

THE PLOT.

EDITED BY DUFF GREEN.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1840.

FOR PRESIDENT.
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.
FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.
JOHN TYLER.

THE TEN HOUR SYSTEM.

If we were to credit the circular, issued on the first day of April, (and those must be April fools indeed, who are caught by such a trick.) the President intends to put his policy in contrast with the large manufacturers, who, under the pressure of the times, have been compelled by his measures, to reduce wages.—And what has he done? He has issued a circular, declaring that laborers employed under the immediate authority of himself and the heads of Departments shall be required to work only the number of hours prescribed by the ten hour system. This is a great boon indeed! This is mercy with a vengeance! The President has adopted a system of measures, which was advocated by his partisans and opposed by his opponents, upon the ground that it would compel a reduction of wages, and when the consequences foretold by his friends, and resisted by his opponents, come upon us; when the laborer stands idle, and the widow and the orphan perish in want, the President comes forward on the first day of April, as if to deride and to mock the sufferings of the people, and orders that those who are employed under the immediate authority of himself and the Departments, shall work but ten hours!

And we would ask the laboring man, who has not the privilege to be under the "immediate authority" of the President how he is benefited by this order of the first of April? Does it enable the merchant to purchase a cargo, that he may employ one more drayman? Does it enable the carpenter to put up a single house, that he may employ a single additional laborer? Does it enable the Miller to purchase a single grain of wheat—or the farmer to plough a single furrow? Does it employ one single laborer or give a morsel of bread or a stick of raiment to the poor and needy? No, it does none of these things,—but we will tell our readers what it does do? It shows the estimation in which the President holds the laboring classes—It shows that he will sink to the lowest subterfuges, and adopt any expedient, to excite popular prejudice,—Who does not know that even the clerks are considered and treated as "hirelings"; such was the term applied by Mr. Kendall to the Clerks, of his Department. It shows that whilst he would arouse the worst passions; envy, jealousy and hatred, in the bosoms of the laboring poor against those who are no longer able to give them employment and wages,—he would humble the proud spirit of the freeman in the dependant "hirelings" who are under his own immediate AUTHORITY—yes AUTHORITY, that is the word, by giving them to know that so long as they obey his mandate, and vote to retain him in office, they may receive full wages, on "the ten hour system;" while those who dare refuse to do his will—those who dare to be freemen, must starve.—This circular says this—It is, under the circumstances in which it was issued, an insult to the free laboring men of this Union, who dare be freemen, in spite of his oppression; and it is degradation to the "hirelings" who hug their chains and eat the bread of dependence, rather than defy the despot and live the life of freemen.—But he may train his servile corps of "hirelings," he may suspend the public works and send them to work their ten hours at the polls.—They will be met by freemen who will there rescue their country from his oppression.

THE PRESIDENT'S "HIRELINGS."

From the Globe 6th April, 1840.
"We cheerfully (says the Editor of the Globe) give place to the following:

Mr. Blair,
I send you a copy of a circular, which has lately been issued by the PRESIDENT, and which is an emphatic reply to the charge of hostility to the laboring classes, which reckless politicians and newspapers have imputed to the administration.

Office of Commissioners of Public Buildings.

April 1, 1840.
SIR: The President of the United States has directed that all persons employed on the public works, whether laborers or mechanics, under the immediate authority of himself and the Departments be required to work only the number of hours prescribed by the ten hour system. You are hereby required to conform to this regulation. Respectfully,
W. NOLAND.

C. L. CALTMAN, Esq.
You will please to notify the other superintendants of this regulation." W. N.

Comment:

This order of the President, bears date on the first day of April, and on the next day the Globe contains an article on "the wages of labor" charging "a combination among the manufacturing corporations of the East, for the oppression of their workmen," and adds, "no sooner had Mr. Davis's mistatements gone into circulation, than a simultaneous order of these corporations, operating at once through several states, was issued reducing the moderate recompense by which their operations had so abundantly criched them."

