

A neighboring print having published some strictures on Judge Scott's address, calculated, perhaps, to lessen him in the estimation of his fellow-citizens in this part of the State, without having done him the justice to publish his explanation to the public, we deem it nothing more than fair dealing to give him a column in our paper in his own defense. The address alluded to, as well as some explanations since made, will be found below:

#### TO THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

##### FELLOW CITIZENS,

I have recently learned, from a source entitled to credit, that Governor Noble is endeavoring, in different parts of the State, to promote his election by frequently and publicly traducing my character.

I am not a candidate for office. I am at home quietly and peacefully attending to my own business. I have not interfered or intend to interfere in the approaching election, any farther than to exercise the rights of a free citizen. And why Gov. Noble should suppose that his success can be promoted or his popularity advanced, by holding up my name as an object to public odium, I am at a loss to determine.

Could he convince every man in the state that I have been guilty of the improprieties with which he has charged me, and even crimes of ten fold greater enormity, would his capacity, his zeal in public service, or his moral honesty be thereby established?—I think not.

But my business at present is to repel his slander.

It is not true that he has extended friendship to me, and that I have rejected it. On the contrary, since his election to the executive chair, there has been uniformly, on his part a marked difference between me and those whom he esteemed his friends; and his conduct was so plainly indicative of his feelings that I must have been as blind as Polyphemos not to have noticed it. I do not complain of his unfriendly treatment; I have but seldom mentioned it; it is a matter of no concern to me; I have not sought his friendship or rejected it; I have never wished or expected any appointment at his hand; nor did I ever reject an appointment on account of ill will towards him.

That he has offered me some of the best appointments in his gift, all which I rejected, through ill will to him, is wholly untrue in fact and hypothesis.

He never offered me any appointment which I could have accepted without a greater sacrifice than I was willing to make; and my reasons for declining was because the service required were incompatible with my other engagements.

And further; that when I declined being a candidate, three years ago, I wrote letters to my friends of different political parties, in some of which I urged my friends to vote for Gen. Stapp, and in others I urged them to vote for Judge Read, thus accommodating myself to the party feelings of those to whom I wrote; is also wholly untrue.

In that case, it was due to my friends to let them know I had declined, and the time being short I wrote a number of letters hastily without reserving copies. I cannot at this time recollect the precise language made use of, but am confident I did not in any instance express myself so loosely as to justify a charge of duplicity. Whatever opinion I expressed as to the result, was founded on such information as I had received, and was only matter of opinion. His charge on that score is neither more nor less than sheer malignity, without a shadow of truth to sustain it. And I now invite Gov. Noble to produce any letters of my writing when I will have an opportunity to stand in my own defense, and I am willing to bear the responsibility of all they contain.

But to make an attack at a distance, and without notice, has something in it so dastardly that the act itself indicates a mind sunk to the very lowest grade in the scale of moral degradation.

I have no delight in this kind of controversy; I have not sought it; and I regret the necessity of entering into it; but I have no dread of the result; and after he has done all he can to injure me, it will be seen, that all this flood of detraction is nothing but the fetid spumy overflowing of his depraved and malignant heart.

JAMES SCOTT.

Charlestown, July 22, 1834.

*Pre-emption Law.* For the information of our readers, we republish the pre-emption law of 1830, revived and continued in force by a late act of Congress. The last act was published in the *Palladium* of the 5th ult.

