

*Book*

**INCIDENTS**

**IN THE LIFE OF**

**WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,**

**THE**

**PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE**

**FOR THE**

**PRESIDENCY.**

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## Preface.

THE services of WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, need only to be recalled to mind, to produce a perfect conviction of their surpassing merit.

Instead of giving a continued narrative, we design to place a few of the more prominent incidents of his life before the honest and reflecting portion of our fellow-citizens, and we leave *them* to decide, whether the most popular candidate of the opposition since 1825, is to be cast aside at this time, through unavailing zeal for one candidate, or pitiful intrigues for another. We leave it for them to read these incidents, and then say whether one of the greatest and best men in this nation does not fully deserve their confidence and support.

# INCIDENTS, &c.

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## NO. I.

UPON an attentive perusal of the trials and sufferings of the people of the Western Country from the time of their establishment under Territorial Governments, to the close of the late War, we are struck with the varied and important services rendered his country by William H. Harrison, and our only wonder is that a patriotic people, should have suffered one of their most faithful and honest servants to remain so long unnoticed and forgotten.

His well known humility of disposition, has in a great measure been the cause. Conscious of having done his duty, he has looked to his own bosom, rather than the public for the approbation, so justly his due. Content to live in humble poverty—unobtrusive, and unpretending, the modern Cincinnatus, has been suddenly, and unexpectedly called from his plough to lead his countrymen once more in the defence of their liberties. This result is not occasioned by any management, or intrigue whatever. The people distrustful of the professions of modern demagogues, and perhaps unable to decide between pretensions urged with so much violence by contending factions, naturally enough looked around to find a man who had given undeniable proofs of that patriotism, which other men so boldly asserted was their own.

It was not a good speech, nor a good constitutional argument, nor great legal talent, which could satisfy the people on this point. But as public deeds so long and well established, as those of Gen. Harrison, when once more examined and ascertained, furnished the required evidence, it is not strange that finding such proofs, and acting under the influence of latent gratitude, the people have generally manifested a warm interest in his support, in preference to those who have made politics their business and their trade.

It is not the fighting of a half a dozen successful battles, which has made the People's candidate so conspicuous, but his revolutionary connections, his long services in civil stations of importance, his great prudence, sagacity, eloquence and learning, which are chiefly relied on as the foundation of his claims and popularity.

All these traits of character we pledge ourselves to establish to the satisfaction of our readers, since we shall quote in support of them from the pages of undisputed history.

Although the treaty of Greenville was supposed to have settled our difficulties with the Western Indians, it was after-

wards discovered that the British Government had by its numerous emissaries, and its presents to the tribes succeeded in keeping the principal chiefs in hostility to the United States.

Among them were the celebrated Tecumseh, and his brother the Prophet, the latter by his pretended miracles and divine power having succeeded in obtaining a large number of followers, and threatening the borders of Ohio.

In the course of a few years Gen. Harrison, then Governor of the adjacent Terr. finding their strength diminishing, and a famine pressing them hard, took the opportunity of making an impression upon them, by an act of humanity and kindness. He forwarded them corn from Vincennes, and so grateful were the Indians, for this act of charity, that he succeeded the same year in making a favorable treaty with them, at Fort Wayne, by which the Government became possessed of an immense territory upon the Wabash, on just and reasonable terms.

In this affair the General's sagacity was fully recognized. To the treaty, he would not invite the Prophet, because such an invitation would have been a recognition of his assumed character and his pretended title to the lands.

But Tecumseh, who now began to be a most conspicuous person among the Indians, faithful to the master passion of his heart, the re-possession of the Indian territory, threatened to kill all the chiefs who had signed the treaty and declared its articles should not be carried into effect.

At this critical juncture Gen. H. sent him word that if he would come to Vincennes, and sustain his claims, they should if well founded, be respected.

He accordingly appeared there, in August, 1810, attended by several hundred warriors.

The scene is represented as one of intense interest. It is strange that no native painter has seized upon its incidents, and spread them on the never-dying canvass. Imagine this athletic, and subtle chief, standing aside from the groupes of his countrymen, and with all the grace of natural oratory claiming the possession of these lands, as the gift of the Great Spirit, never to be alienated by any one tribe, being the common property of all. On this vague and general proposition, he alone rested his claims, when the General replied with arguments based upon the same mode of reasoning and to which the cunning Savage could not reply.

He asked the Chief, if the Great Spirit gave these lands to the Indians as one entire community, how it happened, that the tribes had different languages and could not all of them understand each other, and why as the whites were divided into different tribes and had different possessions, the Indians should not be also so divided. The General then vindicated the title of the Miamis to the lands in question, and that of the United States through them and sat down in order that his remarks might be interpreted.

The moment Tecumseh perceived their bearing, and the weakness of his own, he cried out, "False, false," and gave a signal to his warriors, who seized their tomahawks, rose on their feet and were ready at the slightest motion, to massacre the General and his attendants.

His presence of mind did not forsake him at this awful moment. He disengaged himself from the arm chair in which he was sitting, and seizing his sword, placed himself in an attitude of defence and though attended by a number of unarmed citizens only, he never quailed or blanched before the savages who now threatened his life. The Indians were astonished at his bravery and drew back before his uplifted sabre.

A Sergeant's Guard of 12 men being near at hand were sent for, and although their protection would have been inadequate, had hostilities actually commenced, he boldly taxed Tecumseh with his treachery and directed him to depart instantly for his home. The abashed savage sunk under the rebuke of the governor and retired.

Not another man in a thousand would have behaved with so much bravery and presence of mind. His death on that occasion would undoubtedly have led to a general rising of the tribes, and scenes of unmitigated distress in the frontier settlements.

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## NO. II.

After it was discovered that Tecumseh was determined to form a confederacy of the Indian nations, and sweep away the whites before its enraged warriors, the people on the frontiers became naturally excited with apprehensions, and looked with horror at the approaching conflict, in which youth and age, each sex and condition were in danger of immolation, by the fury of the savage; when their dwellings were to be fired at midnight, and "the war whoop should wake the sleep of the cradle."

*To whom did they look for protection in that perilous hour; to Martin Van Buren or any of his non committal friends?—*No! Governor Harrison, wise in council, and able in the field, became the Polar Star of their troubled sky. At a meeting of the citizens of Vincennes, resolutions were passed expressive of their imminent danger, and warmly APPROBATORY of the measures taken by the Governor for their protection. The United States Government at length listened to their voice, and the Governor was reinforced by a UNITED STATES Regiment, under Colonel Boyd; the Militia were also placed at his disposal, and to his discretion, every thing was fully committed.

