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THE PAST—THE PRESENT—FOR THE FUTURE.

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✂—The hon. Martin Van Buren, vice president of the United States, arrived in Baltimore, on his way to the seat of government, on Thursday last. Thomas W. Veazey, governor of Maryland, arrived in Baltimore on the same day.

✂—It will be seen by page 185 that Mr. Linthicum, of Anne Arundel, another of the recusants, has gone into the college, making, in all, *twenty-three members* who have qualified. It is probable that other members will qualify to-day, and a senate be chosen forthwith.

The following notice from the Marlboro' (Prince George's) Gazette, shows the temper with which the governor's proclamation has been responded to in that section of the state.

*Pleasant Prospect, Nov. 14th, 1836.*

*Fellow soldiers:* The governor of Maryland in his proclamation of the 8th inst. (after calling upon the civil officers, "calls also upon the military officers and citizens to hold themselves in readiness," &c). Under this clause, I, as major of the 2d cavalry district, call upon you, as good and true lovers of your country, to meet at the court house in Upper Marlboro' on *Saturday next*, the 19th inst. at 11 o'clock, A. M. to organize as volunteers and join with me and offer our services to the executive in case of necessity, in the present critical period of our beloved state.

JOHN CONTEE, *major of cavalry.*

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“REFORM OR REVOLUTION” IN MARYLAND.

*From the Maryland Republican of Saturday, 12th inst.*  
CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence between *John S. Sellman*, esq. one of the electors of senate for Anne Arundel county, and the other electors who were attending the college of electors at the period, was handed us for publication on Friday evening, too late to enable us to get it in our Saturday's publication—though in attempting to do so, we lost the opportunity of mailing that publication to our subscribers by the Washington mail of Friday night, which closed before we got them through the press. To gratify public curiosity, we anticipate our next publication, without waiting to make a single comment.

*Annapolis, Oct. 29, 1836.*

GENTLEMEN: Having qualified as an elector of the senate of Maryland, and expressed my willingness to attend the electoral college, whenever my presence might be required, I take the liberty of addressing you on the all important subject of the election of a senate. It is needless to refer to the

past. The present situation of things is what I look at. From the position that parties have assumed, it is in my opinion worse than useless even to anticipate the election of a senate without a compromise of conflicting interests. The intention of this letter is most respectfully to inquire of the members of the college who are in attendance at the seat of government, whether any compromise will be offered; and if any, what is its character and the principles on which it is based.

Sincerely anxious that a senate may be elected on the grounds of an honorable compromise, whereby the honest fears and anticipations of the community may be tranquillized, I have deemed it a sacred duty I owe to a confiding people to make one more exertion to promote so desirable an object. I know of no means so well calculated as a free interchange of sentiment. In this matter I act on my sole responsibility—but with an intention of submitting my conduct to the supervision of my constituents—I therefore neither make a confidential communication—nor expect a confidential answer. Hoping from the bottom of my soul that all our state difficulties may be amicably arranged, and the great body of our constituents may be gratified, I remain, most respectfully, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN S. SELLMAN.

To Messrs. Leigh, Dalrymple, Pratt and Beall.

Senate chamber, Annapolis, Oct. 29, 1836.

To John S. Sellman, esq.

SIR: We have received your letter of this date, and although we regret that you should have adopted this mode of communication rather than a personal interview, which those of the undersigned to whom that letter is addressed were led to anticipate from their conversation with you on yesterday, we are yet not indisposed to meet you in the spirit which we are inclined to believe mutually actuates us in the discharge of our duty as electors.

It must be unnecessary to say that we are as sincerely desirous of restoring tranquillity to the state as you can be, and we assure you that there is nothing which we would not be willing to do to accomplish that object, consistently with our sense of duty and principle. In the conversation held with you last evening we distinctly understood you to disclaim all party views in desiring the information, which you then informed us you intended to ask at our hands. We were pleased to learn from you that you intended to meet us this morning with the sole view of consulting with us for the advantage of the state, and of asking of us our opinions and the opinions of our colleagues, in regard to the election of a senate favorable to constitutional reform. We stated to you in the conversation referred to, that we not only recognized your right to participate in our deliberations, but that we should be gratified to have the benefit of your opinions and advice.

