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AND SWITZERLAND COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

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## POLITICAL.

### Fraud!—Fraud!—Fraud!!!

The last fraudulent effort of the Whig party to deceive the People of this county.

On the 27th inst., a large number of the extra-Statesman was issued and extensively circulated in this county, and elsewhere, containing several certificates which charge Gen. Howard with having been in favor of the system of Internal Improvement, at the time of its passage. A more base, corrupt, and intriguing course, could not have emanated from the leaders of that party. And it is only necessary for the people to know the facts, to fully understand the deception.

Why is it that the enemies of Gen. Howard, on the eve of the election, resort to certificates to prove he was in favor of the system? And why have they delayed giving this information to the people, until this late period? And why is it that such men as David Wallace, Joseph G. Marshall, John Sheets, and Francis G. Scares, and many others, who have ever been, and still are, the strong advocates of the Mammoth system, are so violent in their opposition to Gen. Howard, if indeed he is in favor of the system? People of Switzerland county, your dearest rights are at stake! Beware then of the tricks and intrigues of those who are aiming to deceive you on the eve of the election. Remember that on Monday next, you are called upon to discharge the high and important trust of electing a Governor. Remember also, that the result of this election will fix the destiny of this State, for weal or for woe, for a long time to come. And above all, remember that Bigger is the Internal Improvement candidate, supported by the leading men of the State, who have been, and still are, the strong advocates of the ruinous mammoth system; and that Howard has ever been, and still is, the strong and consistent opponent of the system, as will appear by the following address and certificates.

### GENERAL HOWARD

VINDICATED AGAINST THE CALUMNIES CIRCULATED UPON THE EVE OF THE ELECTION TO DECEIVE THE PEOPLE.

It was not to be expected, judging from the manner with which the gubernatorial election has been prosecuted ever since it opened, that any means, foul or fair, would not be resorted to, in order to defeat Gen. Howard, that could by any sophistry be made to assume the appearance of plausibility or fairness. But no one dreamed that party excitement could ever be brought to generate as base and unblushing falsehoods as are contained in an extra number of the last Greencastle Visitor, in which it is modestly asked that all the papers in the State shall assist in giving them the widest and fullest possible circulation, now, right on the eve of the election, when it is impossible for them to be answered by Gen. Howard, on whom they are intended to operate. It will no doubt be asked by every one why it is, that any effort at all, to say nothing of the untiring labors of Col. Sigler and his hen and chicken excellency, together with the whole host of opposition throughout the State, to identify Gen. Howard as a system man. The answer is an easy one, or rather there are a thousand, and among the principle ones are these: such men as Sigler and his hen "and chicken" excellency, desire more associates to share the infamy with which the people have covered them, "as with a mantle," for their past political plundering, and reckless prodigality in the management of this system, others have sagacity enough to see that a plain and agricultural people like ours, desire something more substantial than the gaudy shows, and parades, and music and speeches on national politics with which Mr. Bigger opened the canvass, as the foundation stone upon which to place their votes for the first office in the gift of a yet free and independent people. They begin to ask whether these regiments of flags and drums and parades bear upon them the elements of home reform; they wish to know why it is, that our State now brought by the most vile and debasing corruption in our past politicians and managers of our State affairs, to actual bankruptcy and ruin, that while we ought to be clothed with sackcloth and ashes, should the whole State be, or appear to be, one unmitigated revel; whilst they find the attention of the people turned to the examination of these questions of home reform, they begin to look for a standing place for their Mr. Bigger. They find him in 1835, a member of the Legislature, voting for the expenditure of thousands on multifarious works of State improvement without even a survey, without the lines being as much as marked with a hewer's axe. (See Journal p. 443, 501.) They find him voting for the Survey Bill the same session, the entering wedge of the whole system. Who charges Gen. Howard with doing either of these acts? no one. But further, they find after

the establishment of the system, and it is ordered to be prosecuted by expending the money of the people in small sums all over the State to suit the convenience of certain towns and speculators, at the expense, and ruin, and bankruptcy of the State—when it is found that the system cannot longer be sustained but by a taxation more oppressive than ever before fell to the lot of a civilized and sovereign State, where do they find Mr. Bigger again? Not this time in the Legislature, but in the strife of the people against the speculators and political swindlers, who had by false estimates and false instruction given to them as to actual cost of the works. When the true friends of the State were striving to check the mad career that threatened the disgrace that we have since experienced, we ask again where was Mr. Bigger then!—on the question of classification in August, 1837, where was Mr. Bigger? Every one is ready to answer the question, he was in full armor along by the side of our present hen and chickens Executive, David Wallace, who in return for his past services is now Mr. Bigger's and Mr. Sigler's certificate maker: Wallace was for the iniquitous and simultaneous prosecution of the public works. Dumont was for classification. Thus then Mr. Bigger is shown to be a simultaneous system man from the commencement down to the last election for Governor, from his recorded votes and acts that he cannot and will not deny.