As soon as it was known in Kentucky, says a Historian of unimpeached credit, that Gov. Harrison was to command,

volunteers from every part of the State joined his Standard. Some of them were eminent in fame, and conspicuous for their high standing, wealth and talents. DAVIES, a celebrated lawyer, was among the number, and others whose names are now brightest on the rolls of Fame.

His little army consisted of 900 affective men, and with these he commenced his march towards the Indian Territory. Two traits of character were here displayed. The one in his personal influence an exertion to render his force formidable. He drilled them in person day after day, explaining to every man, the peculiarities of the Indian Warfare, and the tactics which he had learned when serving under General Wayne, in the western forests.

The other was his attempting to bring the enemy to terms, without an unnecessary risk of *the best blood of Kentucky*.

During this time, the Governor erected a post on the south east side of the Wabash within our own territory, in order to preclude any danger from an enemy's falling in his rear, and as a citadel to which his little force, if overpowered might retire.

The provisions of the army not being very ample, particularly in flour, the troops were obliged to be put upon half allowance of that article, and General Harrison, set an example of self-denial, which gained the respect and affection of the army. Both he and his staff, placed themselves on the same footing in this respect, with the poorest soldier in the camp, and the sacrifice produced its full effect. The troops were at length put in motion, all attempts at negotiation being prostrated by the arts of the PROPHET.

On this march, the General practised a military feint, which had it been performed in any other country, would have been celebrated.

In order to deceive the Indians, and prevent their falling upon him, at a time when by the unevenness of the country or the thickness of the woods, their numbers would enable them to overmatch his discipline, he caused a wagon road to be reconnoitred and laid out upon the south side of the Wabash, which was the most natural, the shortest, and the usual route to the Prophet's town, and advanced upon it a short distance with all the pomp and circumstance of war.

The Indians having thus been put apparently in possession of his plans, prepared themselves accordingly, and waited his approach.

But the General suddenly changed his direction, and gained the right bank of the Wabash, by a dexterous and masterly movement. Here he also received an unexpected addition to his numbers, and from thence, his line of march was across extensive prairies, where the Indians could not assail him on any but equal terms. During this march, the troops were instructed in their respective duties, and the order of battle was fully explained.

The Indians were completely surprised, and the army ar-

rived within a few miles of the Prophet's town unmolested and undisturbed.

We are willing to give General Jackson, all the praise he deserves. We were his supporters and friends, when his present army of office-holders was opposed to him, and therefore we have at least the privilege of our former position with respect to him, to say, that in all his campaigns, he never discovered a tithe of the military talent, and sagacity which General Harrison, displayed *on this march*.

Careful of human life, not looking with indifference "upon blood and carnage," he always showed a commendable desire to spare the fathers, brothers and sons who accompanied him, from useless danger, though ever ready to lead them in person, when the shock of war was to be encountered. The General who conquers the enemy by his masterly manœuvres, who drives him from the field, by the judgment with which he selects his positions, and establishes his line of operations, always takes rank over the butcher, who like Suwarrow, depends for victory on the brutal force, and murderous assaults of his man machines.

This march of General Harrison's, brought him up with the enemy, on the most favorable terms, and led to the victory, which gave quiet to the western frontier.

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### NO. III.

On the 6th of November, says our authority, General Harrison and his troops were about five or six miles from the Prophet's Town. Here through his interpreters, he attempted to negotiate, but finding his offers, treated with indignity, he continued to advance, each step of the way being carefully reconnoitered, and every precaution taken to prevent a surprise.

Within two miles of the town, it became necessary to descend a steep hill, at the bottom of which was a creek, that run through a wet meadow, while just beyond, was a thick wood, from which the enemy could direct a murderous fire upon the Americans, as they approached.

Here the General expected an attack, but so admirably did he dispose of his mounted men and infantry, that the Savages were afraid to risk a rencontre.

He now approached within a mile and a half of the town, when some of his field officers came to him, and asked permission to commence an attack, using many and powerful arguments in favor of their proposition.

It was at this moment; General Harrison, rich in experience, and wise by reflection, shewed the coolness of his temper, and the soundness of his judgment. He informed his field officers, that he should not risk an engagement without reconnoitring the enemy, ascertain the nature of the ground

and finding out the policy which they intended to pursue towards the Government; that his guides had proved themselves unworthy of extended confidence, and that one more effort at negotiation should at least be made, in compliance with the general policy to be observed in the expedition.

Captain Dubois, having volunteered to go with a flag to the enemy, accordingly advanced towards them, but soon reported that he was unable to obtain a conference, or even an answer to his repeated questions, while he ran some risk of being cut off from his own friends.

The General recalled him, and determined instantly to advance. This resolution seemed to be at once discovered, for three Savages then approached and inquired why the army was advancing?

After some negotiation, a suspension of hostilities was then agreed on, and a friendly meeting appointed to take place the next day.

The army then moved on to obtain a good position for their encampment, preserving however the order of battle, in case an attack should be made upon them.

This caused a belief on the part of the Indians, that their town was to be immediately assaulted, and they instantly prepared for hostilities. At this critical moment, the General rode forward, called to the Indians and made known his object, which was, to find a proper encampment. Two of his principal officers, Majors Clark and Taylor, were sent out to discover a suitable place, and upon their report, the army moved to its ground.

Some of the General's enemies, have had the audacity since to assert, that he was entrapped into this encampment by the Indians. Nothing however, is farther from the truth. The ground was elevated, surrounded by an open prairie, with wood for their watch fires and cookery, and water for the necessities of the camp. This spot was the year afterwards examined by General Hopkins, and pronounced then as it since has been by military men, the very best position possible, that could have been taken.

It is not our intention to go into the particulars of this encampment. Let those who are curious, consult McAfee's history of the War in the Western country, to which we have constantly referred in all cases of doubt.

Suffice it to say, the army prepared themselves for every possible contingency, and General Harrison, never shut his eyes until every precaution was taken to prevent a surprise.

At 4 o'clock in the morning, he rose as was his custom, and was about giving the necessary orders for getting the men under arms, when the shot of a sentinel was heard, and then the horrid yell of the Indians.