We also understood you to say that you had no propositions to make, but that you desired to know from us whether a senate would be elected favorable to constitutional reform, because you believed that information upon this subject might have the effect to induce the attendance of a sufficient number of the electors to form a senate.

We now have pleasure in informing you that in our opinion (should the required electoral quorum be obtained), a senate will be elected favorable to constitutional reform, and that such would have been the case at any time since the period fixed by the constitution for the meeting of the college.

We are convinced that upon this subject we correctly state the opinions and intentions of our colleagues not only from personal conferences with them, but also from their views expressed in the address of the twenty-one electors, to the people of Maryland, as published in September last.

In conclusion we cannot refrain from expressing the hope and expectation that you will now join us in the meetings of the college, and co-operate with us in our efforts to save the state from the dangers which unhappily threaten her. With respectful consideration, we are your obed't serv'ts,

THOMAS G. PRATT,  
GEORGE S. LEIGH,  
RICH'D BEALL,  
JAS. A. D. DALRYMPLE,  
SAMUEL J. K. HANDY,  
GEORGE DUDLEY,

Annapolis, Oct. 31, 1836.

GENTLEMEN: I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst. in reply to mine of the same date, and have to express my unfeigned regret that an answer was not tendered in the same spirit in which my communication was worded. I deem it an act of justice to myself, to state that the meeting alluded to in your letter, was purely accidental, and that the conversation between us was regarded by myself as frank and unreserved. As a reference,

however, has been made to it in the shape of a detailed statement, I beg leave to say, that the impression left on my mind, differs in some respect from the account of it in your letter. I did state that I was not authorized to make any propositions, but that I was anxious to know whether any compromise was contemplated—because, if any was contemplated, I might be the means of communicating it to the other eighteen gentlemen, as I was certain it would receive from them the most respectful consideration. I expressed no belief that they would attend, only my hope that under certain circumstances they would do so. It is true that a wish was expressed and acceded to, that I would meet you again on the following day, but on consideration I thought a respectful communication in writing would be better and more suited to the importance of the subject, and I therefore adopted that course, with the propriety of which I am fully satisfied. I did state that I was not influenced by party views in the adjustment of this question—the statement I again reiterate, but I am certain that I made no disclaimer in reference to any information that I might seek at your hands, because I know I have too much self-respect and regard for my own character, to seek any thing at the hands of political opponents, which could, by the most fastidious, be construed into a breach of honor, or dereliction of duty.—Whatever, gentlemen, you may be inclined to believe actuated me in the discharge of my duty as an elector, I can only say I am actuated by a single and sincere desire to give stability to our institutions, to inspire a just confidence in the people, that a reasonable and satisfactory reform will be obtained, so that this great and vital question may be speedily, honorably and amicably arranged. But to produce this desirable result, I say in the spirit of candor, and under the highest obligation of duty, that it is my solemn conviction, that no electoral quorum will ever be obtained, unless some stronger assurance than that of constitutional reform, unaccompanied with a statement of what is intended to be reform, is made. The term in itself is vague and indefinite—by some it might be regarded as a restriction on the right of suffrage, while by others it might be construed as giving a representation according to population.

My temporary residence in Annapolis is entirely owing to domestic considerations. Private business will more or less occupy my attention every day, during the short time that I shall remain. Having failed, I fear, in the great object that I have so much at heart, I can see no advantage in availing myself of your polite invitation, of joining you in the meetings of the college. I remain, gentlemen, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN S. SELLMAN.

To Messrs. Beall, Handy, Dudley, Pratt, Leigh and Dalrymple.

Senate chamber, Annapolis, Nov. 2, 1836.