But where do we find Gen. Howard all this time? What is he doing that gives so much offence to this but-ender of the system as he calls it. Gen. Howard himself says that he favored the project of the State entering into a system of internal improvement, and prosecuting it in that manner which would render the capital productive as the work should progress. Mr. Bigger, it seems, was a simultaneous man, or rather wished to prosecute the works in that manner that they should not yield a profit as they progressed. Now here let us make one remark to settle the question right off, and that is this, that whatever may be said about whether Howard was a system man or not, even these certificate makers have not one in their whole band, who does say, or who will contend that ever Gen. Howard was a system man after the simultaneous commencement of the works was agreed upon. This was in the spring of 1836, and from that time all agree that he opposed the system, see certificate appended No.

But we find further evidence of this fact. In the summer of 1836, the western side of our county, that was considered favorable to the system of 1836, had their regularly nominated internal improvement system candidate for the Legislature. Messrs. Steele and Wright, and others, were opposing candidates. Mr. McKinney, of the western part of the county, advocated the internal improvement system from the stump; Messrs. Wright and Steele were for classification. Howard was the supporter of national politics there was no difference of opinion among these three candidates. In 1837, it is agreed by all, that he supported Dumont, and has always since been, and now is for a thorough reform in this branch of State policy, so that if Howard was ever for the system of 1836, he is to be proved to be so by persons who are neither politically nor personally friendly to him, against all his acts and votes, and also against the recollection of his friends and intimate acquaintances. But supposing him to have been in favor of the system of ten millions, to be borrowed and expended as he had a right to suppose according to the act, and the works to be completed in twenty years, as the act provided, he as a private citizen had no data from which to form an opinion, but the surveys furnished by his own columnizers, Sigler and his associates. He had no data to combat the pretended estimates of the State engineers. He could not suppose that a State would report the costs of a system to the people at ten millions when it was known to cost from thirty to forty millions. He was no doubt, like many others, placed in a false position by reposing confidence in the deceptive action of the Legislature, and as soon as he discovered the evidence of the spoiler's hand in the simultaneous prosecution of the works, he is found battling against the measure, whilst Bigger is battling for it. Now taking it for true, that he was a system man which he is known not to have been after the extent and management of the system was known, will Mr. Bigger's friends tell us why the classifiers of 1837 who fought side by side with Howard in the election between Dumont and Wallace, should abandon Howard and vote for Mr. Bigger, who opposed classification in 1837, and by that act aided in bringing bankruptcy and ruin on the state—which act of policy has destroyed the credit of the state, and loaded the people down with taxation, and now through his conductor Sigler, and a few other hopeful conversions certificate makers asks to be rewarded with the first office in the gift of the people.

This parallel between the action of the two candidates in reference to this absorbing question has been drawn for the purpose of showing that the authors of this attack on Gen. Howard by attempting to assail the character of Major Puett, has been one of concert and secret arrangement, to do their dirty work in such a way as to avoid detection until their villainy could take the desired effect on the public mind. This is evidenced by the fact that a man who is known to have been a system man always, becomes the tool to make an attack on Gen. Howard upon a point that is admitted by themselves, and Mr. Bigger also, that he is deeper in the mire than they ever pretended Howard himself was.

After the first statement of Sigler was made, which was on the 20th May last, some friends of H. caused to be published a letter written by him (Howard) to G. Burton Thompson bearing date, some time in last February, as every one in this region had been surprised to hear and see the contents of Col. Sigler's first letter, so when they saw Gen. Howard's letter above referred to they fixed the seal of condemnation on that of Sigler's, as proved by certificates, appended as a

base attempt to make Gen. Howard a participant with himself and others in their political infamy and disgrace. Next was published Mr. Puett's letter which is before the public, and with which we have nothing to do, more than to prove that it was never read to Gen. Howard or its contents made known to him before its publication—it is not our duty to decide the question of veracity as raised between these brother Senators, they are both known to the public, and we presume that Col. Sigler will never be able to certify that public into the belief that Major Puett is less worthy of credit than himself.