A desperate attack now commenced on the left flank, and though the guard in that quarter, at first gave way, the troops who had laid upon their arms, immediately breasted the shock and maintained the fight with unflinching courage.



General Harrison mounted his horse without a moment's delay, rode to the point of attack, and finding it required strengthening, ordered up some fresh companies, and then proceeded to the left of the front line.

Here he met the gallant Davies, who asked permission to dislodge some Indians that were annoying them in that quarter. It was granted, and in executing the order, this brave and ever to be lamented soldier fell, pierced by the balls of his concealed foe.

Time does not permit us to recount all the horrors of that battle, nor the valorous deeds of those brave men, many of whom were for the first time under an enemy's fire. Among them the General was conspicuous. He moved about in the thickest of the fight, cheering his men, strengthening their position, watching the conduct of the enemy, and leaving no means untried to triumph over a superior and desperate foe.

One ball nearly ended his career. It grazed the top of his head, tore off the hair, and left a visible trace of its flight.

No victory, however, was ever so decisive, and the loss of the savages had never been greater in any previous battle.

The volunteers from Vincennes, as well as many others under the General's training, had become expert in Indian warfare, while all who followed him felt a strong personal attachment for their chief. One incident is worthy of particular remembrance. It reminds us of the conduct of Washington at Whiteplains, although it proceeded from a different cause.

The army of Gen. Harrison, believing that their success depended on his safety, were greatly alarmed at his exposing himself so constantly to the enemy's fire, and often entreated him not to lead up in person, the reinforcements necessary at the different points in danger. He would not, however, listen to their remonstrances, but continued to rush into the thickest of the fight.

As he approached one part of the lines, where the enemy were desperately contending, and pouring in a deadly fire, a dragoon officer, Lieut. Emerson, became alarmed at the imminent danger in which the General was placed, and seizing the bridle of his horse, urged him not to risk his valuable life, but to retire to a less exposed position. The General made no reply, but putting spurs to his horse dashed into the middle of the fire, and by his presence secured the fortune of the day. The enemy were met and driven back with great loss, and Heaven preserved the Hero of Tippecanoe, to do other deeds of heroism, and to serve his countrymen in other and happier times.

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#### No. IV.

The battle of Tippecanoe has been canvassed, perhaps, more extensively than any other action fought in the western country.

The result was, that all the charges made against the General were fully disproved, and the more the subject was investigated, the more conspicuously shone the merit of the Commander.

The Legislature of Kentucky passed the following resolution, which is entitled to as much respect, and perhaps a little more, than the opinion of the best paid slanderer in the ranks of Van Burenism.

“Resolved, That in the late campaign against the Indians, on the Wabash, Governor William H. Harrison has, in the opinion of this Legislature, behaved like a Hero, a PATRIOT, and a General, and that for his cool, deliberate, skilful and gallant conduct in the late battle of Tippecanoe, he well deserves the *warmest thanks* of the NATION.”

In 1812, small parties of Indians, instigated by Tecumseh, began to murder the inhabitants upon the frontiers of Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Governor Harrison, with a promptness that did him immortal honor, pressed upon the War Department the necessity of protecting the frontiers, and asked permission to raise a corps of mounted men, to pursue and chastise them. This kind of force was a favorite one with him, long before Colonel Johnson ever commanded a regiment of the kind.

Unhappily for the West, the then Secretary at War declined giving the required permission, and the depredations of the Savages continued. This was the first of those incumbents of the War Department, whose want of skill and talent threw the military operations of the West into disorder.

It is understood that General Armstrong has written a work of a tendency to vindicate himself at the expense of the army. We venture to assert, that he will regret the hour he ventured upon so rash an experiment, since to his want of firmness, geographical information, and deficiency in all that makes a military man, may justly be attributed much of the sufferings of the inhabitants of the Western Country. Had General Armstrong profited by the able letters of General Harrison written the Government, one half the calamity with which the frontier was visited, might easily have been prevented.

Those persons who are curious to know the characters and policy of the Indians of that part of the country at that day, will find themselves fully repaid for their trouble in perusing that very clear and accurate document.

It has ever been considered an able and satisfactory production, and one as much beyond any thing Mr. Van Buren or General Jackson could prepare, as is possible to be conceived.

While General Hull was at Detroit *playing* the braggadocia, and actually trembling with cowardice, General Harrison was ordered into service with the militia of Illinois and Indiana, to chastise the Indians in that quarter. While this force was being raised, the critical situation of General Hull began to be known, and the people of Kentucky were enthusiastic in their determination to place General Harrison in command of their militia. But some difficulty occurring from the rules and regulations of the army, which prevented the accomplishment of their wishes, a meeting of the members of the legislature of Kentucky was held, at which HENRY CLAY, Governor Shelby and Judge Todd were present. At this meeting it was resolved, although General

Harrison was not a citizen of Kentucky, and therefore not entitled to take command of her militia, still that he should receive a brevet commission of Major General, and then be authorised to take command of the troops preparing for the field.

This unexampled tribute of confidence and respect was received with the loudest applause. The people animated by his presence, rose as one man, and from that time to the close of the war, they never had occasion to regret their confidence. While other Generals fell into the hands of the enemy, their troops murdered and their plans frustrated, Harrison continued to fulfil the high expectations of his friends, as the SAVIOUR of the WESTERN COUNTRY.

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No. V.

General Harrison, thinking much of the danger which threatened Fort Wayne, detached from his force, which was advanced as far as Piqua, Col. Allen's regiment with three other companies, with orders to make forced marches for its relief.

From the peculiar position in which he stood to Gen. Winchester, who was designated at this period to take the command of the Western Army, and regain the territory lost by the cowardice of General Hull, General Harrison had intended, for want of a definite understanding with the War Department, to resign his command at Piqua to the former General.

