

dation was before the P. Master General. I enquired if this recommendation had arrived, and was answered in the affirmative. This was enough for me. I did not ask to see it. There was no recommendation for any other person save the official one of Mr. Heth. I acquiesced in the nomination of Mr. Brandon, and so would I have done, had the nomination been in favor of Mr. M'Bean, or Mr. any body else. Of Mr. Brandon at that time I had just heard, had never seen him. He had not written to me on that or any other subject, but being acquainted with Col. Johnson, had written to him. I had no partiality in his favor. This thing however has answered certain gentry to noise through the state. The "Herald" says, that "Messrs Noble and Hendricks put in their counter application without consulting Mr. Taylor, to whom the interests and feelings of this town and county had been entrusted in this affair." And who entrusted Mr. Taylor with the feelings of both town and county in this affair? Perhaps indeed Mr. Heth, whose recommendation ought to have outweighed all others. I strongly suspect that Mr. Taylor was not entrusted or advised on the occasion, and if he had been, the friends of M'Bean ought not to complain, that Mr. Noble and myself did not consult Mr. T. because he did not consult us. Nor do I believe Mr. Taylor made any effort, to have M'Bean appointed, unrecommended as he was, over Mr. Brandon who was well recommended. If such was the conduct of Mr. Taylor, such would not be mine. In fine, I have no doubt, that if through my attentions, the editors of the "Herald," had been appointed printers of the laws of the Union, any other person than an editor of the "Gazette," appointed post master at Corydon, and one of the editors of the Herald appointed District Attorney for the state, that all would have been well—that for attentions like these, I could have commanded the talents, the labors and zeal of these editors, in the same degree they have been employed against me.

Fellow-citizens, it has been my lot ever since I appeared on the political theatre, to receive the scurrilous abuses of some editors and others, who are in the habit of denouncing every officer and candidate for office, who has not been brought forward by themselves. When a candidate for your suffrages last year, though I had not announced my name or pretensions through the medium of any press, the Western Sun was good enough to notice me as altogether "undeserving" of "notice;" and to employ some pleasant epithets, very usual for that paper, when noticing candidates for office, which they are not disposed to support. Notwithstanding that notice, the Western Sun has since thought proper to employ its columns for months past in noticing me—in pouring on me the most scurrilous and undeserved abuse, and on a subject too, which of all others one would suppose would have been the last

about which to complain, namely, a correspondence with the Acting Secretary of War on the subject of the claims of the militia. The recognition of the Secretary of War of the claims of the militia of Indiana, was obtained by the repeated solicitations of Mr. Jennings while delegate in Congress. That business was fixed and determined before I arrived at Washington. I wished no credit for that, nor indeed for any of my public services, other than the credit of having done my duty. In vain will the writer under the specious garb of "Justice and Truth," or any other writer, state, that exertion on their behalf tended to promote delay in the reception of their pay. It need not be told the militiaman or the ranger, that Major Whitlock has been most friendly to their claims, and would but for the want of funds long ere now have paid them.—Major Whitlock himself will not say so. He will say for he has said, that many of the rangers had long ago received more from the government than they justly deserved. This he has said respecting Capt. Sholts' company of rangers, who have lately received a balance of their pay, in consequence of a special order from the Paymaster General. It was pay-rolls in due form and properly authenticated, which Major W. looked to, and not to the justice of their claims from having performed services. He was no military chancellor. If the militia and rangers or any of them have received their pay, I shall not regret any exertion on their behalf, notwithstanding the abuse of the Western Sun. That some and a goodly number have been paid I know. That some have not been paid I also know, and it is a subject to which I shall, during the next session of congress devote every attention. While any thing remains in my power on that subject, either as a public man or private citizen, I will not rest till every man, who has performed military service—who have endured fatigue, and been exposed to danger, to rescue and defend our country from the tomahawk and scalping knife, be paid the uttermost farthing; and the Indiana Herald and the Western Sun, lest they should be too much engaged next summer, may begin now on this subject, and write bitterness and cursing, until the first Monday in August next. I also expect to write as many letters home to my friends as I did last session. On this subject also the Herald may take time by the forelock. Perhaps these papers think with Bostonian intellect; that the war was cruel, unnecessary and unjust, and that the debts contracted by the administration which declared war, ought not to be paid. If so it would evidently be improper to promote the claim of the militiaman or the ranger; but thinking differently, I will act differently.