AN ACT to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the Public Lands.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That every settler or occupant of the Public Lands, prior to the passage of this act, who is now in possession, and cultivated any part thereof in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine, shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to enter, with the Register of the Land office, for the District in which such lands may lie, by legal subdivisions, any number of acres, not more than one hundred and sixty or a quarter section, to include his improvement upon paying to the United States the then minimum price of said land: *Provided, however,* That no entry or sale of any land shall be made, under the provisions of this act, which shall have been reserved for the use of the United States, or either of the several States, in which any of the public lands may be situated.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That if two or more persons be settled upon the same quarter section, the same may be divided between the two first actual settlers, if, by a north and south or east and west line, the settlement or improvement of each can be included in a half quarter section; and in such case the said settlers shall each be entitled to a pre-emption of eighty acres of land elsewhere in said land district, so as not to interfere with other settlers having a right of preference.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That prior to any entries being made under the privileges given by this act, proof of settlement or improvement shall be made to the satisfaction of the Register and Receiver of the land district in which such lands may lie, agreeably to the rules to be prescribed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office for that purpose, which Register and Receiver shall each be entitled to receive fifty cents for his services therein. And that all assignments and transfers of the right of pre-emption given by this act, prior to the issuance of patents, shall be null and void.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall not delay the sale of any of the public lands of the United States, beyond the time which has been, or may be, appointed, for that purpose, by the President's proclamation; nor shall any of the provisions of this act be available to any person, or persons, who shall fail to make the proof and payment required before the day appointed for the commencement of the sales of lands, including the tract, or tracts, on which the right of pre-emption is claimed; nor shall the right of pre-emption, contemplated by this act, extend to any land which is reserved from sale, by act of Congress, or by order of the President, or which may have been appropriated, for any purpose whatsoever.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall be and remain in force, for one year from and after its passage.

APPROVED, May 29th, 1830.

TO THE PUBLIC.

**FELLOW CITIZENS OF INDIANA:** I had entertained a hope that Gov. Noble would have had more respect for himself than to have attempted to raise himself by tarnishing the character of a fellow citizen; but having heard that he was using my name in a manner which I thought unfair and ungenerous, I considered it due to myself to repel some of his charges.

The editors of the Indiana Journal have taken it quite in dudgeon that I am not delighted with the glory of being kicked by their favorite.

The article published in their paper of the 12th inst. on this subject, contains such a combination of ridiculous absurdity and unblushing falsehood as is seldom to be found in a public Journal.

They commence by saying that my publication contains a bitter and unprovoked attack upon Gov. Noble, and that the time chosen by me shows evidently that my object was to operate on the pending election. Now those editors know well, and it is known to hundreds besides, that this is all misrepresentation and falsehood.—I have neither chosen the time nor made the attack. If Gov. Noble had not chosen to make the attack, and chosen the time too, my name would not have been seen nor my voice heard on this subject. I had no wish to operate on the election, and have not said or done any thing to justify or excuse such a charge.

I mentioned that I had learned that Gov. Noble had publicly traduced my character in different parts of the State.

Without expressly denying this fact, they undertake to shew that it could not be true; because Gov. Noble had made but two electioneering trips—one to Logansport and the other to Munceytown. Now I would like to know of those sapping editors, whether Logansport and Munceytown are not different parts of the state? To which of those towns was he going when he was in Bartholomew and Johnson counties? On which trip was he travelling when he was in Lawrence, Monroe, and Morgan?—Again: They say the Gov. has manifested friendship to me by offering me two of the best appointments in his gift—that of prosecuting attorney, and that of agent to examine the insurance offices.—As to the first, I was consulted by others, and let it be known that I did not wish to have the appointment, and my mind was probably known to the Executive; but that it was ever tendered to me is not true.—The agency to which they allude was an office of high responsibility with arduous duties to be performed, and no compensation provided by law. This appointment the Gov. did tender to me, and I declined it in re-

spectful language, and this is now brought up as a proof of friendship and great magnanimity on his part, and of my inveterate hostility to him; and the true reason assigned by me for declining must, to answer their malicious designs, be considered only as a pretext.

The insinuation that I got my information from Judge Read, like their other assertions is uncouth and untrue. I had heard of the Governor's remarks before Judge Read went to Munceytown, I saw the Judge on his way to the north and authorized him, should such statements be made in his presence, to contradict them. After that interview I saw Judge Read no more, and had no communication from him, till after my publication was in print. My informants are as disinterested as other citizens, and are entitled to more credit than any man who can condescend to utter and publish such impudent falsehoods as those in the Journal.

They speak of my *bitter attack* upon a man who had never injured me, as a subject of regret to my friends, and allege that my censures must recoil upon the author. This is all applicable to themselves. They know the attack was not made by me. No friend of mine would wish to see me vilified as I have been, and remain passive without an attempt to defend myself.

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