

Pekin Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear Lincoln

I loose no time in explaining the "unnatural" occurrence you allude to in your letter. You know Baker was with us at the time he wrote the letter endorsed by me, & I sent the package by same mail. I had begun the letter you no doubt received two or three days after you received the package but did not finish it that evening in consequence of Baker's remaining there or four days <sup>longer</sup> than he intended that evening. Since I wrote that letter nothing of importance has occurred or I should have communicated it without waiting to hear from you, so hereafter you may infer when you hear nothing from me, that all is going on as usual.

You no doubt got the Whig regularly & of course noticed my Synopsis of Baker's Speech. I did not like the ground he took, and I did not report him as taking as strong ground against Territory as he really did for I did not think it would do our party or him any good - he went further than Mr. Clay himself. I repeat what I then said in the Whig, if this no Territory doctrine is to be made the test of Whiggery I shall retire from all participation in the coming campaign with the firm conviction that Treason will continue triumphant.

I find that I cannot honestly go with my party upon that question, & have about made up my mind to retire from the Editorial Chair of the Whig, and

leave its management to those who can conscientiously coincide with Mr. Clay.

That speech of Mr. Clay will beat us as a party for years to come, unless we can unite upon "Old Zac" and allow him to run without any other pledge than that of administering the Government in strict accordance with the Constitution and for the best interests of the whole people. I am willing to trust him to do right, & he can do nothing else but give the country a good Whig Administration.

By the way, I got a letter from him in November last. I wrote him soon after you left, enclosing that Editorial you sent to Bladsoe. I said to him - "I have taken you for a Whig in principle. If I am mistaken, you will no doubt take pleasure in correcting our <sup>Misapprehension</sup>." I also said - "I hope our <sup>Editorial</sup> course will meet your approbation". His letter in reply was marked "Strictly Confidential", but it is no violation of confidence to say, that it was entirely satisfactory. If I were to publish it, it would amount to nothing without the explanation, more than a courteous reply to a letter of Enquiry. In that part of the letter in which he alludes to the Editorial he says; "You seem to well understand my views & wishes &c." I send you the only copy of that Editorial I have left.

I feel a very great anxiety to know what course you design taking in relation to the Mexican War. I hope you will not feel disposed to go with Mr. Clay against all Territory. If you do, I am fearful you will

be with the majority party for a long time  
to come. It would be painful in the extreme  
to part company with you after <sup>having</sup> fought  
with you side by side so long. But if the  
Whigs as a party ~~join~~ join issue with  
Mr Polk & take the side of "No Territory", I shall  
at the polls (but no where else) sustain Mr  
Polk.

The South would have Texas with  
Slavery, & now I will try to get Free Territory  
as an offset, & this is fair & nothing more.  
If the South want to go out of the Union  
let them go. Their threatening to do so should  
not deter me from voting for the Missouri  
Proviso. I would not vote one dollar for  
carrying on the War without it. With it  
I would vote Millions of men & money to  
carry it on until Mexico shall agree to give  
us what Mr Polk claims. The Whigs now  
have the power to make the Lovers swallow  
the same kind of a pill they forced down  
our throats in May '46. They should be  
made to swallow the Proviso, or vote against  
supplies for carrying on the War.

I now have it in serious  
contemplation to return to Springfield. Dr's Todd  
& Payne both urge my return to supply the  
places of Maynard & Farrier both of whom  
leave - I shall go down & look round next  
week if well, & determine my course for  
the future. I am fully convinced I can  
never make anything out of Politics.

Let me hear from you often. Remember  
us kindly to Mrs Lincoln & Bob, and believe  
me now as ever

Your sincere friend  
A. G. Henny

# THE WHIG.

A. G. HENRY, EDITOR.

For President—ZACHARY TAYLOR.

*"Although myself 'A Whig,' yet if I had the power to make a President of the United States, and if I knew who, in the high office of President, would administer the Government in the greatest purity and do most toward restoring it to what it was in the earlier days of the Republic, I would make that man President, no matter to what party he might nominally belong. Z. TAYLOR."*

PEKIN,

Friday, September 3, 1847.

