

own feelings as it was to my duty. I wanted unity in the army, and forbore any act that might sow the seeds of distrust and discord in its ranks. I have not my letters written at the time before me, but they are all of one import, and in conformity with the views herein expressed.

Meanwhile I was solicited by my personal friends and by strangers, by Whigs and Democrats, to consent to become a candidate. I was nominated by the people in primary assemblies—by Whigs, Democrats and Natives, in separate and mixed meetings. I resisted them all, and continued to do so till led to believe that my opposition was assuming the aspect of a defiance of the popular wishes. I yielded only when it looked like presumption to resist longer, and even then I should not have done so had not the nomination been presented to me in a form unlikely to awaken acrimony, or re-produce the bitterness of feeling which attends popular elections. I say it in sincerity and truth, that a part of the inducement to my consent was the hope that by going into the canvass, it would be conducted with candor, if not with kindness. It has been no fault of mine that this anticipation has proved a vain one.

After I permitted myself to be announced for the Presidency, under the circumstances above noticed, I accepted nomination after nomination in the spirit in which they were tendered. They were made irrespective of party, and so acknowledged. No one who joined in those nominations, could have been deceived as to my political views. From the beginning till now I have declared myself to be a Whig, on all proper occasions. With this distinct avowal published to the world, I did not think that I had a right to repel nomi-

nations from political opponents, any more than I had a right to refuse the vote of a Democrat at the polls; and I proclaimed it abroad, that I should not reject the proffered support of any body of my fellow-citizens. This was my position when, in November last, I returned to the United States, long before either of the great divisions of the people had held a National Convention, and when it was thought doubtful if one of them would hold any.

Matters stood in this attitude till spring, when there were so many statements in circulation concerning my views upon questions of national policy, that I felt constrained to correct the errors into which the public mind was falling, by a more explicit enunciation of principles, which I did in my letter to you of April last. That letter, and the facts which I have detailed as briefly as a proper understanding of them would permit, developed my whole position in relation to the Presidency, at the time.

The Democratic Convention met in May, and composed their ticket to suit them. This they had a right to do. The National Whig Convention met in June, and selected me as their candidate. I accepted the nomination with gratitude and with pride. I was proud of the confidence of such a body of men, representing such a constituency as the Whig party of the United States—a manifestation the more grateful, because it was not encumbered with exactions incompatible with the dignity of the Presidential office, and the responsibilities of its incumbent to the whole people of the nation. And I may add, that these emotions were increased by associating my name with that of the distinguished citizen of New York, whose acknowledged



abilities and sound conservative opinions might have justly entitled him to the first place on the ticket

The Convention adopted me as it found me—a Whig, decided, but not ultra, in my opinions; and I would be without excuse, if I were to shift the relationships which subsisted at the time. They took me with the declaration of principles I had published to the world, and I would be without defence, if I were to say or do anything to impair the force of that declaration.

I have said that I would accept a nomination from Democrats; but in so doing, I would not abate one jot or tittle of my opinions as written down. Such a nomination, as indicating a coincidence of opinion on the part of those making it, should not be regarded with disfavor by those who think with me; as a compliment personal to myself, it should not be expected that would repulse them with insult. I shall not modify my views, to entice them to my side; I shall not reject their aid, when they join my friends voluntarily.

I have said I was not a party candidate, nor am I, in that straitened and sectarian sense which would prevent my being President of the whole people, in case of my election. I did not regard myself as one, before the Convention met, and that body did not seek to make me different from what I was. They did not fetter me down to a series of pledges which were to be an iron rule of action in all, and in despite of all, the contingencies that might arise in the course of a Presidential term. I am not engaged to lay violent hands indiscriminately upon public officers, good or bad, who may differ in opinion with me; I am not expected to force Congress, by the coercion of the Veto, to pass laws to suit me, or pass none. This is what I mean by

not being a party candidate. And I understand this is good Whig doctrine—I would not be a partisan President, and hence should not be a party candidate in the sense that would make me. This is the sum and substance of my meaning, and this is the purport of the facts and circumstances attending my nomination, when considered in their connection with, and dependence upon one another.

I refer all persons who are anxious on the subject, to this statement, for the proper understanding of my position towards the Presidency and the people. If it is not intelligible, I cannot make it so, and shall cease to attempt it.

In taking leave of the subject, I have only to add, that my two letters to you embrace all the topics I design to speak of, pending this canvass. If I am elected, I shall do all that an honest zeal may effect, to cement the bonds of our Union, and establish the happiness and prosperity of my country upon an enduring basis.

Z. TAYLOR.

To Capt. J. S. ALLISON.