To John S. Sellman, esq. member of the electoral college:

SIR: We should have deemed an answer to your letter of the 31st ultimo, unnecessary, except that you appear to misapprehend both the meaning of our letter, to which yours is a reply, and the spirit with which it was written. We have not been, and we beg to assure you, that we are incapable of being "fastidious" in our consideration, or action upon a question of such momentous importance, as the one which has been the subject of our correspondence.

We think we have evinced in our reply to yours of the 29th ultimo, a temper altogether conciliatory, and a disposition to say and do every thing, consistently with our sense of duty, to remove the unhappiness and calamitous position in which the government of our state now stands. Such, at any rate, has been the only spirit which has actuated us in our personal intercourse and written correspondence with you.

It is unnecessary to cavil about the relative correctness of our recollections of the conversations referred to in this correspondence. In your letter of the 29th ultimo, you say that "from the position that parties have assumed, it is, in my opinion, worse than useless, even to anticipate the election of a senate without a compromise of conflicting interests," and in yours of the 31st ultimo, you say "I did state that I was not influenced by party views in the adjustment of this question, the statement I again reiterate, but I am certain I made no disclaimer in reference to any information that I might seek at your hands." We were unwilling to believe, that you intended in speaking of a compromise of conflicting interests, to refer to party interests, or that you could suppose it possible that we could have any intention to elect to the senate persons entertaining sentiments in regard to general politics, adverse to those of the party by which we were elected.—

As we are now forced by a review of your two letters to a different conclusion, we at once without concealment, and at the same time with perfect respect, inform you that such a proposition can never be made by us, or entertained by us, if intended to be made by you. The same proposition was made by the 19 electors as appeared by their communication to the public in September last. It never would have been concurred in by the 21 electors and we candidly believe does not receive the sanction of the reflecting portion of the party to which you are attached. We sincerely regret that you still are of the opinion that "no electoral quorum will ever be obtained unless some stronger assurance than that of constitutional reform, unaccompanied with a statement of what is intended to be reformed, is made." We had indulged the hope that our assurance that a state government would at all times have been formed, and that such a senate would still be elected, if an electoral quorum should attend, would have been entirely satisfactory. We confidently believe that the impossibility of our specifying the particular features of reform which would be deemed proper by the senate to be elected by us, would be apparent to yourself and to the whole people of the state. You are aware, every man in Maryland must be aware, that no such specification could be made without assuming to ourselves the authority of forming the constitution of the state according to our views of propriety, so far at least as the action of one branch of the legislature is connected therewith, a purpose altogether foreign to that for which we were elected, and the exercise of which would, in our opinion, involve a direct violation of our official duty. We did suppose that you and those who think with you upon this subject, would not only have been willing, but would have seen the absolute necessity of leaving the adjustment of the details of the conflicting views of the different portions of the state, to the body by which the work is to be done.

When we speak of reform, we do not mean to "hold the word of promise to the ear and break it to the hope;" we are ready to elect for senators, men whose sentiments, high moral worth and intelligence shall be a guarantee of their entire willingness and ability to gratify the wants of the people of Maryland in regard to reform, whenever those wants shall be properly ascertained and made known to the legislature. We have never disguised this purpose.

In conclusion therefore permit us to say that we still hope that our expectations of producing a happy result will not be disappointed, and that after all that has passed you will not withhold from us your assistance in our efforts to arrest the impending evils, because we feel the impossibility of settling in advance the many and conflicting questions, which can only be adjusted by future concessions and compromise through wise and deliberate legislation. We have the honor to be your obedient servants,

GEORGE S. LEIGH,  
SAMUEL J. K. HANDY,  
RICHARD BEALL,  
GEORGE DUDLEY,  
THOS. G. PRATT.

Mr. Linthicum, of Anne Arundel county, another of the recusants, has addressed the following to the electors with whom he united in their refusal to enter the electoral college. Should another of the recusants resolve to enter the college, the constitutional majority (24) will be complete, and a senate elected before the meeting of the legislature called by the governor's proclamation on Monday next.