But on hearing of the critical situation of Fort Wayne, made more so by the departure of an additional force of Indians and British from Malden, for the purpose of reducing it, he resolved to lay aside all private feeling, all personal considerations, in order to relieve the post. Calling the remainder of his troops together, he made them a thrilling and eloquent address, pointed out the dangers they were to encounter, and the glory they would acquire in the proposed expedition. He told them plainly of the objects to be gained, and the difficulties which would attend the enterprise. He concluded by stating that no one was asked to go, unless he was fully prepared for the consequences, and that he did not wish a single man to accompany him who was not fully prepared. Such was the effect of this appeal, that but one person declined accompanying him, and he was escorted by his fellow soldiers to the waters of the Miami, and there discharged from all further military duty. This man became one of the General's bitterest enemies, and by such have the principal charges been fabricated, from time to time against the People's candidate. While on the march, the General succeeded in sending an Indian by the name of Logan, into the Fort. Here his personal influence alone induced this friendly warrior to attempt this daring enterprise. All the accounts state that the General's conduct on this march was most admirable. He made himself personally acquainted with the officers and men, saw that every department

of the service was attended to, and never suffered an hour to pass unimproved.

The men were thoroughly drilled under his own eye.

Col. Johnson, then a Major, was trained in the command of the mounted regiment. The order of march was such that it prevented any surprise, and provision was made for every possible case of difficulty. When within twenty miles of the Fort, the approach of a party of hostile Indians, and a skirmish between them and his guides, induced the General to fortify his camp for the night. It was done under his personal directions, and the wisdom of the measure was proved by the approach of several hostile parties during the night, who found his position too strong, and too vigilantly watched, to be assailed with any hope of success.

The next morning early the army moved on, and by its admirable order, being fully prepared for any attack, succeeded in passing safely the most dangerous places, and reached the Fort at sunset almost unmolested.

The joy of the garrison was unbounded. For twelve days they had been closely besieged by the savages, who had burned the village adjacent, and had attempted, as well by stratagem as force, to obtain possession of the Fort. From this place the Miami is navigable to the lake, and it had always been a place of importance even in the estimation of the savages.

By the masterly arrangements of Gen. Harrison this important position was retained, and the garrison and the inhabitants of the neighboring country who had taken shelter in the Fort, were saved from a bloody massacre. After sending out several expeditions against the Indians, which were entirely successful, Gen. Harrison remained in command until the arrival of Gen. Winchester. Here the patriot again predominated over the soldier. Instead of creating difficulties, he did all he could to make the transfer of the command easy and agreeable.

The soldiers could not bear the change. They idolized their commander, and felt assured of success while following his standard. The historian of those times says :

“He had completely secured the confidence of every soldier in the army. He was affable and courteous in his manners and indefatigable in his attention to every branch of business. His men seem to *anticipate* the wishes of the General ; it was only required to be known that he wished something done, and all were anxious to risk their lives in its accomplishment. His men would have fought better and suffered more with him, *than with any other General in America.*”

It was only by the great personal exertions of Gen. Harrison, that the men consented to follow the new General.

The disastrous termination of Gen. Winchester's campaign, brought to the recollection of many an unhappy soldier, his reluctance to serve under any other than the Hero of Tippecanoe, — a presentiment of the fate which met many a gallant Kentuckian at the River Raisin.

Some of the senseless and clamorous opponents of Gen. Harrison, have attempted as a last resort, to assail his character as a Commander. Perceiving that his supporters have not urged his claims to the Presidency on that ground, they have not pretended to deny the excellence of his Administration when Governor of a Territory, nor his sagacity and forethought as a Legislator, nor his skill and address as an Envoy, nor his excellence and virtues as a man. But in order to turn the tide of popular feeling, which threatens to leave their candidate a lonely bark, cast roughly on the strand, they have attempted to depreciate his services, amid the storms of invasion and the tempest of battle. In our previous articles, we have fully shewn the utter want of truth and justice in those who have made so absurd an attempt.

We now proceed to illustrate a movement of his, which shews him in possession of the talent of a great Commander.

On the 24th September, 1812, he received a communication from the War Department, assigning him the command of the 8th Military District, including that of the North Western Army. He was required at once to protect the Western frontiers, retain the posts in good condition, and in a state of defence, and yet to penetrate to Detroit, and enter the province of Canada. When we consider the vast amount of Territory that was thus thrown upon him for protection, the distance he had to traverse, and the number of square miles he was to defend, we may well express our astonishment at the success which finally attended his efforts. Had he been an European General, with so vast a responsibility thrown upon him, he would have had a corps of 25,000 men at least, placed at his disposal, to make good his positions, and carry out his instructions; while, on the contrary, he had not one-third of that number of effective troops. In the opinion of able and experienced officers, "it was the most arduous and extensive service *ever required* from any American General."

Those miserable and hireling Editors, fattening on the public bounty, who now presume to question the abilities of General Harrison, were most of them receiving the well merited chastisement of the pedagogue, *at the lowest forms*, at the very time when the Commander-in-chief of the North Western Army was taking the field against the foe. Do they impudently pronounce that veteran the hero "of forty defeats," with history thus staring them in the face? We blush for their ignorance, we abhor their falsehood.

What says the historian of those times? "The endless number of forts and scattered settlements which he was obliged to maintain and protect, against numerous and scattered bands of Indians, while he was contending with difficulties almost insurmountable in the main expedition against Malden, were sufficient to EMPLOY ALL THE TIME, TALENTS AND RESOURCES OF THE GREATEST MILITARY GENIUS, at the head of a well appointed army."

We will not now refer to the utter confusion prevailing in every department, nor the inexperience and limited numbers of the troops, over which he was placed. Suffice it to say, that in spite of difficulties greater than opposed the progress of any other General during the late war, he proceeded to effect his objects, and glorious success attended all his plans. His movements at this moment were directed by masterly skill. He first established a base of operations, extensive and yet easily reduced at pleasure, and thence by three lines, advanced his divisions in such a way as to cover the frontiers, strengthen his posts, and menace the enemy. Nor was this all. He was enabled to move with rapidity, ensure himself the continuance of his supplies, force the Indians to withdraw from within reach of his columns, and lastly, to arrive at such a position, that by a rapid concentration of his forces, he could assail the enemy at the most favorable time and place.

Col. Wood, of the Engineers, eulogised the plan in the highest terms, and well he might. Without wishing to disparage the services of any other of our Generals, we boldly challenge their most extravagant admirers, to produce any evidence of their military skill, which will bear comparison with this.

It was an advance worthy of the school of Napoleon, and never has been fully appreciated by the public.

Modest and retiring, the hero of Tippecanoe never hung out his laurels to be freshened by the breath of sycophantic adulation.

But justice shall be done him, even at this late hour, and not a leaf shall wither, while tears of gratitude bedew the eyes of his aroused countrymen.