Nothing can be more palpable than the object for which this order was issued.—It was intended to break the force of the doctrines promulgated by Mr. Buchanan and the federal leaders.—

They first appealed to the cupidity of these manufacturing corporations, and said to them, you must continue to take our political nostrum—you must take our sub-treasury—you must unite with us in our war against small notes—you must support the administration in their attempt "to put down this paper credit system" (such are the words of the Globe, quoting Gen. Jackson's letter)—you must continue the war on that system, until all bank notes under one hundred dollars are suppressed. And why? for what purposes must this war on the paper credit system be carried on? Mr. Buchanan tells us plainly. It is because wages are too high—it is because the manufacturing corporations have to pay too much for labor—it is because if they had a hard money currency like Cuba, or low wages, as in Germany, then they could manufacture as cheaply as foreign nations do.—And why did Mr. Davis oppose Mr. Buchanan's scheme of reducing wages? Was it not because that scheme would compel a reduction of wages, oppressive to the laboring classes, without benefiting the manufacturer? Did not Mr. Buchanan foretell and urge upon the manufacturer that the policy of the administration would reduce wages and therefore benefit the manufacturer? Did not Mr. Davis resist this policy of the administration upon the ground that it would reduce wages and benefit nobody, but the creditor and the usurer? Did not both agree that the policy of the administration was to reduce wages? Were not both agreed as to the effect on wages, and the inevitable consequence on prices—with this difference, Mr. Davis condemned the measure because it must reduce wages, while Mr. Buchanan, insisted that a reduction of prices and of wages, was the only cure for existing evils? The point of difference between the parties was the wisdom and propriety of reducing prices; and the Globe itself labored to show that if wages were reduced, the effect upon prices of provisions, &c. would equalize the products of labor and remunerate the laboring man for the reduction of wages.

Who could have believed that that party who were then laboring to reduce prices and wages for the benefit of the manufacturing corporations, who argued that it was necessary to reduce wages to enable these manufacturing corporations to compete with the cheap labor of Europe, would be, on the first day of April, issuing circulars, denouncing those very corporations because, after resisting the measures of the administration to the last, they were compelled to yield, and to do that which Mr. Buchanan told them, they must do and should do? If the object of the administration be not to reduce wages and prices, what was their object? If prices and wages were not too high, why do they assail and make war on the "paper credit system"? The administration must be for or against high wages? They must be for one or the other—they cannot be for high wages and for low wages at one and the same time.—Are they for or against high wages?

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.—We have received and will publish the report of the Engineer of the Canal Company. We have read the communications of "Baltimore" in the American and the remarks of the Editor. We are apprehensive that the Editor and his correspondent have neither of them given to this subject the consideration which it merits, and are fearful that there are but few of the citizens of Baltimore, who realise the importance of giving to it an earnest and speedy attention. There are those who are well informed and from such we invite discussion. For ourselves we are for completing the Canal from Cumberland to Baltimore, and at the earliest possible day, and should no one else undertake the task we think it will not be difficult to satisfy Baltimore that upon her doing so, and making the Eastern part, a free canal, depends her ultimate prosperity.

We are, for the present, compelled to publish our paper on the reduced size, but we are making arrangements, should the advertising patronage require it, to increase the size.

The PLOT will, hereafter, be published daily, and those who have subscription lists are requested to hand in the names of subscribers as they are obtained.

Advertisements intended for the PLOT and published in the other papers, should be marked in full.

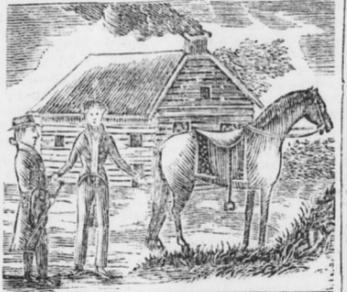
MEXICO.—The situation of Mexico is daily assuming a very important aspect. The efforts to establish a New Republic out of the provinces of New Leon, Zacatecas, Durango, Chihuahua and New Mexico, are advancing with a rapid stride, and, as it is observed in a very able article in the Pennsylvania Inquirer of Friday last, "the sands of the national existence of Mexico are rapidly running away. At the last dates, General Guzman had just acquired a signal victory over the Centralists, and the next object of the Federalists was the capture of Matamoras." It is the design of the Federalists to establish separate Republican Institutions in the place of the disorganized and constantly conflicting government of Mexico as at present established, and as the result aimed at must be gratifying to every lover of freedom, we sincerely and cordially wish the Federalists "God Speed."

SOUTHAMPTON.—We have been requested to give notice that a meeting of the Whigs of Southampton, will be held at Jerusalem, on the third Monday of this month (court day,) for the purpose of appointing Delegates to the Whig Young Men's Convention, which meets in Baltimore, on the first Monday in May.—*Petersburg Intelligencer.*

VIRGINIA ELECTORAL TICKET.—

The following is the Electoral Ticket agreed upon, and recommended to the voters of the Old Dominion by the Harrison and Tyler Convention, which met on the 24th February, at Richmond:

- 1st District—John W. Mordaugh, of Norfolk.
- 2d do James W. Pogram, of Petersburg.
- 3d do Wm. S. Archer, of Amelia.
- 4th do Richard Kidder Mead, of Dinwiddie.
- 5th do Henry E. Watkins, of Prince Edward.
- 6th do James C. Bruce, of Halifax.
- 7th do Whitwell F. Tustall, of Pittsylvania.
- 8th do Thomas R. Joyner, of Accomack.
- 9th do Norborne E. Sutton, of Caroline.
- 10th do Willoughby Newton, of Westmoreland.
- 11th do James Lyons, of Richmond City.
- 12th do Valentine W. Southall, of Albemarle.
- 13th do John S. Pendleton, of Rappahannock.
- 14th do John Janney, of Loudoun.
- 15th do Andrew Hunter, of Jefferson.
- 16th do Philip Williams, Jr. of Frederick.
- 17th do Wm. Seymour, of Hardy.
- 18th do Briscoe C. Baldwin, of Augusta.
- 19th do Ballard Smith, of Greenbrier.
- 20th do Edward Johnson, of Botetourt.
- 21st do John N. Humes, of Washington.
- 22d do George W. Summers, of Kanawha.
- 23d do Waiman T. Willey, of Mounaingala.



ANECDOTE OF GEN. HARRISON.

The following circumstance was mentioned during the session of the Harrisburg Convention, by Judge Barnett, of Ohio, a warm personal friend of General Harrison.

Many years since, while the great tide of emigration was flowing through the Western States, the hero of the Thames having, for a while, exchanged the arduous duties of a statesman and a general, for the more peaceful pursuits of agriculture, was on a hot summer evening, at the porch of his humble "Log Cabin" asked for shelter and a meal, by a Minister of the Gospel of the Methodist Episcopal persuasion. The jaded appearance of the steed, and the soiled garments of the rider, proclaimed the fatigue of the day, and with his usual courtesy, the old General welcomed the stranger. After a plain and substantial supper, the guest joined with his host in social conversation; and the latter, laying aside the character of the soldier and statesman, willingly listened to the pious instruction of the traveller. They retired to rest, the good old soldier thankful to a munificent Providence, that he was enabled to administer to the wants of a fellow creature, and the worthy minister of Christ, invoking the blessing of Heaven upon the head of his kind benefactor. Morning came, and the minister prepared to depart. He was in the act of taking leave, when he was informed that his horse had died during the night. This loss, however severe, considering that he had yet two hundred miles to travel, did not discourage him in the exercise of his duty; but taking his saddle-bags on his arm, he rose to depart, with thanks for the kindness of his entertainer. The old General did not attempt to prevent him, though he offered his condolence upon the loss, but an observing eye could have detected a smile of inward satisfaction, which the consciousness of doing good alone produces. The guest reached the door, and to his astonishment, found one of the General's horses accoutred with his own saddle and bridle, in waiting for him. He returned and remonstrated, stating his inability to pay for it, and that in all probability he should never again visit that section of the country. But the General was inexorable, and reminded the astonished Divine, that "he who giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," sent him on his way, his heart overflowing with gratitude, and his prayers directed to Heaven for blessings on the venerable Hero.

The State Convention, which met in this city, on the 9th, after discharging the duties for which they met, adjourned on Friday, having appointed the following named gentlemen, a State Central Committee.

- SAMUEL JONES, JR.
- NATHANIEL F. WILLIAMS,
- JOHN P. KENNEDY,
- JAMES L. RIDGELY,
- ABRAHAM G. COLE,
- JAMES GRIEVES,
- HUGH BIRCKHEAD,
- WM. R. JONES,
- GEORGE W. KREBS,
- GEORGE R. RICHARDSON,
- JAMES FRAZIER,
- JAMES HARWOOD,
- ASA NEEDHAM,
- THOS. YATES WALSH,
- WM. H. GATCHELL,
- GUSTAV W. LURMAN,
- CHARLES H. PITTS,
- GEORGE M. GILL,
- SAMUEL MCCLELLAN,
- NELSON POE,
- WM. CHESNUT.

It is stated in the Wheeling Times of March 26, that one thousand bushels of wheat were sold last week at Bridgeport, Ohio, opposite that city for TWENTY FIVE CENTS PER BUSHEL. This is another evidence, of the ruinous state of affairs brought about by misrule, and one too which cannot fail to open the eyes of the agricultural community. They are reaping the benefits of a reduction in prices with a vengeance.

Gen. Scott has written a letter in which he expresses himself in most decided terms in favor of Gen. Harrison.

THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.