Now as to these certificate gentlemen, as we have stated that it is unnecessary for us to take any further notice of the matter as between Sigler and Puett, so, if it were not for the fact that Mr. Collet who is known here to be a personal enemy of Gen. Howard, has undertaken to give a coloring to the fact that Howard entered some wild lands in this county which is relied on as a circumstance to prove that Howard was a system man, would not require notice. This Mr. Collet knowing his own price supposes every man may be bought. The truth in regard to this fact is, that Howard in company with a friend did enter some ground near this line in Parko county partly with his own funds and partly with the funds of a distant friend sent him for that purpose, not in all to exceed \$300 or \$400 worth. Now we ask every sensible man the question, does the fact that Gen. Howard entered lands on the canal line, prove him to be a system man? so much for Mr. Collet.

Next comes Mr. Harrah's certificate. Of Mr. H. we know nothing, and he says nothing that would go either way to establish whether the truth is with Puett or Sigler, and has nothing to say of Gen. Howard.

Next comes his Excellency, the Governor of your State, the rejected by his party when an applicant to enter the list as the competitor of Gen. Howard. We hope those good Whigs who have complained so vehemently of late that our venerable ex-president Jackson, wrote a letter to his friends to correct a falsehood which was propagated through the Union against him, will find no difficulty in spying out a little corner in which safely to deposit little "Davy" with his favorite "hen and chickens" story. He has labored hard to prove a fact circumstantially, which Major Puett has unquestionably proven to be a lie.

This brings us home, and calls our attention to the certificates of Henry Slavens, Wm. T. Noel, H. J. Bradley, Wm. J. Spaw, J. McCampbell, E. Adamson, and J. Ritchey, and presents to our view the painful spectacle of a few individuals at home, for considerations that are well understood here, attempting to place Gen. Howard in a false position before the country, and to bring up directly before that country the question of veracity between him and themselves. We know that here where all are known, Gen. Howard's character for honor, truth and veracity, will suffer nothing by comparison with that of those who have been so willing in his absence to assail him.

But we will commence with the letter of Slavens, and the illumination story. It is almost unnecessary to say that this certificate we believe to be false in fact, and disbelieved with but few exceptions here, inasmuch as Slavens is the only person in the town or country that ever heard of the story before. This redoubtable Colonel is supposed to have a soft place on the top of his head, and is greatly addicted to telling long yarns. See the certificate. We refer to the statement of Gen. Meacham and others, to show that this certificate maker has knowingly suppressed the truth in reference to the time of Howard's opposition to the bill. Slavens states that last fall he had a conversation with Gen. Howard, and that Howard then opposed the management of the system. Why did he not come out like a man and say that Howard opposed the system from the time the simultaneous operations were commenced.

Next in order comes the certificate of W. T. Noel, the Western delegate in the Indianapolis central joint committee, a kind of espionage of the movements of his neighbors. This committee-man is very much astonished that there should be any dispute in reference to this question, among Gen. H's neighbors—as to what he says of the notoriety of this matter see the statements and evidence furnished at the end of this communication, but this certificate, which is exceedingly insidious, is also proved to be false in another respect by certificate No. 6 and 7 and that is this, he states that Howard was well known here to be a system man for a year or more after the passage of the Bill. Now the bill passed in January 1836 the simultaneous commencement was determined upon by the first board that met in the spring of 1836, and the subjoined certificates prove that Howard was a classifier from the first commencement of simultaneous operations, see also Bryant's letter, the conversation between Slavens & Bryant of a late date, also certificates of Gen. Meacham and others. Slavens there admits this fact—see also Howard's course in relation to the representatives election, in 1836, and also the election between Dumont and Wallace.

The certificates of Mr. Spaw, we are disposed to pass without comment, as we believe him to be honestly mistaken. His recollections are diametrically opposed to those of scores more intimate with Gen. Howard than himself, whose certificates will be found below. Mr. Spaw may have labored under a fatal bias from the influence used by his half brother Mr. Bradley, if so we will only say "forgive him for he knows not what he does."

The next certificate is that of Hugh J. Bradley, the great, not thrice, but "five times" rejected of the people, a candidate for almost every vacant office both military and civil, the zealous supporter of Howard for Congress, at least to all appearances he was so, perhaps it may be, he was supporting Howard for the use of himself, as he was then awaiting his fifth rejection by the people, but if he thinks this surmise too uncharitable, will he have the kind-

ness to furnish the reasons why it was that while he was the ardent supporter of Gen. Howard when he saw Col. Evans last year taking a Township in which he then had a superior popularity, to that which has fallen to his lot elsewhere on account of Evan's distinction as the advocate of the mammoth, will the great rejected say why he did not just slip out this certificate to those friends of his in Liberty township and set the matter right then for his friend Howard?