Elk Ridge, Nov. 12th, 1836.

To Messrs. McGill, Watson, Quinn, Fisher, Ellicott, Bell, Vansant, Harwood, Hope, Sulton, Keene, Fountain, Frans, G. A. Thomas, Duwall, J. B. Thomas and George.

GENTLEMEN: Believing that the course we adopted in seceding from the electoral college was expressive of the wishes of a majority of the people of Maryland, but not having been sustained by that majority, and being at all times willing to submit to the will of the people, I have determined to obey this will as expressed by the votes of the November election, and shall repair to Annapolis on Friday, the 18th inst. and on the 19th qualify as an elector of the senate, and I invite you to meet me there, for the purpose of joining in making a quorum.

I am, with much respect, your obed't serv't,  
WESLEY LINTHICUM.

On Wednesday last a meeting was held in Baltimore of the persons chosen to the extending convention, which is to convene at Annapolis on Monday next. All that has transpired as to the design of this preliminary meeting is stated in the following circular. The words in brackets were erased in the original circular.

"SIR: The undersigned, nominated [appointed] delegates to a convention proposed to be held at Annapolis, on the 21st of November having had a conference with each other, are of opinion that under the present circumstances, that convention would have no power to act as a convention of the people, but that they recommend that a meeting [convention] of the friends of reform, should be held, [at the above mentioned day and place] composed of those persons who have been appointed by the friends of the cause in the several counties of the state on the 7th inst. In order, therefore, to have a free conference as to the best mode of forwarding the cause, they respectfully propose a [preliminary] meeting in Baltimore, on Wednesday next [Saturday] 19th [16th] inst. at ten o'clock, to which they invite you and hope you will concur with them in the propriety of the measure.

(Signed)

B. C. HOWARD,  
WM. KREBS,  
ROBT. HOWARD.  
A. CONSTABLE,  
WM. F. GILES.

Baltimore, Nov. 11, 1836.

To \_\_\_\_\_

*Meeting in St. Mary's county.*

At a meeting of the citizens of Saint Mary's county, held at the court house, in Leonard Town, on Tuesday the 8th November, agreeably to notice previously given, the following proceedings were had:

The meeting was called to order by Wm. J. Blakistone. Peter Gough, esq. was unanimously appointed chairman, and William Coad, esq. secretary. Wm. J. Blakistone presented a series of resolutions, accompanied by an address. H. G. S. Key followed next, moving a preamble and resolutions as a substitute. Judge Dorsey addressed the chair, and presented several propositions. John M. S. Causin also addressed the meeting and presented several propositions. George S. Leigh and Benedict J. Heard, esqrs. made some explanatory remarks.

The several propositions were then referred to a committee of five, consisting of Messrs. H. G. S. Key, Richard Thomas, William J. Blakistone, Richard H. Miles and John M. S. Causin, who unanimously reported the following resolutions to the meeting, all of which being considered by the meeting, were unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That this meeting deeply regret the course pursued by the nineteen recusant electors of the senate of Maryland, who were elected for the performance of a specific duty, which duty they have refused to perform.

*Resolved*, That this meeting respectfully request the said electors to retrace their steps, and unite in the election of a senate, as in the opinion of this meeting it is their duty to do.

*Resolved*, That this meeting approve the course pursued by the twenty-one electors in proceeding to qualify, in conformity with the constitution, and continuing to keep the college open awaiting the decision of public opinion.

*Resolved*, That this meeting are ready and willing to meet their fellow citizens of the several counties and cities of this state, in a spirit of friendly compromise upon the subject of state reform, in the mode prescribed by the constitution.

Wm. J. Blakistone submitted the following order, which was unanimously adopted:

*Ordered*, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and secretary, and published in the several newspapers in this state, and in the National Intelligencer and the Globe.

PETER GOUGH, *chairman*.

WILLIAM COAD, *secretary*.