And where was Mr. Van Buren at this time of trouble and confusion? Intriguing for office, playing false to all parties, and watching every turn of the wheel of fortune, that he might win some petty stake of the hour!!!

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No. VII.

Amidst the hurry of preparation for a decisive campaign in Canada, Gen. Harrison, whose plan of operations was explained in our last number, seemed to act with supernatural energy, which was equal to every danger and adequate to every emergency.—While the troops were marching from St. Mary's to join General Winchester, the weather was extremely unfavorable, and on the first of October severe rains had made the roads almost impassible. Nothing daunted, the General pushed on, and by sharing the beech-brush beds of the common soldiers, which barely kept them out of the mud and water, inspired them with a fresh spirit of resignation and endurance.

On his arrival at the camp, he found the sufferings of the army truly severe, so much so, that they had serious thoughts of returning to their homes to avoid the pains of hunger. Instead of turning their resentment against the Government and the Secre-

tary of War, for the neglect displayed towards these unfortunate men, instead of seeking like the *famed* author of the "Newburgh Letters" to rouse a spirit of insubordination in the army, he came forward and addressed them as a father would his children, [and with a resistless eloquence. He urged them by every motive which could influence brave and patriotic men, to bear with fortitude their hardships and privations. He appealed to their pride as Kentuckians, and called on them to stand by him for the honor of their country. Those who were present on this occasion, have never forgotten its effect upon the troops, who immediately assented to his propositions, and rent the air with loud and continued huzzas.

It was at this time that Gen. Winchester received the command of the left wing, and his principal duty appears to have been to cover the advance of the supplies, and complete the new fort which received his name; while Gen. Harrison continued his head quarters at Franklinton, busily engaged in securing the necessary materiel, without which any expedition to Canada must have failed.

In October and November he wrote to the War Department earnestly and impressively on this subject.

The destitute state of the country was clearly pointed out, the deficiencies of the army contractors were made known, and the shameful speculations going on complained of. A call for warm clothing was also made, and every thing which a vigilant and enterprising commander could do to enlighten the War Department as to the true state of things, was done.

The History of those times has recorded the ceaseless difficulties which the want of men, of ammunition, and of clothing created. The weather was also bad, and the roads, few as they were, impracticable. And yet, during all this time, by his masterly arrangements, the Indians were kept in check, and they did less than their usual injury on the frontiers.

And notwithstanding these difficulties, Gen. Harrison continued to plan some brilliant movements, which are worthy of remembrance. One of them was the expedition of Col. Campbell to the hostile Miamies, assembled on the Mississiniway River, who, after some hesitation, had joined the British, in violation of their pledges to the United States.

After a rapid march of 80 miles, the mounted men came upon them, succeeded in surprising the savages and destroying their town. In the night, however, their position, which was made as secure as possible, was violently attacked, and a fight ensued, which very much resembled that of Tippecanoe, in the desperation of the assault, and the vigor of the defence. The attack failed, and the objects of the expedition were completely gained.

By this brilliant affair, Gen. Harrison turned the scale with those tribes, who had been acting with treachery, or were still in doubt as to the course they were to pursue. A large number of Indians came within the limits of the frontiers, and ceased to favor the enemy. It was in the general orders, announcing the success of the expedition, that General Harrison displayed that

humanity of soul, which has ever given his victories so much lustre. "It is with the sincerest pleasure, said he, the General has heard, that the most punctual obedience was paid his orders, not only in saving the women and children, but in sparing the warriors who ceased to resist; and that whenever vigorously attacked by the enemy, the claims of mercy prevailed over the sense of danger; and this heroic band respected the lives of their prisoners. Let an account of murdered innocence be opened in the records of Heaven, against our enemies alone."

Of such a man, the American people may be justly proud. It is not strange that long dormant gratitude and respect should now wake in our bosoms, where they too long have slept.

It is not singular that the eventful life and the matchless services of Harrison, should make an impression upon a grateful people, outweighing with their vastness, the merit of a thousand lives devoted to trickery, intrigue and non-committalism.

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#### No. VIII.

In our last number we alluded to an expedition under the command of Col. Campbell, which gave evidence of the military skill of the Commander-in-Chief. And although Gen. Armstrong, in one fell swoop, assails not only the officers, but men, who were engaged in these expeditions, and denies that any benefit resulted from them, we aver that their good effect is a matter of history. Many of the tribes came within the frontier, and abstained from further hostilities.

It also suits the purpose of this veteran libeller to charge Gen. Harrison with unnecessary delay in his operations. We deny that there was any. Gen. Harrison distinctly informed the War Department of his views at every step. On the 12th of December, of the same year, he communicated his opinions so clearly that they were not to be mistaken. It was not his fault, if the army was not in a condition to make an efficient winter campaign. Forage was brought from Chilicothe at an immense expense.—The horses broke down by hundreds. The inexperience and villany of the public agents interfered in every way, with the object in view. And what was particularly chargeable to the War Department, was the wretched condition of the artillery sent him. Of 28 pieces, ten sixes were useless, and ten 12 pounders were without carriages capable of being used. All the howitzers were in the same condition!!! And yet with these difficulties in his way, without supplies, artillery or horses, Gen. Harrison was expected, according to Gen. Armstrong, but by no one else, to march rapidly over the worst of roads, hundreds of miles, to take possession of the ground defended by regular troops, and protected by several fortresses. Still, however, Gen. Harrison offered to make the attempt, if the Government approved of it; but the succession of Mr. Monroe to the Secretaryship of the War Department, produced this memorable consequence. Gen.



Harrison was left to take his own course, and the result was what those who knew him had anticipated, final and glorious success to our arms.

The incident, however, to which we intended to devote this article, was not so much his vindication from the unfounded, untenable and ill-natured criticisms of a military Dennis, as to state a fact not generally known to the public. *Gen. Harrison is entitled to the credit of securing our naval supremacy on Lake Erie.*

In his letters to the War Department, he urged the construction of a naval force, before any one had foreseen its advantages. "If," said he, "a small proportion of the sums which will be expended in the Quarter-Master's department, in the active prosecution of the campaign during the winter, was devoted to obtaining THE COMMAND of Lake Erie, the wishes of the Government, in *their utmost extent*, could be accomplished without difficulty."