The election for President and Vice-President took place on the 7th day of November, and resulted in the election of General Taylor and Millard Fillmore, for the offices of President and Vice President. They received 163 electoral votes; and General Cass and General Butler, the Democratic candidates for the same offices, received 127 votes. The states of Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee, seven free and eight slave States, voted for the Whig candidates; and Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa,



Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas and Missouri, eight free and seven slave States, voted for the Democratic candidates.

The result of the election, though confidently anticipated by those who closely scrutinized the condition of parties, was hailed with unbounded satisfaction by the successful party, and was looked upon by the moderate and good men of all parties as a signal triumph of the conservative principles of the country, over that spirit of radicalism and centralization towards which the government had been verging during the last twenty years. However zealously General Taylor's election had been opposed, all candid and intelligent men conceded to him abilities of the highest order, unimpeachable integrity and inflexible firmness of purpose. In these respects, as well as in many other traits of character, he was believed more nearly to resemble WASHINGTON than any other public man since the organization of our government. The purity of his life, and the wisdom that had ever governed his conduct, had inspired unbounded confidence in his disposition and ability to carry out the true principles of the constitution in the spirit of its illustrious framers.

On the 24th of January, General Taylor took his departure from Baton Rouge, for Washington, to enter upon the duties of the high office to which he had been elected by the suffrages of the people. On the day previous to his taking leave of his home, and his old and tried friends, the citizens of Baton Rouge, irrespective of party differences, assembled spontaneously, and in large numbers, to pay him their respects and bid him farewell. A large procession was formed, which proceeded to his residence at the United States Barracks, where he was appropriately addressed on behalf

of the citizens by one of their number. To this address he made a brief but touching reply, in which he assured them that it was with feelings of no ordinary character that he met with his fellow-citizens on such an occasion, many of whom he had been associated with more than a quarter of a century. Had he consulted his own wishes, he said, he should have preferred the office he was then about to vacate, and have remained among his old friends, but that as the people had, without his solicitation, seen fit to elevate him to another, though he distrusted his abilities satisfactorily to discharge the great and important duties thus imposed upon him, yet he assured them that he should endeavor to fulfil them without regard to fear, favor or affection from any one. In conclusion, he feelingly invoked God's blessing upon his fellow-citizens, and prayed that He might grant them all, and their families, long life, health and prosperity; and bid them an affectionate farewell.

The day succeeding General Taylor's departure, Major Bliss, his accomplished Adjutant General, issued an order announcing his final withdrawal from the military service of the country. In resigning his command, General Taylor expressed his regret at his separation from a service to which he was attached by so many pleasing and proud associations. To the officers and men who had served his immediate orders, he warmly expressed his parting thanks for their zealous and cordial support in the execution of the duties confided to him during a long and eventful service. To them, and to all, he extended a heartfelt farewell, and his warmest wishes for their continued happiness and success in the arduous and honorable career which they had chosen.



Everywhere on his journey to the Capital he was met with the liveliest expression of gratitude by the people along his route. The demonstrations of popular favor which were displayed, were the cordial and unaffected offerings of the people to his eminent public services, his acknowledged moral worth, and his great abilities. They were tributes from the heart, and to a man of General Taylor's unambitious character they were undoubtedly far more gratifying than the high political honors they had just bestowed upon him. It was only in this light that, to a mind so admirably constituted as his is, these popular demonstrations were valuable. That popularity which is raised without merit and lost without a crime, that always follows those in power, was neither courted nor desired by him. But that applause which should only be bestowed for good and virtuous actions, he was not insensible to. This is the popularity which he had so richly won by his good deeds and pure life, and the evidences of it were now freely offered to him. It is the only applause which is prized by the great and bestowed by the good.

In the latter part of February Gen. Taylor arrived at the Capital, and on the fifth day of March was inaugurated as twelfth President of the United States. He entered upon the duties of that high office under as favorable circumstances as were ever enjoyed by a Chief Magistrate of this nation. Added to a strong and well-disciplined mind, and abilities of the highest order, he possesses a reputation above reproach, unimpeachable integrity, and firmness and energy of character. From the nature of his pursuits, he is necessarily free from those prejudices and entangling alliances which are so apt to warp the judgment and

embarrass the action of all men, however honest their intentions, and he therefore has "no private purposes to accomplish, no party projects to build up, no enemies to punish—nothing to serve but his country." That he will act from the highest and purest motives, the country has full confidence; and whatever errors he may commit,—and no man was ever yet free from them,—he has given assurance by his past life, that they will arise from a mistaken judgment, and not from a perverted heart.