Next comes the last and least, the famous trio certificate with Mr. McCampbell at their head, to those persons who know that Mr. McCampbell was recently beat to death in this township for a justice of the peace, and those who know him in and about Charleston we suppose his name will not be taken as the most indubitable evidence of truth, but let the public read a letter lately written by Mr. McCampbell and published in a Salem paper, which contained the yarn about Bigger beating Howard in this county from 3 to 500 votes. He is the personal and political enemy of Gen. Howard, and the causes here are well known. The same may be said of Adamson and his attempt to injure Gen. Howard last year by circulating reports gotten up by others, and which he knew to be false, is not forgotten here, and if he will deny this we will show the public that he is not the man who should be called on to establish a question of veracity by either party. Of their colleague Mr. Ritchey we will only say that he is at one time at least carried by his feelings for a political opponent into bad company.

## No. 1.

ROCKVILLE, July 15, 1840.

Gentlemen:—In answer to your letter of this date, requesting me to state what Gen. Howard's views were at the time of the passage of the internal improvement bill of 1836; and also calling my attention to several letters addressed by citizens of this county and others, to Col. Sigler of Greencastle, and published in an extra sheet of the Visitor of that place, I have only to say, that I never heard of any one making an effort to identify Gen. Howard with that odious system, or of attempting in any way to hold him politically responsible for the reckless and prodigal policy by which its prosecution was carried on, until he was nominated as a candidate for Governor, nor do I believe, that if that question was as popular now as it was in 1837, when Howard voted for Dumont and classification, and his honorable competitor for Wallace and simultaneous prosecution, that these certificate gentlemen would be hunting out his position with certificates, and placing him where he might divide the honors of the system with his competitor, Mr. Bigger; at least those of them from this country, especially Messrs. Slavens, Noel and Bradley, all of whom were the professed friends of Gen. Howard, in the controversy between Howard and Col. Evans, when Col. Evans was taking almost a unanimous vote in Liberty township, in this county against Howard, on account of his internal improvement views, never once thought of giving those good citizens of Liberty a certificate that Howard was a system man. The certificates of the others, with the exception of Mr. Ritchey and Mr. Spaw, I think would not have been of much consequence at home. With Mr. Ritchey I think Gen. Howard has very little or no acquaintance. With regard to my own recollection of Gen. Howard's views, I will add that I thought them fairly expressed in his letter to the Hon. G. Burton Thompson which is before the public. I was quite intimate with Gen. Howard then, and have been ever since. He was anxious, as I think almost every body was before the bill was passed to see the State engage in a system of internal improvements. After the bill of 1836 was passed, he stated to me frequently that it proposed a system too extensive, that ten millions of debt was a larger liability than the State ought to have undertaken.

As soon as the mode of prosecuting the public works was determined upon and known, Gen. Howard was as strong and decided a classifier as any one in this county, and every where advocated classification, supported Dumont on that ground, as he frequently stated to me, and to others of his friends here and elsewhere. In 1836, the western side of this county, who were generally considered system men at that time, brought out Mr. McKinney as a candidate for the Legislature, who advocated the system from the stump—this same year Messrs. Wright and Steele were candidates, both of whom opposed the system, and advocated classification. Gen. Howard warmly supported the classification ticket. I did not know until after Gen. Howard's nomination that any one held him as a system man. I suppose though from this effort, that no distinguished politician in this State is to avoid the odium of that measure. A majority of the politicians of that day were in for it, and from this effort it would seem that with whatever of zeal they are inclined to disagree with Gen. Howard on every other subject, they are disposed to establish a coincidence of their views with him on this. Every vote that Gen. Howard gave for any one, and every act in relation to the system, would seem to be, in fact is admitted to be against the system. His vote against McKinney for Wright and Steele in 1836, after the simultaneous prosecution of the system was agreed upon—his vote for and advocacy of Dumont, the recollection of almost every body here, is that he was not an advocate of the system as it passed; yet those conversations are plucked up from the oblivion of years, and certified forth upon the community, for the purpose of uniting Howard with this system of abominations, as it has been lately termed by one of its early advocates. In the certificate or letter of Mr. W. T. Noel, it is stated that Gen. Howard advocated the system for a year or more after it passed; this, of course is inaccurate, for whatever difference of opinion may exist of late about his earliest views, in relation to the system, I have not yet met with any person who pretends that he was not for classification, and that he did not oppose its simultaneous prosecution from the time of its commencement, which was early in the ensuing season after the bill passed in

