

LIBERTY.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1840.

"Union of the Whigs for the sake of the Union."

WHIG NOMINATION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

For President of the United States,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,
OF OHIO.

For Vice President,

JOHN TYLER,
OF VIRGINIA.

WHIG ELECTORAL TICKET FOR THE STATE.

B. S. PRENTISS, of Warren County,

HENRY DICKINSON, of Lowndes,

T. JONES STEWART, of Annet,

THOS. J. WORD, of Pontotoc.

We are authorized to announce Hon. V. T. Crawford as a candidate for the office of Judge of the Eleventh Judicial District, at the November election.

We are authorized to announce Mr. James M. Downs, as a candidate for the office of State Treasurer, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Williams.

Attention is invited to the annexed notice from the Vicksburg Whig. The life of Harrison is the very thing the people want; let every voter have a copy and the Whigs have nothing to fear. The more closely the character of the Whig candidate for the Presidency is scrutinized, the more acceptable to the people will he be. The thousand slanders and misrepresentations of late set afloat by our opponents have only given a fair opportunity of refuting them; and if the Whigs do their duty—disseminate information—let every body know the merits of the distinguished individual presented for their support, Mississippi will not be found wanting in November. The tide of popular opinion is rolling onward in favor of the defender of his country—the man whose integrity secured to him the good opinion of every President from Washington to Jackson; and who early sacrificed his personal popularity in defending the Union and Southern rights. Let the locofocos scoff at Gen. Harrison's poverty—let them like Senator Grundy curl the sneering lip at "the County Court Clerk," and ridicule the tenant of the log cabin—let them denounce the supporter of the Administrations of Jefferson and Madison as a Federalist—let them proclaim the hero of Tippecanoe a coward, and thousands of old soldiers who know better, and millions of voters freed and independent, will indignantly rebuke the calumniators. We, therefore, urge the proposition of the Editor of the Vicksburg Whig on the attention of the friends of reform. This contest will decide the fate of the country. The re-election of Van Buren would so prostrate republican principles as to preclude the hope of reaction in the body politic. To avoid such a fate every patriot should lend a helping hand. The rescue, from the spoiler, of our Government—the legacy of our Washington and his compatriots of the revolution, is worth an effort; and that effort can only be made by circulating correct information. Let every body know their rights and their danger, and with the God of nations take the result.

What say the Whigs to a thousand copies of the life of Harrison for Amitee?

Among the many slanders put forth by the locofocos against General Harrison, the charge of being in favor of selling poor white men, is among the most pitiful. This charge, like all the others made against the Whig candidate, being entirely without foundation, only gives the Whigs a fair chance to exhibit their candidate in his true character—a humane and good man, the friend of the unfortunate, and the foe of iniquity, both in private and public life. General Harrison is opposed to imprisonment for debt, except where fraud is alleged, and then it is a merited punishment for crime and not for misfortune. The law about which the locofocos make such a fuss, had no reference to debtors, but to criminals—thieves, defaulters, &c.

And perhaps it ought not to be a source of surprise, that the leaders of the locofocos are frightened at the idea of the election of a President, who some twenty years ago voted for an act to hire, or sell for a limited time, thieves and pilferers, who were not able to pay the fines imposed by the courts for their crimes, perhaps they think defaulters might come within the meaning and purview of the statute.

For a full refutation of the charge of being in favor of selling poor white men for debt, the reader is referred to the article from the Georgia Messenger.

The "Snag Boat" is the title of a new Harrison paper just commenced at Raymond, in Hinds County. It is under the control of the "Hinds County Tippecanoe Club," and from the first number, which has been received, we judge that it will dislodge many an old snag of locofocoism that has long rippled the current of our country's prosperity. The motto is, "We're right—go ahead." Stick to that, and the blessings of an injured people reward your exertions.

Mr. BERRIAN, the first Attorney General under Gen. Jackson's Administration, lately acted as Chairman of a Harrison meeting in Georgia. The republicans of olden time, the original Jackson men, are coming out by scores for Harrison and reform.

Read the letter of Joel Crawford, the brother of W. H. Crawford, who was the State Rights candidate for President when J. Q. Adams was elected.

LIFE OF HARRISON.