GEN. SCOTT has written an important letter to Gen. Jones, Adjutant Gen. U. S. A., concerning the British fortifications on the Northern Frontier, and the troops in the British provinces. He states that the forts and barracks erected by the British authorities near the border of Maine, above Fredericton, in New Brunswick, or in Upper Canada, above Cornwall, has received but very slight attention from him, for the reason that he considers them of little or no military value to either party in case of war. That between Lakes Huron and Erie they have three sets of barracks, at Windsor, Sandwich and Malden, all of which have been recently strengthened. Near the mouth of the Niagara, the British have two small forts, George and Messisanga, both of which existed during the last war; besides which, slight barracks have been erected within the last two years, on the same side, near the falls and at Chippewa, with breast works at the latter place. Fort William Henry at Kingston, and Fort Wellington, opposite to Ogdensburg (old works) have been strengthened in consequence of the recent troubles in Canada, and may now be called permanent forts. The Isle aux Noirs, a few miles below the American line, and in the outlet of Lake Champlain, stands at the head of a system of defences on the approach to Montreal, and is said to contain within itself a system of permanent works of great strength. The British Government has, since the peace of 1815, expended much skill and labor upon these works. Oletown, on the western side of lake Champlain, is a station of a body of Canadian Militia, to protect the neighbourhood from refugee incendiaries.

The General concludes his letter with the following important statement. "Among such preparations, perhaps, I ought not to omit the fact that Great Britain besides numerous corps of well organized and well instructed Militia, has at this time, within her North American provinces, more than 20,000 of her best regular Troops. The whole of those forces might be brought to the verge of our territory in a few days. Two thirds of that regular force has arrived out since the Spring of 1838."

As a set off to these military preparations on the part of our ancient enemy, whom it would afford us much pleasure always to denominate our well beloved and time honored friend and neighbour, we have the following information of the doings on our own side, which we copy from the New York Herald of the 1st April.

IMPORTANT NAVAL MOVEMENTS.—Orders have recently been despatched to all the Naval stations to have every thing put in readiness for immediate service. The late movements of the British Authorities respecting the Maine boundary line is the probable cause.

Commodore Renshaw, of this station, has received instructions to complete the Steam Frigate now on the stocks, with all possible despatch, and Capt. M. C. Perry, late of the Fulton, is to take command of her. Additional workmen have been employed, and she is now nearly all planked. The Independence and Fairfield, just arrived from Rio, and the Relief, are to be kept in commission. The Columbia and John Adams, shortly expected home from the East Indies, are also to be prepared for sea again immediately. The ships of War now on the stocks are to be got ready for launching, and the two seventy fours short of the Navy yard, to be prepared at short notice. The crews of those vessels just arrived, are to be paid off immediately, so that they can spend their money and reshig again.—None of the officers can have leave of absence, but are to hold themselves in readiness for service.

Such is the nature of the instructions lately received from Washington, and such have been sent to every Navy Yard. What do they indicate? It is however, sincerely to be hoped, notwithstanding these warlike preparations, that the report of the British Commissioners employed to survey the disputed territory, and which Mr. Fox believed, would have been delivered to the British Government by the end of March, will be of such a character as to prevent any further hostile agitation of the subject. This Report may be now looked for daily with great anxiety. Not because there is the most remote disposition to create hostilities, but because the public mind is much excited.

After penning the above, we received an interesting letter from a friend in Washington, relating to the same subject, to which we refer the reader.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1840.
When I had the pleasure of seeing you in this great Metropolis of politics and fashion a few days since, I promised that during my leisure moments, I would occasionally send you an abstract of matters and things as they here exist, in relation to some of the prominent movements of the government and its allies. I am pleased to hear that you have a fair prospect of success with your paper.—And if the wishes of a sincere friend will be acceptable, allow me to express to you my warmest desire that the bold, fearless and skilful "PLOT," whom you have placed on board the Ship of State, may bear that noble vessel in safety and in triumph to her destined port.

A principal subject of discussion among all parties here, is the relation which we now hold towards Great Britain, and many well disposed and good natured people are much inclined to be frightened with the bug-bear of War.—This, you are aware, is a good material for political capital, and out of this exciting theme, the great humbuggers of the age expect to coin a sufficiency of metal to carry him to the goal of his future aspirations. The fact is, that neither the Government of the U. States, nor the Government of Great Britain have the most remote desire for War; and both will be equally zealous in preventing such a catastrophe. It is however the policy of the administration to hold out the possibility of such an event, in order to divert the attention of the country from the approaching election.