1836. Mr. Noel says that it is notorious here that Howard supported the bill, &c. I will not attempt to define what Mr. Noel would call notorious, but I am sure it was never notorious enough to reach my ears. In Col. Slavens' letter he states that Gen. Howard called on him, to aid in the illumination of the town. I surely need not add that this is not believed here. Gen. Howard could not have desired the town to have been illuminated and no one know any thing about it but Slavens, and he, feeling himself as if he might be mistaken, says, that others in and near town heard the subject of illumination spoken of, but those persons do not say that they heard it spoken of by Gen. Howard. It is worthy of remark that in this same letter he says, last fall Howard was opposed to the management of the system. There is no doubt of the truth of this, but he has stated in the hearing of myself and others, within less than a month, that Howard always opposed the management of the system.

I heard the letter that was written to Puett talked of at the time it was written. I understood that Maj. Puett had written to some of his friends here that overtures of assistance in our work from Greencastle had been made to him by the internal improvement men, and he wished to know whether as the bill would pass, it would not be better for him to vote for the bill to secure this interest in our aid. In the spring when Puett returned home, and was arraigned for his vote, from the stump he gave this reason to the people, nor did he attempt to defend himself upon the ground of instruction from Howard or any one else.

I regret that I should be called upon to add my testimony on a subject of this kind, but the conduct of others has left no alternative. Yours truly,

W. P. BRYANT.

## No. 2.

Dickson's Mills, July 15th, 1840.

Having been called on by my neighbor, Maj. A. M. Puett, to make a statement concerning the views that Gen. Howard advanced in relation to the internal improvement system in 1836. So far as my recollection serves me, Maj. Puett received a letter from Gen. Howard during the session of 1835-6, of which I was member, the time I cannot recollect to a day, in which the letter stated that he (Howard) was an internal improvement man, but to what extent I cannot recollect. I also recollect distinctly that Howard said in conclusion, that he did not give it as instructions, that it was merely an opinion of his own. With regard to what induced Maj. Puett to vote for the bill, he always told me that he had pledged from some of the internal improvement party that they would aid him in getting a branch of the New Albany and Crawfordsville road to diverge at Greencastle, and run through the county of Parko in a direction of Danville, Ill. I read the letter, as it was shown me by Maj. Puett. I can also state that I was again elected in 1836, Gen. Howard gave me his hearty support. I advocated classification and the finishing of one work at a time. I can also state that Gen. Howard advocated the election of John Dumont; as the classifying candidate for Governor in 1837.

G. K. STEELE.

## No. 3.

Newport, Indiana, July 15, 1840.

This is to certify that I have had frequent conversations with Gen. Howard about the time of the passage of the bill of internal improvements of 1836, and since, and that Gen. Howard always remarked to me that he was an internal improvement man, but that the system as it passed was too large for our State, that we could not sustain any such a system, and that he was opposed to the same; and that the only hope we could have of getting along was to adopt the classification doctrine.

JNO. GARDNER.

## No. 4.

We certify that Col. Slavens, in a conversation between him and Mr. Bryant, a few days ago, said in our hearing, that Gen. HOWARD had always opposed the simultaneous prosecution of the public works. Given under our hands.

JOHN J. MEACHAM.

E. M. BENSON.

## No. 5.

We hereby state that we have been intimately acquainted with T. A. Howard for upwards of seven years: that during the winter of 1835-6 he was understood to be in favor of some system of Internal Improvements within the means of the State. That so soon as the Board of Internal Improvements agreed upon a simultaneous commencement of the works embraced in the system referred to, he was decidedly in favor of classification, and has been a classifier ever since. That Gen. Howard has uniformly voted for classifiers for the Legislature, and warmly supported John Dumont upon the classification question in 1837.

JNO. G. DAVIS.

R. N. GLIKSON.

## No. 6.

We the undersigned citizens of Parko County, hereby certify that we have been personally acquainted with Gen. T. A. Howard for several years past, and that most of us have had frequent conversations with him on the subject of Internal Improvements; and that we have always understood him as being in favor of a system of Internal Improvements, within the means and resources of the State. That he always has expressed himself opposed to the management of the system of 1836, and has been frequently heard to say that that scheme would ruin the State. That between Wallace and Dumont we well know that he pressed the Claims of Dumont for the office of Governor on the ground of classification, and that we have always understood T. A. Howard as being a classifier. Nor have we ever heard of an attempt by any one, to identify Gen. T. A. Howard with the Mam-