We have received the stereotype plates of the biography of Genl. Harrison, which we ordered from Cincinnati, and shall be prepared in a few days to furnish committees, &c. with any number. It will be issued in pamphlet form, adorned with two engravings, and will be accompanied with an appendix, embodying a mass of highly honorable testimony in favor of the People's candidate, together with Gen. Harrison's opinions on the subject of slavery and abolition.

As it is our purpose to give this biography the widest possible circulation, and place it in the hands of every voter in the State, we have determined to fix the price at a standard that will barely cover the cost of publication. It will, therefore, be disposed of to Tippecanoe Clubs, Vigilance Committees, &c. at the very low price of thirty dollars per thousand. We respectfully call the attention of our friends throughout the State to this publication, and solicit their aid in giving it a circulation as wide as the limits of the State. Whig editors will confer a favor upon us, as well as perform a service to the good cause, by noticing this biography and urging it upon the attention of neighboring Tippecanoe Clubs.

All orders must be accompanied by the cash in par funds, or they will not be attended to. We will add for the information of persons interested that this biography of Gen. Harrison

can be transmitted by mail at the usual newspaper postage.—Vicksburg Whig.

From the Macon (Geo.) Messenger.

"SELLING POOR WHITE MEN."

As this has been a favorite theme for discussion and misrepresentation by the Van Buren Presses, we have copied the annexed letter of Gen. Harrison, written while the subject was fresh in the recollection of every one, or perhaps before it even had time to be generally disseminated and understood. It will be seen that the law refers only to THIEVES—that it could not effect any but such as were very poor in moral principle as well as purse—but not those who were poor in purse alone. If the Van Buren presses choose to lavish their sympathies on individuals, guilty of larceny, let them have their way—we cannot account for it, unless the practice has become respectable in their eyes from the splendour of the achievements of several of their party, such as Price, Swartout and others. The only thing surprising about it is, that such mean, pitiful rogues as steal less than fifty dollars, should make so large a draft on their sympathies.

It has generally been represented that poor white men, who had subjected themselves to a fine by a court, who had committed no moral error, were to be made subject to this law.—This appears not to be the fact, and this change in the law was even more favorable to criminals than the former law, or the other amendments offered; such as labour on the roads, whipping, cropping &c.—But we would ask, how far should our sympathies extend to THIEVES—and how far should their feelings be regarded in the punishment for their crimes? So long as it does not stigmatize the community by its barbarism, the more severe, or humiliating it is to the Culprit, the better the example, and the greater the safe-guard thrown around the honest portion of the community.—And we would ask, who is there among us, who would willingly pay his portion of the expenses of maintaining such criminals in our jails, when a remedy offered?—Would he not rather exclaim at once, put them to work and let them support themselves—if they have the depravity to steal, they can bear the shame of the punishment.

But our sympathetic Van Buren men, have a great horror for unequal punishment: between rich and poor men, particularly when the object is at a distance.—When the subject came home to them, no longer ago than the years 1831 and 2, when it was a favorite measure with their party, to abolish the Penitentiary and revive the old criminal code, we find this among the unequal atonements to be dealt out to offenders. To hunt deer by fire light, a fine of fifty dollars was the penalty, and if the offender was unable to pay it, he was to receive thirty-nine lashes, on his naked back, "well laid on."—A rich man, with the price of a bale of cotton, could relieve himself from all difficulty, while his poor neighbor would be led out on the public square, to the whipping post, and his offence, atoned by the loss of his hide.—The Standard of Union is one of the most clamorous about the enormity of Gen. Harrison's offence, while it was one of the most active in reviving this law at home. It never commented then about the inequality of punishment, or the poor white man taking a skinning—or the barbarism of a man's being hung "without the benefit of a clergy" (as was then the case), for stealing a horse, mule or jackass. Perhaps its sympathies did not run so much towards thieves and rogues at that time as it does now. It may be considered a strange freak in them, and their party, by some; but we think our suggestion near the commencement of this article will account for it. We can say for Gen. Harrison that it is well that he had nothing to do with the Legislature of Georgia at that time, or we should have heard of more barbarous crimes laid to his charge, than voting for selling out the services of a poor thief to pay fines and costs.