Fellow citizens; it is not rational, sentimental objection to my political acts, which has occasioned the opposition I have recently experienced. It is too much say they, that this man who

but yesterday came among us, without acquaintances, friends, wealth or patronage, should now represent the state in congress.—It is the man and not measures which have actuated my enemies; for what act of mine have they been able to find fault with?—Where except in some trivial appointments for which my clamorous enemies were applicants, do they attempt to charge me? What duty have I neglected? What done amiss? They have not been able to say. Their specifications point to their own disappointments. Their general allegations are mere lampoonings and abuses. Mark the course and channel of opposition, and the time when it commenced. As early as January of the Herald found they were not appointed printers of the laws of the United States, and while I was at Washington attending to my duties as your representative, they commenced abusing me, for writing a letter to the acting secretary of War on behalf of the militia and rangers. On the 5th of March a caucus was advertised by these same editors, and on the 15th of the same month this caucus was held, for the special purpose as was well understood of selecting a candidate to oppose me for Congress. And here it may be remarked, that by this time it was known, at Corydon, that Mr. Brandon was appointed Post-master, Mr. M'Bean was disappointed, Mr. Heth was very angry, and some gentlemen wanted to go to Congress—these things were strengthening the party there.—At this caucus however but few attended, and some of those few were opposed to the policy about to be pursued. Nothing at that time was done but to make arrangements for a future day.—This day was pitched upon. It was the 28th day of April, the first day of the court, when the citizens of Harrison were expected generally to attend, and who it was presumed would be favorable to a candidate at that place. It then could have been said that the candidate thus taken up was nominated by a large and respectable meeting. But a series of disasters again took place, a writer over the signature of "Vesuvius" in the Western Sun of the 29th of March, mistaking the movers and the object of these caucuses, belches forth his lava on the measure, and threatens a total discomfiture of all the schemes and plans so fast maturing. The people too, very unexpectedly disapproved of the whole proceeding. The caucus was abandoned, and the man at that time intended to have been taken up, abandoned the idea of becoming a candidate. Disorder appeared in the ranks, a misunderstanding between the Sun and Herald, and this mighty caucus frustrated. The Herald however on the 10th May justifies caucus nominations, as much the "best way" of selecting on the ground of "example" and "reason."—But behold on the 24th of May, one of its editors announces himself a candidate for Congress, without following the dictates of the "best" way of "example" or

"reason." Mighty newspaper editorial exertions were used from this time to the day of election in which every thing was resorted to, which afforded the remote prospect of weight or influence. I was represented vain and arrogant, wishing "some popular character should be brought forward to oppose me the next congressional election and I would shew them that position was useless." This low groveling policy indeed, it was not without a parallel. About the first of August Governor Posey became a candidate. And how was he taken up? Was it by the people, by his own wishes, or by a caucus? By the latter it may be said without fear of contradiction, a caucus at Vincennes, at which but very few attended. The Western Sun which on former occasions shed so much hostility to this kind of nomination was now silent. Against gov. Posey I have no word to say. His character both public and private, as far as I know, I admire—I early formed a favorable opinion of him, and that opinion I have not yet changed. Had I been brought in public view for the first time when he became a candidate for congress, I would in all probability have declined a competition and given way to greater experience and merit. But my situation was a different one. Governor Posey was brought forward by my avowed and inveterate enemies, who have practised everything but fair dealing to injure and destroy me. He suffered himself to be taken up if report be true contrary to his wishes, and certainly contrary to his interests for he had and still has a situation much more lucrative and better suited to his age and infirmities. To have declined would have been a disaster to myself & triumph to my enemies—would have been worse than defeat. I now stand elected your representative to Congress for two years. During that time I shall unceasingly and undeviatingly employ my industry and all the talents I possess to promote your political interests. My political tenets and principles I presume are congenial with the great mass of my constituents, warm and devotedly republican. My feelings and habits are so also. My interests are your interests—I was an adventurer to Indiana. This name has become familiar to my feelings and good wishes. This place I view as my home. I came here without office either in possession or expectancy—had no prospects other than those of a private citizen. How long or how short soever my political life may last, I shall ever cherish a grateful remembrance of the virtuous and independent citizens of Indiana. To them I owe, and particularly to the citizens of Jefferson county my political existence. From the citizens of Jefferson county I received the first notice of political distinction—a seat in the Legislature of the Territory, by their vote was re-elected, and discharged my duties in that station I believe to their general satisfaction, & with an ordinary degree of credit to