated as a suitable candidate for the presidency.

Well, it is a great while since I read Marmontal's affecting little story of poor blind Belisarius. I remember that I borrowed it from the chaplain of our ship who was a pretty clever fellow, without being a very pious man, and that I read it between two of the larboard guns, on the gun deck, seated on a match-tub. Years have passed away, and I have been rich and poor, a soldier, a politician and a moralist since. But the memory of poor Belisarius will sometimes rise upmost in my mind, even now; especially when I hear some profane and heartless tyro wagging his tongue in derision of the tried courage, the venerable hairs, and the patriotism and pure and spotless integrity of the few remaining defenders of their country, in the days of her difficulty and great need!

In the venerable person of General HARRISON, I see nothing, it is true, that com-

are yet spared him to look out upon the shining country, her cities, villages and farms he was so instrumental in building up from a dreary and savage wilderness. He is still permitted to walk abroad over the face of land he has so often and so nobly defended, though the Providence of Heaven, without leader or staff; but, like those of Belisarius, his ears are too often pained with the ungrateful exclamations of his countrymen, and his venerable brow too frequently feels the pressure of the ruffian hand of the partizan, tearing from thence the unwithering chaplets of his pure and spotless fame!

There is, therefore according to my calculation of the history of Belisarius, some little similarity in the two cases. Both were soldiers, and both deserved well of the honors of their country, and both were set up as fit marks for the malignant ridicule and foul derision of foul and debased party! O, it is cruel, too cruel, and too unjust for the patience of a generous People to bear, to hear one of the truest and bravest and most worthy of their countrymen traduced in character—his services defamed—and all the proud and noble daring of his youth and prime of life set at naught by the foul tongues of political party slander! The rich and cherished honors of a life of toil, and of ardent and untiring patriotism, trodden under foot by a ruthless and mercenary, and malignant band of ignorant demagogues, whom a worse than ignorant people have chosen as their leader, and into whose hands they have entrusted the destinies of themselves and of their country!

Would it not be more merciful in them were they to close up the eyes and ears of the venerable patriot forever, than to leave them the unerring conductors to his deeper sense of the deep and foul ingratitude of his countrymen!

I do not speak of him now as filling the attitude of a candidate for the presidency! It is true many of his countrymen have chosen to place him in that attitude, and he has consented. And what is this? Shall his fellow-countrymen, therefore, in order to reach his patriot pride and dash all his hopes to the dust, throw a shade of dishonor over the proudest era in western history—an era in which he figured so largely—out topping as it were, the most gallant spirits of his time? If these demagogues do not intend that he shall be elected, let them at least, for the sake of their country, be just to him—for his fame and the fame of their country, are so closely wedded together, that to mar the one is to blot the other!

Do they not know that if they wound or destroy the fame of General Harrison, they must first tear away many of the highest scrolls that emblazoned the proud escutcheons of their country, and trample upon some of the fairest pages of her glorious history!

I am no partizan and there are many others, who, like myself, become politically heart sick! But we can stand another campaign, and we will stand another campaign, if it must need be in defence of the honest soldier who stood by us

and our country, before many of those traducers were born or found a peaceful asylum on her shores!

Ex-Senator Rives' Address.

This distinguished citizen of Virginia, has recently addressed the People of his State, in one of the ablest documents of the day. The subject, as will readily be supposed, is the political history of the times, and the reasons which have governed him in declaring his determination to support for next President, WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, of Ohio. This document must produce important results in Virginia. We cannot but believe that that State will range itself with the Harrison States.

We have only room to copy two paragraphs from this address. They relate to the views of General Harrison upon the slavery question.

"It has been the singular fortune of Gen. Harrison to have been more misrepresented and consequently misunderstood, particularly in his native State, than any other distinguished citizen of our country. The reason of this is, doubtless, to be found in the circumstance that for the last ten or twelve years of his life he has been withdrawn from the scenes of active political employment, and that while his name was before the country in the last Presidential election, exposing him, of course, to much denunciation and misrepresentation from his political adversaries, and from this state of things it has arisen, that in the south generally, and in Virginia particularly, the most unfounded charges have been widely propagated in regard to his public principles and conduct, and till lately without sufficient contradiction and exposure,—thus imposing on many good citizens, who will be now eager to repair the injustice they have done him. The most prominent of these charges, which is still wantonly repeated, is that General Harrison is an abolitionist. I have recently investigated with care, all the evidences of his principles and conduct on this, as well as other important public questions, and I am thoroughly convinced that if there be one man, who has entitled himself to the gratitude of the South, beyond all others, by the noble and disinterested zeal he has at all times manifested, the sacrifices he has freely made, the single-heartedness with which he has exposed him-

tional rights of the south, and the peace and safety of their fireside, against all interference whether of fanaticism or political ambition, that man is Wm. HENRY HARRISON of Ohio.

You have doubtless read the speech made by him at Vincennes in the state of Indiana in 1835, in which, in the face of a non-slave holding audience, he gallantly volunteered to defend the rights and interests of the south.—Where can be found, even in the productions of any southern statesman, a more energetic and unsparing denunciation of the schemes of the abolitionists? He pronounces them to be 'weak, presumptions and unconstitutional'—'illegal, persecution and dangerous,' and after depicting in glowing language the fatal consequences to which they must lead, he calls upon his audience with indignant earnestness, to 'frown upon measures which are to produce results so much to be deprecated.' He lays down in the broadest and most unequivocal terms the fundamental principle that the subject of slavery is under the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the states in which it exists, and that neither the general government nor the non-slave holding states have any right whatever to interfere with it; and he moreover contends that 'discussions' upon the subject in the non-slave holding states, tending in their consequences, as they do, to jeopard the peace and impair the rights of the slave holding states, are an abuse of the freedom of speech and of the Press, in violation of the spirit and pervading designs of the constitution. The same declarations were made by him, and with greater emphasis, if possible, in an address delivered to an assembly of his fellow citizens at Cheviot in Ohio, the 4th of July, 1838; from which an isolated passage, (in which the author admitting slavery to be an evil, says he would gladly see the surplus revenue of the Union devoted to its progressive extinction in the PURCHASE AND COLONIZATION of the slaves, 'WITH THE SANCTION OF THE STATES HOLDING THEM,) has been artfully called, and given to the public, carefully suppressing the context, in which Gen. Harrison maintains, in the strong and unequalled language I am about to cite, that 'the slave population is under the EXCLUSIVE control of the states which possess them,' and that 'neither the general government nor the non-slave holding states can interfere in any way, with the right of property in slaves, and at the same time denounces the schemes of the abolitionists as fraught with horrors, upon which an incarnate devil only could look with approbation.'

The contrast.—Let it never be forgotten, that while Gen. Harrison was baring his bosom to British Balls and bayonets in defence of his country during the last war, Mr. Van Buren was intriguing with the Federalists, to defeat the election of Mr. Madison, the war candidate for the Presidency.