To the Cincinnati Advertiser;

Sir: In your paper of the 15th instant, I observed a most violent attack upon eleven other members of the late Senate and myself, for a supposed vote given at the last session for a passage of a law to "sell debtors in certain cases." If such had been our conduct, I acknowledge that we should not only deserve the censure which the writer has bestowed upon us, but the execration of every honest man in society. An act of that kind is not only opposed to the principles of justice and humanity, but would be a palpable violation of the Constitution of the State, which every legislator is sworn to support; and sanctioned by a House of Representatives and twelve Senators, it would indicate a state of depravity, which would fill every patriotic bosom with the most alarming anticipations. But the facts, that no such proposition was ever made in the Legislature or even thought of. The act to which the writer alludes has no more relation to the collection of "debts" than it has to the discovery of longitude. It was an act for the "punishment of offences" against the State; and that part of it which has so deeply wounded the feelings of our correspondent, was passed by the House of Representatives and voted for by the twelve Senators, under the impression that it was the most mild and humane mode of dealing with offenders for whose cases it was intended. It was adopted by the House of Representatives as a part of the general system of the criminal law which was then undergoing a complete revision and amendment. The necessity of this is evinced by the following facts: For several years past it had become apparent the penitentiary system was becoming more and more burdensome at every session; a large appropriation was called for to meet the excess of expenditure above the receipts of the establishment. In the commencement of the session of 1820, the deficit amounted to near \$20,000.

This growing evil required the immediate interposition of some vigorous legislative measure. Two were recommended as being likely to produce the effect: first, placing the institution under better management; and, secondly, lessening the number of convicts who were sentenced for short periods, and whose labor was found of course, to be most unproductive. In pursuance of the latter principle, thefts to the amount of \$50 or upwards were subjected to punishment in the penitentiary instead \$10 which was the former minimum sum. This was easily done. But the great difficulty re-

mained, to determine what should be the punishment of those numerous larcenies below the sum of \$50. By some, whipping was proposed; by others, punishment by hard labor in the county jails; and by others, it was thought best to make them work on the highways. To all these there appeared insuperable objections. Fine and imprisonment were adopted by the House of Representatives as the only alternative; and, as it is well known these vexatious pilferings were generally perpetrated by the more, worthless vagabonds in society, it was added that, when they could not pay the fines and costs which are always part of the sentence and punishment, their services should be sold out to any person who would pay their fines and costs for them. This was the clause that was passed, as I believe, by a unanimous vote of the House, and stricken out in the Senate, in opposition to the twelve who have been denounced. A little further trouble in examining the journals would have shown your correspondent that this was considered as a substitute for whipping, which was lost only by a single vote in the Senate, and in the House by a small majority, after being once passed.

I think, Mr. Editor, I have said enough to show that this obnoxious law would not have applied to "unfortunate debtors of sixty years" but infamous offenders who depraved upon the property of their fellow citizens, and who, by the Constitution of the State as well as the principle of existing laws, were subject to involuntary servitude. I must confess I had no very sanguine expectations of a beneficial effect from this measure, as it would apply to convicts who had attained the age of maturity; but I had supposed that a woman or a youth who, convicted of an offence, remained in jail for the payment of the fine and costs imposed, might with great advantage be transferred to the residence of some decent, virtuous private family, whose precept and example would gently lead them back to the paths of rectitude.

I would appeal to the candor of your correspondent to say whether, if there were an individual confined under the circumstances I have mentioned, for whose fate he was interested he would not gladly, see him transferred from the filthy enclosure of a jail, and still more filthy inhabitants, to the comfortable mansion of some virtuous citizen, whose admonitions would check his vicious propensities, and whose authority over thousands of apprentices in our country and those bound servants which are tolerated in our as well as in every other State in the Union. Far from advocating the abominable principles attributed to me by your correspondent, I think that imprisonment for debt under any circumstances but that where fraud is alleged, is at war with the best principles of our Constitution, and ought to be abolished.

I am, sir, your humble servant,
WM. H. HARRISON.
NORTH BEND, Dec. 21, 1821.

From the Baltimore American.