And this suggestion was happily attended to. The Government awoke from its lethargy. The forests bowed before the American axe-men. The keels of a flotilla slid from the hill side to the Lake shore. Hull after hull loomed up in the ship yards; mast rose beside mast. The cordage whistled, the canvass spread to the wind. Port after port protruded its grim sentinel. The star-spangled Banner floated aloft, and the boatswains' whistle summoned the hardy crews to their quarters.

The gallant Perry, the friend and comrade of Harrison, breathing the same spirit and animated by the same hopes, led his fleet against the enemy, defeated the pupil of Nelson, and obtained the command of the waters of Erie.

No wonder the warm-hearted seaman, to the last of his life, loved and honored the Hero of the Thames. No wonder that he served under him as aid-de-camp, and interposed, on several occasions, to prevent the exposure of his person during their deadly conflicts with the enemy. He well knew, that but for the influence and advice of Harrison, the flotilla would not have been so soon in readiness to meet the foe.

But lest our readers may imagine we are carried away by our admiration for the American Commander, we quote the reply of Mr. Monroe to the previous request of Gen. Harrison for a decision on the suggestions he had made on these subjects, and his plan of operations.

"No person can be more competent to that decision than yourself. The President wishes you to weigh maturely this important subject, and take that part which your judgment may dictate."

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### CIVIL SERVICES SINCE THE WAR.

The subject of training the militia was one to which General Harrison's attention had been early directed. Although he had spent several years in the army as a regular officer, he had never thought of becoming a soldier by profession. But on entering upon civil duties, being strongly addicted to historical reading, it

was natural that his knowledge of military details should induce him to relish those parts of history which treat of war. Having been educated in the strictest republican principles, he was particularly attracted by the early periods of the history of the ancient republics, when every citizen was a soldier; and seeing that their downfall was usually produced by the change in their military systems, which committed their defence to the hands of soldiers by profession, the predilections which, as a regular officer, he might be supposed to have imbibed, were completely obliterated by the impression, that the liberties of his own country might fall through the same cause. With such opinions he became governor of Indiana; and rejoicing in the opportunity offered by the possession of almost unlimited power, for trying the practicability of his views in regard to a militia, he commenced a system of discipline, in expectation of rendering the citizens of the territory as efficient in its defence, as regular soldiers. The situation of the country rendered the experiment as necessary as it became popular; and the people cheerfully seconded the views of the governor. Being qualified for the task, he instructed them personally, performing all the duties of the drill officer; while he at the same time pursued that extensive course of reading which has rendered him one of the most accomplished soldiers of our country. Few men have read history with more care, or greater advantage. By these means, the militia of Indiana were so well trained, that when the exigency occurred, they were found to equal regular soldiers. Had not such been the case, the advance upon Tippecanoe would not have been conducted with such consummate skill, nor closed with so brilliant a result. During the march, this body of troops was always ready to meet an enemy—at night they could be paraded in the order of battle without confusion—and when at last the enemy assailed them under the cover of darkness, they performed the frequent changes of position, which circumstances required, with facility and accuracy. It was a splendid triumph of genius—in which the reading, the thought, and the labor of years, were rewarded by a triumphantly successful result.

In the war which followed, General Harrison again exerted himself to show the efficiency of the militia. He omitted no opportunity to inculcate upon his countrymen that they were as capable of self-defence as of self-government, and that they needed as little a standing army to fight their battles, as an hereditary government to conduct their civil affairs; and he again proved the correctness of his views, by leading the gallant men of the West to battle and to victory.

In January, 1818, Mr. Harrison introduced a resolution, in the House of Representatives, in honor of the memory of Kosciusko, then recently deceased; and made a feeling and classical speech.

He also advocated warmly the proposition to acknowledge the independence of the South American republics.

While General Harrison was in the House of Representatives, the important debate arose, on the resolution to censure General Jackson for his conduct in the Seminole war, and he delivered

on this subject a most elaborate and eloquent speech. It was one of the finest efforts elicited by that interesting occasion; but is chiefly admirable for its impartial and patriotic spirit. While he disapproved the course of General Jackson, and commented on his conduct with the many independence of a freeman, he defended such of the acts of that distinguished citizen as he thought right, and did justice to his motives.

In 1819, General Harrison was elected a member of the senate in the legislature of Ohio; he served in this capacity two years, devoting his mind to public business with his usual ability and industry. He was also, during this period, one of the electors of president and vice-president, and voted for James Monroe and Daniel D. Tompkins. He afterwards, as an elector, voted for Mr. Clay.

In 1822 he was again a candidate for Congress, and was defeated in consequence of having voted against the Missouri restriction.

In 1824 he was elected to the Senate of the United States; and was appointed chairman of the Military Committee, in place of General Jackson, who had resigned. He introduced, from that committee, a bill for the prevention of desertion in the army.—He proposed to effect this object, not by increasing the punishment, but by raising the moral character of the army, elevating the grade of the non-commissioned officer, increasing his pay, and making him more respectable—and by holding out inducements to the soldier to perform his duty. These points he enforced in an elaborate and animated speech.

He also introduced a bill for decreasing the duty on salt; which he supported on the ground, that as this article is a necessary of life, it should not be burthened with a tax which would increase its price.

A bill to confer the appointment of cadets at West Point on the sons of those who had fallen in battle, in defence of the country, was introduced into the Senate by Mr. Robertson of Louisiana; and on his resignation, was left in the care of General Harrison, who advocated it warmly.

He also devoted his attention while in the House, and afterwards in the Senate, to the subject of military pensions, and endeavored to procure the passage of an uniform law, which should embrace the cases of all those who should be deserving of this kind of justice from their country.

His efforts in favor of the claims of the surviving soldiers of the revolution, will not soon be forgotten by the descendants of those heroes. His exertions, joined with those of the venerable Bloomfield, who, as chairman of the committee of the House, reported the bill, and of some other members, prevailed in rescuing those meritorious men from the evils of neglect and poverty. A speech delivered by him on this occasion has been published in the newspapers, and is one of the ablest of this gentleman's efforts—replete with good sense, eloquence, and humanity.

The next high station filled by General Harrison was that of minister plenipotentiary to the Republic of Colombia, which he received in the year 1828. He proceeded immediately upon his

mission, landed at Maracaybo on the 22d of December in that year, and repaired thence to Bogota. He found the country in a wretched state of confusion; the government a military despotism, and the people as ignorant of their rights as they were lawless in their conduct. He was received with the most flattering demonstrations of respect; but his liberal opinions, his stern republican integrity, and the plain simplicity of his dress and manners, contrasted too strongly with the arbitrary opinions and ostentatious behaviour of the public officers, to allow him to be long a favorite with those who had usurped the power of that government. They feared that the people would perceive the difference between a real and a pretended patriot, and commenced a series of persecutions against our minister, which rendered his situation extremely irksome. He sustained himself, however, with his usual gallantry and prudence.