It is well understood here, that only a small part of the adherents of the administration are in favor of hostile measures with England, and

that the course pursued by that small clique, is dictated more by the expectations of political benefit hereafter to be acquired by them, than by any desire for the honor or welfare of the country. At the head of the clique alluded to, stands the heir apparent to the throne whereupon Martin Van Buren now sits.

The Globe of the 27th March contained an article under the imposing head of "Tampering with the Indians," in which it was stated, that letters had been intercepted from the British authorities in Upper Canada, which had been addressed to the principal chiefs of some of the Indian tribes bordering on Lake Superior, inviting and instigating them to raise their tribes, with promises of valuable presents and other advantages, for the purpose of commencing hostilities along the American frontier.

It is pretty generally believed here by those who are in the secrets of the party, that the article above mentioned was furnished to the Globe by the chairman of the Military Committee of the Senate, for the purpose of inflaming the public mind upon the subject of our position with the provinces, and thus begot the idea that the British authorities were endeavouring to entice the friendly American Indians to join with them in the event of hostilities. The object of the invitation from the British authorities was well known at the time of the writing of the article in the Globe, and it was equally well known that there was not the slightest ground for the alleged rumor. On the contrary, the Indians have now less reason than they ever had for congeniality of feeling with the authorities in the provinces.

From the termination of the war to the present time, the Indians above alluded to have been receiving regular annuities from the British Government, but during the latter part of the reign of William IV, they were notified that the annuities, in the form of presents, would be discontinued, the British government considering it a matter of indelicacy to subsidize the inhabitants of a foreign and friendly power. In order, however, to remove from the minds of the Indians the idea of injustice, which would naturally arise upon the withdrawal of the former annuities, they were at the same time, informed that to those who thought proper to remove into the provinces, a portion of land, consisting of some of the islands on Lake Superior, had been appropriated, and that they were at liberty to occupy them. This is the whole history of the invitation to the Indians, "to come down immediately, and enter into arrangements to commence hostilities along the frontier of the American States."

Moreover, the fact was known in this city at the time, for the Secretary of War was then in possession of a letter from Gen. Scott, upon this very subject.

So much for the allegation. Now for its denial, by the Globe itself. March 30th, three days after the article alluded to, appeared, the same paper stated that the whole matter was unfounded, and that the Indians had been invited into the British territories to receive presents! What presents? Why, the lands in consideration of a relinquishment of all future claim to the annuities they had been formerly receiving. Of this more anon.

Yours very respectfully.

A FABRICATION REFUTED.—Several of the political journals of the day have attributed to the Hon. Daniel Webster, language any thing but complimentary to Gen. Harrison. Supposing the matter to have originated either in misapprehension or in calumny, the Editor of the Harrisburg Telegraph, recently addressed Mr. Webster upon the subject. In his reply he says:

The whole story is utterly false. Friendly relations have existed between Gen. Harrison and myself, for many years. Nothing has ever occurred to interrupt these relations. On my return from Europe, late in December, I heard of his nomination, by the Harrisburg Convention, and I took the earliest opportunity to declare publicly that I approved the nomination, and should join heartily with my fellow citizens in giving it support. Gen. Harrison has long been before the country, in war and in peace. The history of his life shows him to be a brave soldier, a patriotic citizen and an honest man. It is too late, quite too late, for detraction to do its office upon his reputation, either military or civil. He has now been selected by the general voice of those whose political principles agree with his own, to go to the head of the column, and to bear up and advance the flag, under which it is hoped those principles may be maintained and defended. I not only wish his nomination success, but intend also to do all that may become a good citizen to insure it. It may fail; but if it should, I verily believe the failure will be ominous of a long train of political evils to the country. If sustained, on the part of those who have made it, by a devoted spirit of political duty and love of country, it may succeed, and if it should succeed, I should regard that success, as the welcome harbinger of better times.

Yours respectfully,
DANIEL WEBSTER.

OBITUARY.—We notice, with deep regret, the announcement in the last Cincinnati Gazette of the death of CHARLES HAMMOND, Esq. editor of that paper, who died April 3, about 61 years of age. Few men have been on the stage of life who evinced a higher talent than Charles Hammond, few of stronger feelings, few who were more industrious, few who did more actual good and none who were more beloved by those who knew him intimately.

Ohio flour in Boston on Saturday last \$5.37 1/2. The Cincinnati Republican says:—"Flour sold on Tuesday last, at the Canal, for \$2.50 per Barrel, which is lower than it has sold before for the last thirteen years. Truly these are glorious times."

The Bill before the Legislature of Virginia to authorise the Banks to issue one and two dollar notes, redeemable in specie, during their authorised suspension, has been defeated in the senate, after having passed the house.