PARTY NAMES.—It is curious to note how the old designation of parties are applied. The terms "democrat" and "federalist," once used in reference to actual distinctions, are now affixed with little or no meaning, as mere words to win popularity or to excite prejudice. It is very well known that the Federal party as such ceased to exist long ago. When President Monroe's administration came to a close, all the candidates for the Presidential chair belonged to the Democratic party, and each was supported by his friends on grounds of a personal nature. The old Federal party was distributed among the several divisions, some supporting Mr. Adams, some joining with the friends of Mr. Crawford, others favouring Mr. Clay, and many allying themselves with the party which sought to bring Gen. Jackson into power. When the contest came on afterwards between Mr. Adams and Gen. Jackson, some of the most distinguished names among the Federalists were found on the list of those who organized and concentrated the powerful opposition which defeated the re-election of Mr. Adams. It is well known that many of the prominent men who now sustain rank as leaders under the administration of Mr. Van Buren were Federalists. We say this without intending reproach—but because it is a matter of fact. The old Federal party having become decomposed, the individual members of it had certainly the right to choose among the Democratic candidates, and to consult their own preferences in supporting this one or that.—The strangeness of the matter is that the Administration party, with ultra Federalists, among its prominent leaders, should claim to be the Democratic party, and that the Whigs should be called Federalists.

But perhaps upon second thought, it is not so surprising after all that the party in power should resort to such means of warfare. There is so little in the principles of the Whigs to be disapproved of by the people, and so much that would gain general assent if the whole subject were fairly presented, that we may find in these facts some excuse for the industry with which the Administration journals have recourse to names and epithets intended to convey unfavorable impressions. If the doctrines of the Whigs are sound and cannot be impugned, there is yet one resource left—they can be called Federalists. To every thing that is advanced, whether in the way of proposing a good measure or of defeating a bad one—the reply is ready—it is a Federal movement. This course saves trouble, and requires no argument.

For ourselves we are quite indifferent about the names which the Administration party may choose to take to itself. Their principles and policy show sufficient grounds of opposition, no matter by what name the party may be called. We should not object to Mr. BUCHANAN, for instance, that he had once been a Federalist—it is enough to know that gentleman is an advocate of the Sub Treasury. So of the party collectively. There is no need of travelling beyond the records of the last ten years to find ample grounds of objection. The party now at issue does not refer back to party distinctions which prevailed forty years ago—but it stands on its own merits. The evils of the Government policy, are of present existence—they are known and felt; they have no reference to the old question between Democrats and Federalists. Such terms are without meaning, and have on application to the present state of things. The points in dispute between the old democratic and federal parties were settled long ago.

From the Lynchburg Virginian.

GEORGIA.—The Ball rolling.

The Milledgeville Recorder, which originally urged upon the State Rights party the policy of standing aloof from, and taking no part in the contest between Mr. Van Buren and Gen. Harrison, and which was the first to nominate Gov. Troup as the antagonist candidate of Van Buren in that State, has yielded to the irresistible and swelling tide of public sentiment, and doffed its neutral garb. "The people of the State," (it says,) "have taken the matter into their own management. The misfortunes of the country, produced in a great degree by the "imbecility and folly, and far worse than folly," of the party which has brought this ruin upon us, has been carried feelingly home almost to every one's door. More suits have been commenced against the people within the last few months, than there have been within the last twenty years. Ruin seems to stare them in the face; and they have been led to a course of reflection, which all the politicians, and all the politics, and all the newspapers besides, united, would vainly have essayed to accomplish"—and which, the Recorder might have added, all these influences combined cannot check. "The people know they were doing well—they know when the "Experiments" commenced, they were told that it was to better their condition—and they look around them, and behold nothing but wreck and ruin, with no streak of light upon the horizon, to inspire them with the hope that to-morrow will be less dark and cheerless than to-day. And they naturally and truly reason that to those rash Experiments are the disasters of the country mainly attributable. And acting upon that conviction, as they ought to do, they will transfer the reins of power to the hands of those who will travel in the beaten road marked out by Washington and Jefferson and Madison.