## 73—The Wilmot Proviso.

This question is now, and has been for some time past, exciting a large share of the public attention; and if an opinion may be formed from the tone of some of the leading whig journals of the North and East; it is to be made the prominent question of the approaching session of Congress. If the agitation of the question could be allowed to stop there, no great mischief would result to the Whig party, or the country, by its agitation. But we regret to find a disposition manifested on the part of some of our Eastern co-temporaries, to make it a test in the selection of a candidate for the presidency, to be supported by the Whig party of the Union. Should this course be persisted in there must of necessity be an end to all hope of union between the Whigs of the North and South in the coming contest, and the consequences will prove, not only disastrous to our party, but the best interests of the country, by putting in jeopardy the integrity of the Union itself. We had hoped that the experience of 1844, would have admonished our Eastern friends of the danger of allowing the question of slavery to be drawn into our canvass for President. They must know that if persisted in, it will end in nothing but disaster and defeat.

We are in favor of the passage of the proviso by Congress, and stand ready to unite most cordially with our friends at the East in urging the question upon their favorable consideration; but we do most solemnly protest against the propriety or necessity of making it the test question in the selection of our candidate for President.

For ourselves, we are committed to the support of Gen. Taylor for our next President, without regard to the question of the further extension of slavery. It is enough for us, that he has shown himself a Patriot, and an honest man, by a long and devoted service in defence of his country's honor, and in contributing to our national glory; and that he has avowed himself A WHIG. We would not, if we could, exact of him pledges to support any specific measure of policy; and we are glad to know, **THAT HE WILL NOT MAKE THEM.**—This course on his part, is in our opinion, just as it should be. We have seen enough within the last few years of pledges pending on election, to know how to appreciate their value.—The people will not soon forget Mr. Polk's pledges of "all of Oregon or none," and his

double dealing and special pleading, upon the subject of the tariff. Did not the immortal Jackson, pledge himself to the one term principle; no proscription for opinions sake, &c.; and did not the force of circumstances over which he had no control, compel him to violate them? Why any real friend of Gen. Taylor should desire him to place himself in a similar position, is beyond our comprehension. We are compelled to doubt the sincerity of their friendship, and forced to the conclusion, that they ask for pledges in favor of their local interests, for the purpose of securing his defeat, and the success of their favorite candidate.

The only pledge that should be required of our candidate, if any upon that question is, that he would not veto a law of Congress that shall prohibit the further extension of slave territory, should he be elected President; and it does seem to us, that an assurance of this kind, ought to satisfy the most zealous advocate of that measure.

In relation to other questions of national policy, it is enough that our candidate avows himself A WHIG, to satisfy us; and it should, we think, satisfy all good Whigs every where.—No Whig can be opposed to the protection of our home industry; the improvement of our rivers and harbors; a rigid economy in the administration of the Government; a sound circulating medium for carrying on the fiscal affairs of the Nation; and a rigid accountability from all our public officers; and to ask from an avowed whig a pledge to support any one, or all of these measures, implies a distrust of his honesty and sincerity; and his self-respect requires that he should pass all such interrogatories by, without notice, let them come from what quarter they may; and we most heartily approve the course of Gen. Taylor in declining to make any pledges, except what are implied in the declaration, that he is A WHIG; and if elected President, that he "will administer the Government to the best of his abilities, and in strict accordance with the Constitution."

Although we may differ with our brethren of the slave states, upon measures involving the question of slavery; still we should feel no unkind feelings toward them. On the contrary, they should have our kindest sympathies;

and so far from holding them responsible for the evil of slavery, we should remember that the institution has been forced upon them without their consent; and cannot now be suddenly removed, without uprooting the very foundations of their civil and political organization.

Can we of the North ever become alienated in feeling and interest with our brethren of the South, after mingling our blood so freely with theirs upon the battle-fields, in defence of our national rights?—God forbid. But long, long, may we continue to find shelter together in harmony, under the stars and stripes, that have so often waved over us in triumph, in our onward progress to glory and greatness.