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### CONCLUSION.

We have more than once alluded to the integrity and disinterestedness of General Harrison; we have noticed his patriotism and devotedness to country; and we now propose to offer some proofs of the display of those qualities, in addition to the evidence afforded by his public acts.

General Harrison never contemplated the military service as a permanent profession. When the first war for independence was terminated by the victory of Wayne, and the delivery of the British posts in the north-west, he threw aside the habiliments of the soldier, and accepted a civil office. He passed from one grade to another, enjoying successively the confidence of the elder Adams, Jefferson, and Madison, and of the people of Ohio and Indiana. As governor of Indiana, and as superintendent of Indian affairs, for thirteen years, large sums of money passed through his hands, to be disbursed at his discretion, and subjected to few of the checks which are now provided, under the admirable arrangement of the offices at Washington. He gave no security; nor had the government any other guarantee for the faithful application of those funds, than his prudence and honesty. That he was true to his trust, is obvious from the facts, that he remained poor, and did not become the debtor of the government. He made no speculation upon the public money, or lands.

In the expedition to Tippecanoe, he led the militia of his own territory, and a few volunteers from Kentucky, into the field, as Governor of Indiana, and Commander-in-Chief of its militia.—The command that he afterwards held on the north-western frontier, was given him at the spontaneous call of the western people. He did not seek the office nor the emoluments of a general; but willingly led his fellow-citizens to battle, sharing with them the labors, the dangers, and the honors of war, and retiring with them to private life, when the contest ceased.

As Commander-in-Chief, he was subjected to heavy expenses. His command was spread over so wide a territory, that he was obliged to travel incessantly, and to entertain a large suite.—Nearly all his operations were carried on with militia; and the

measures necessary to draw out these troops to the field, to conciliate them while there, and to retain them in service, obliged him to maintain an extensive intercourse with influential citizens, and to receive many of them at his head quarters. Unlike the leader of a regular army, who is provided with troops and supplies, and is independent of the country, General Harrison was placed in a kind of political relation to the people, which required that he should possess their confidence and good will. It was requisite, therefore, that he should keep *free quarters*, for the reception of such of his fellow-citizens as visited him on business, or came to see their friends in the army. His expenses so far exceeded his pay, that he was obliged to sell a fine tract of land, during the war, to meet them; so that he not only exposed his life, and gave his labor to his country, but contributed a portion of his small estate to sustain her in one of the darkest periods of her existence.

At the time that our distinguished friend was thus devoting his private fortune to the public service, sacrificing that which, though small in value then, would have risen with the rapid appreciation of property in the west, into an ample estate, he had liberty to draw on the government to an unlimited amount, and was daily passing large sums of public money through his hands. During the war, he drew on the government for *more than six hundred thousand dollars* for public purposes, not a cent of which was ever diverted to his own use; and at the close of his military service, there was no charge against him on the books of the accounting officers at Washington, except for a few hundred dollars, which he had expended as secret service money, and which was promptly allowed by the President.

Since the war, General Harrison has been the principal, and almost the only, representative of the military class of our citizens, in the region in which he lived; and the old soldiers crowded about him. The veterans who had served under Wayne, St. Clair, and others of the early commanders, came to him to present their claims for land and for pensions. Those who had served in the late war under him, came to him, of course, as their next friend. Born in Virginia, and bred in the west, he was hospitable by nature, and by habit—and the old soldier always found a welcome at his fireside. Not only were his expenses increased, but a vast deal of his time employed, in the duties of charity or friendship towards this deserving class of citizens.

It is well known, that it has not been uncommon for gentlemen holding high offices, to avail themselves of their influence to provide for their relatives. A large number of the members of Congress, and other high functionaries, have procured appointments for their sons in the military academy at West-Point, or in the navy, by means of which these young gentlemen are educated and provided for, at an early age, at the expense of the government. Many of those who thus relieve themselves of the expense of educating their own sons, are wealthy men. General Harrison has had a numerous family, mostly sons, and has never been wealthy. He has always, since his sons have been old enough to be educated, until very lately, held offices of high

grade and influence, and could at any time have procured such a favor by asking for it. He had higher claims to such patronage than most men; his father was a distinguished patriot of the revolution—he himself had fought through two wars—one of his sons was married to the daughter of the lamented General Pike, who fell in battle during the last war; and the children of this marriage became, by the early death of their father, dependent on General Harrison. But he educated his family at his own expense. It is true, that more than once, while in Congress, he formed the intention of placing one of his sons at West-Point, or in the navy; but finding the applications from his own state more numerous than could be complied with, he disinterestedly waived his own claims in favor of his constituents, and procured appointments for their sons, in preference to his own. On one occasion, when his straitened circumstances, and his desire to place one of his sons in the military profession, had induced him to resolve to ask an appointment for him at West-Point, a poor neighbor brought to him a fine boy, whom he was wholly unable to educate, and begged him to place him at West-Point; the general took the son of his humble constituent under his patronage, procured him a place in the military academy, and has had the satisfaction of seeing him become a valuable citizen, high in office in one of the western states.

In person General Harrison is tall and slender; his countenance is expressive of the vivacity and benevolence of his character; his fine dark eye is remarkable for its keenness, fire, and intelligence. Although from early manhood he has never had the appearance of possessing a robust constitution, yet such has been the effect of an active life and temperate habits, that few men enjoy at his age so much bodily vigor, or moral energy. He seldom or never partakes of ardent spirits, and does not habitually use even wine. Equally moderate in his diet, he is emphatically a temperate man.

He is remarkably amiable in his social and domestic relations. Generous, kind, and affectionate in his disposition—mild and forbearing in his temper—plain, easy, and unostentatious in his manners—cheerful and affable in his intercourse with his friends and with strangers—easily accessible to all, and unbounded in his charities. Warm in his affections, he has never been violent or vindictive in his enmities. Those who know him love him, and his enemies have only been such as have been created by his political relations, or by the operation of causes growing out of party feeling. In a long life of collision with men of every class—frequently with the most fierce, turbulent, and ungovernable—we have no knowledge of his having been engaged in personal hostilities, or in a duel; and such was the effect of his mild and gentlemanly example, that not a duel was fought in the north-western army while he commanded.