The Recorder accordingly withdraws the name of Gov. Troup, and declares its determination to go with the people. "The time has arrived," (it forcibly remarks,) "when Harrison and Van Buren are to be arrayed against each other for the suffrages of the South, as they formerly were arrayed against each other on the rights of the South. It will be injustice to the people, now that they have become aroused—now that they have taken the matter in hand themselves—to doubt in regard to their decision. There can be but one voice, in choosing the man who sacrificed himself in defence of Southern rights, in preference to him "who sacrificed the South in her most momentous interests, to his own selfish and unprincipled ambition. Harrison sacrificed his own popular aspirations in defence of the South upon the greatest question which ever affected her—Van Buren, on this same Missouri Question, voted with the enemies of the South, and sacrificed her most vital interest at the shrine of his own unhallowed lust of office. Let him now look to those Missouri Restrictionists, those foes of the South, for the support which they fairly owe him; but let him not expect the "vote of those he betrayed."

The Recorder speaks confidently of the vote of Georgia for Harrison—and we confess that we do not despair of it. The following letters from two of her leading men, Thomas Butler King of the House of Representatives, and Joel Crawford, the brother of Wm. H. Crawford, Virginia's favorite candidate for the Presidency in 1824, taken in connection with the developments of public sentiment, inspire us with hope, that even Mr. Forsyth's influence will not save Van Buren from defeat in Georgia. The following is Mr. King's letter:—

WASHINGTON, April 21, 1840.

"The best informed persons here no longer entertain a doubt of the election of General Harrison. When his nomination was first announced, I confess that my information in regard to his principles, opinions and acts, was by no means accurate, and consequently my opinion of him as a man and a statesman, was not favorable.

"Believing as I did, and do—that the measures and policy of the administration are rapidly tending to the entire subversion of our institutions—the prostration and ruin of the best interests of our country, I felt it my duty, to make the most particular enquiry into the character and opinions of Gen. Harrison, to ascertain whether the South could prudently, consistently and safely support him for the Presidency. The result has led me to the unhesitating conclusion that he has done more in favor of Southern rights and interest than any other man living out of the slave-holding states, and that no man in those states is more thoroughly with us in regard to our rights and interests. I therefore have no hesitation in saying, that in my opinion, he is in every way, worthy of our undivided and unhesitating support and the last hope of the Republic. I now do not entertain a doubt of his election. If he shall be nominated by our proud and enlightened State, I shall endeavor to do my duty in the campaign that will follow. I do not entertain a doubt of the result—we shall be victorious.

Respectfully yours,

THOMAS BUTLER KING.

Here, it will be seen, a Southern statesman, who has taken pains to ascertain Gen. Harrison's views and opinions, in despite of pre-existing prejudices, which it is so difficult to conquer, avers that Harrison is worthy of our support, and declares his determination zealously to sustain him! Is not such a declaration from such a source, a sufficient answer to the calumnies of Harrison's Southern opponents? But here is a greater than even Mr. King—Joel Crawford—a man of Southern nativity, feelings and principles—as unambitious as he is deservedly influential—one who knows Gen. Harrison, not by report, but personally—who has served with him in Congress—what does he say?

Letter of Joel Crawford.

"I have long since lost all respect for the party controversies of this state; indeed, if nothing better was to be expected from politics than what we have realized within the last eight or ten years, I should hardly deem it worth any man's trouble to attend an election or to enquire who were the candidates. It may be, however, that better times are at hand—that our governments, State and Federal, will hereafter be valued on account of the benefits they confer on the People at large—that the popular favor which seems of late to be

flowing in on that distinguished patriot and soldier, William Henry Harrison, is the harbinger of a coming administration, in which the whole country may rejoice.

During the greater part of the fifteenth and sixteenth Congresses, (a period of about 4 years,) I was on terms of intimacy with Gen. Harrison. He, the late Col. John Williams of Tennessee, Gen. John Floyd of Virginia, John Tyler, now in nomination for the Vice Presidency, and Mr. Clay of Kentucky, were all members of Congress at that time, were men of the same tone of character, and had in an eminent degree my esteem and friendship. Whilst their polite, frank and generous deportment in society, gave them a strong hold on my affection, their age and experience in public affairs imparted great value to their opinions and counsel.

In all the traits and bearings of his character, Gen. Harrison is a Virginian of the old school—plain in dress, polite, frank and self-possessed, but never ostentatious in manners. His stature is something under six feet, his form spare and erect, his eyes dark and penetrating, and his weight probably never exceeded one hundred and fifty or sixty pounds. As a member of Congress, the General was much more remarkable for his business habits, than his powers in debate; though he was a respectable speaker, and usually took a part in the discussion of military and other subjects with which he was best acquainted. The adversaries of Harrison have latterly taken pains to underestimate his talents, which might be done easily enough among strangers and superficial observers, in consequence of his plain, unpretending personal appearance. There is nothing imposing in the General's exterior, though in conversation he is animated and interesting. His political principles are understood to be in strict accordance with those taught by Thomas Jefferson, for whose able and successful administration I have often heard him express great admiration.

In regard to the purity of Gen. Harrison's private and public character, I believe there is but one opinion—enemies and friends unite in ascribing to him the highest integrity, and an almost culpable disregard of wealth. For many years he held stations in the public service, which afforded him opportunities of acquiring property to an immense amount; yet it is doubtful whether his estate is more than sufficient to defray the expense of educating and to furnish a moderate outfit to his numerous family of children.

I confess to you that I have been astonished at the ground taken by many of the State Rights party in view of the approaching Presidential election. To Col. Troup, no man is more willing to do honor than myself—few place a higher estimate on his capacity for exalted stations in the public service; but were he endowed with the perfections of an angel, no one believes in the possibility of his election. Why then pretend that he ought to receive the vote of Georgia? Why not rather say, in a spirit of manly sincerity, that Georgia ought not, and shall not give a vote for any one for President? This avowal would at least avoid the semblance of duplicity, and exempt us from the imputation of an exclusive and childish fondness for a citizen of our own State.

But why should not Georgia participate with her confederate sisters in the election of a Chief Magistrate? Only it seems because they see no good reason to indulge her in a dictatorial choice, which they cannot, compatibly with their sense of duty, approve; and if approved, no one can hope to carry successfully to the polls. Presidents of the United States will continue to be elected as long as the Government endures; yet it is wholly improbable that we shall ever have one to whom for some reason or another, a full majority of the people will not object. There never will be a faultless candidate; and if by a miracle one could appear, it is far from being certain, that he would on that account be a universal favorite.

With Mr. Van Buren I have no personal acquaintance—towards the man I never have had an unkind feeling; but he is not the sort of statesman for the government of this great confederacy. He may be very patriotic, and be endowed with a great deal of what his friends seem to prize highly, under the name of "management." There is, however, reason to apprehend that others do far more of this management than he, and that it more frequently aims at selfish ends than the public weal. No man in his right mind, can admit the ability of an administration, whose treasury war, navy, and post-office departments exhibit such a wretched state of imbecility and derangement; nor has any one accounted satisfactorily for the fact, that the current expenses of the Federal Government now amount to about forty millions of dollars, whereas but a few years ago less than half the sum was abundantly sufficient. At any rate, these are, with me decisive tests, and were there no other grounds of discontent, would call loudly for a change of ministry.

Gen. Harrison does not rank among the greatest men of the nation—yet it would be difficult to find another who has spent so much of his life in the service of his country—who has been charged with such a variety of important trusts—who has fallen into so few errors—and whose labours have so generally resulted in success. These things may not entitle him to the flashy honor of being called great, but, in common with his well known firmness and integrity of character, give him a very valid claim to my confidence and to my suffrage for the Presidency of these United States.

On the subject of negro slavery, as it exists in this country, Gen. Harrison's opinions are precisely those that were held and often expressed by Mr. Jefferson. Both have positively denied to Congress the power of interfering with the subject—both have denounced the folly and madness of abolitionism.

JOEL CRAWFORD.

When such men as Dawson, Borrian, Crawford and King of Georgia, and Legare, Pettigrew, Thompson, Hamilton and Preston of South Carolina, do battle under the Harrison flag, we must be excused if we doubt the sincerity of obscurer men, who affect to dread Harrison's orthodoxy on the Slavery question. They are as deeply interested in this question as men can be, and if they did not know that the champion of the South on the Missouri question could not be its enemy now, they would be the first to denounce him, instead of rushing to his support.