The son of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and reared under the eye and influence of the founders of our government, he early imbibed a deep reverence for the constitution, which has been evinced in all his public acts, through

life. From the house of his father, the guardianship of Robert Morris, and the patronage of Washington, he passed into the service of his country in the companionship of Wayne, St. Clair, and other illustrious men, of that noble band who laid the foundations of our liberty. In civil office he became associated with Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and other master spirits, who, while they were among the fathers of the constitution, were also the great leaders of the democratic party. *They* professed the principles which had been instilled into *his* mind from early infancy, and which, in the mature reflection of manhood, he considered right; and he acted with the democratic party consistently and steadily. From early associations, therefore, as well as from principle, he has retained through all the vicissitudes of his life, an ardent love and a deep reverence for the pure maxims of the revolution; and has been in the habit of testing his political opinions by the constitution itself, and the contemporaneous expositions of its framers.

In civil office, and in military command, he was always just, moderate, and firm; avoiding violent and arbitrary measures, and preferring to govern by persuasion and argument.

The talents and attainments of General Harrison may be estimated from his writings, his speeches, and his acts. The man who would deny to him a high order of intellect, must be regardless of the evidence of history. For forty years his name has been associated with the most important transactions of our country, and the proofs of his intellectual endowments may be found on its records. The lawyer whose whole time has been devoted to the examination of a particular class of subjects, may be able to embody his thoughts on a question of constitutional or municipal law with more technical precision, and mould his language with greater art and sophistry. The trained politician, whose energies have been devoted, with unceasing vigilance, to his own elevation, who has watched the temper of the times, and the fluctuating opinions of parties, may be more expert in making or in seizing occasion to display his patriotism or address. But General Harrison may be advantageously compared with any of his contemporaries as a man of abilities, and as a sound and able practical politician. His writings, which are numerous, speak for themselves: they are distinguished by clearness and facility of composition. Few men write better or with greater rapidity. In the many high stations which he has filled, he has never been in the habit of employing a secretary or any amanuensis, to write his letters, but has always performed this duty for himself. He is an animated and ready speaker, fluent in language, plain but not ungraceful in manner. We have seldom seen any one who is so prompt or so happy in an extemporaneous address. His aptitude and readiness in bringing the resources of a highly cultivated mind to bear, without apparent premeditation, upon any subject which may be presented, are singularly felicitous.

It was this rare union of ability, courtesy, and moderation, that caused Gen. Harrison to be so much beloved by the militia whom he commanded in the war. These were the qualities that won for him the friendship of the gallant naval hero of Erie, who wrote to him in 1813, "You know what has

been my opinion as to the future commander-in-chief of the army. I pride myself not a little, I assure you, on seeing my predictions so near being verified; yes, my dear friend, I expect soon to hail you as the chief who is to redeem the honor of our arms in the north." The man whose character could extract such a compliment from the modest and unassuming Perry—himself a daring officer, a man of discernment, who, after achieving one of the noblest of the victories that grace our annals, voluntarily accompanied Harrison to the field, and acted as his aid at the battle of the Thames—the man, we say, who could extract such a compliment from such a source, must have high merits.

Another distinguished witness of the conduct of Harrison—Gen. M'Arthur, who had served under him, wrote to him in 1814:—"You, sir, stand the highest with the militia of this state of any general in the service, and I am confident that no man can fight them to so great an advantage; and I think their extreme solicitude may be the means of calling you to this frontier."

General Harrison himself, on being asked how he had managed to gain the control which he always swayed over the militia, answered, "By treating them with affection and kindness—by always recollecting that they were my fellow-citizens, whose feelings I was bound to respect, and by sharing on every occasion the hardships which they were obliged to undergo."

When Commodore Perry, forgetting his own recent daring, remonstrated with Gen. Harrison on his exposure of his own person, in an attack made by the Indians on the army, at Chatham, shortly before the action at the Thames, and also in the battle of the Thames, the intrepid leader replied, that "it was necessary that a general should set the example.

To those who have known Gen. Harrison, this recapitulation of his virtues and services may be unnecessary. The pioneers of the west, who have braved the elements and the battle,—who have endured hardships and privations,—will not join in the unmanly endeavor to sacrifice to the fury of party prejudice, a high-minded and highly gifted patriot, by stigmatizing him as "a military chieftain." He is now a candidate for the highest office in the gift of the people—not by his own choice—not by the dictation of a self-constituted convention—not by the prompting of a midnight caucus—but at the call of the democracy of the land. The people of the west, who know the sterling qualities of the venerable patriarch of North Bend, will sustain that call, and give a pledge to their fellow-citizens throughout the union, that Harrison is the man we have represented him.

Harrison was among those who came to the frontier in those days of peril. He shared the toils, the privations, and the anxieties, of the pioneers who conquered this fair land. He led them to battle against their foes, and was triumphant. He represented their interest on the floor of Congress, and was not less successful. Appointed their governor, he won their confidence and love by his humane conduct, his conciliatory manners, and the unwearied industry with which he discharged the duties of his office. In every situation they have found him the same. When high in civil office, he never forgot his responsibility to the people, or abused the great powers with which he was intrusted—when placed at the head of an army, he was not violent nor arbitrary. He never rashly exposed the lives of his men in battle, for the selfish purpose of winning laurels to deck his own brow. He never crushed others that he might stride into power himself. He never set aside the laws of his country, or insulted the majesty of the people in the persons of their officers. He was never prodigal of the lives or property of his fellow-citizens. He was a brave soldier, without being a violent man—an accomplished leader, without inordinate ambition—a conqueror, without forgetting the precepts of justice and mercy.

Such a man deserves the confidence of the people. The politicians may hesitate, because he owes them nothing. The leaders of parties may stand aloof, because he is not enlisted under any of their banners. He is the candidate of the people, chosen by themselves from their own ranks, and indebted to none but them for their support. They know him to be an able civilian, and an honest man. From all his high civil trusts, he has carried no spoils into private life. After a long life spent in the public service, he is living upon the fruits of his daily industry—a plain unassuming man, beloved and respected by all who know the goodness of his heart, and the sterling integrity of his conduct.