

A CARD.

To the Democrats of Fayette county.

The great Historian Gibbon, when asked his opinion of the trial of Hastings, replied, "That it was not my province to pass upon the guilt or innocence of Warren Hastings, but the eloquence of Mr. Sheridan demands my applause." The wily Irish wit and orator reciprocated the compliment, by pronouncing Gibbon the most humorous historian of the age. He denied however, that he was correctly quoted. The word he had used was so voluminous, I think that it will not be denied, that what my friend Maj. Johnston lacks in "versatility," he quite makes up in *voluminousness*.

I have no war to make with the Transcript and Press. In fact I have quite a feeling for the Press. It was in some sort a bantling of my own. I put some money into its foundation, and drew out a monumental experience. So that Maj. Johnston's elaborate defence of them, is from my point of view entirely unnecessary.

Maj. Johnston refers to a portion of my card as "intelligible." Well I have been informed by quite a number of plain, old-fashioned people that it was intelligible to them, and that they endorsed the platform on which I stand. *This card I shall endeavor to make "intelligible" even to Maj. Johnston.* It is asking a great deal of any candidate for any office to state what measures he opposes or advocates, and furnish sufficient intelligence to his opponent, and his friends to comprehend them. I am in favor of the Whipping Post! Is that intelligible? I propose during the canvass to say *why* I favor that method of punishment.

I am in favor of free turnpikes, and I believe every tollgate in Fayette may be made free without doing violence to the rights or feelings of private stock-holders. Is that intelligible?

My friend Maj. Johnston, alludes in a somewhat sneering tone to the fact that I was the chairman of the convention which sent Buckner and Owsley delegates to the gubernatorial convention in Louisville. If the slur is aimed at me personally, it may pass for what it is worth. Democrats of Fayette, it was an event in my life. It gave me the opportunity to show my loyalty to personal friendship, and my devotion to a gentleman and soldier, who reflected honor upon the Commonwealth, and sanctified the cause to which he pledged his life, his liberty, his fortune and his sacred honor.

I have never won the Senatorial Toga which fell so gracefully from the shoulders of Maj. Johnston. I was simply an humble member of the humbler House. And I am free to confess that I gave no vote during my term that might possibly prove an "event" in my subsequent life. Can the Senator say as much? ~~I voted for, and in my opinion, was secured the passage of a bill, relative to the turnpike in Fayette county. On the Senate, my name was not mentioned.~~ I also filled the humble position of chairman of the County Committee, when the Democracy established its supremacy in Fayette and the city of Lexington. I have also been connected in a humble way with the press, of the city of Lexington.

And, just here in connection with the convention to which the gentleman so sneeringly alludes; does it not reinforce the statement I have frequently made, that it is almost impossible, to ascertain what public sentiment is upon any question, that concerns a particular community?

"I will know, says Maj. Johnston, "a way to get the people, that will be entirely satisfactory to every one of them." This is a broad statement, and I make bold to ask my friend Maj. Johnston, to disclose the details of the little scheme, by which he proposes to catch the coon coming and going?

Badinage aside, let us come to the gist of the matter. Maj. Johnston commits himself to nothing. I say frankly what I am for, and what I am against. I shall make this "intelligible," if not to Maj. Johnston at least to the Democracy of Fayette, whom I propose to meet in every precinct. If you endorse my platform, I ask you to join my church. I tell you beforehand, whether I am Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist or Christian, but I decline absolutely to "subordinate" my convictions to a majority of the congregation.

Maj. Johnston does me great injustice, in the latter part of his card. I desired to cast no reflection upon him as a Virginian. How could I? Glorious old Commonwealth, the mother of Kentucky, and the birth-place of Lee and Jackson. Will you pardon me if I say that next to Kentucky, I venerate Virginia, the birth-place of all my ancestors? And Maj. Johnston must also pardon me when I say that I am none the less proud of being a Kentuckian. Many a marble monument or humbler headstone, marks the last resting place of heroes, on spots where perhaps, the drum beat should never have been heard, and the trophies of war should never have been seen; and amongst these silent, but eternal monuments of superb courage, endurance and valor Kentucky contributed her full share, both on the Union and Confederate side. Not that I love Virginia less, but that I love Kentucky more. Issues like this, are not involved in my contest with Maj. Johnston. Let him hew to the line. Let him follow the lead of distinguished citizens of his adopted state. Say what he is for, and what he is against, fairly, frankly as is the custom in Kentucky. The people of Kentucky are somewhat tired of policy. What they want, is men who have

the courage of their convictions, men who will tell them how they stand upon questions of public interest. This I propose to do.

Very Respectfully,
HART GIBSON.

A CARD.

To the Democrats of Fayette County.

I have been advised that something like a week ago, two questions were proposed in the Lexington Transcript to the gentlemen who are candidates for the Legislature from the county of Fayette.

I proposed to the two gentlemen, who are my opponents, that these questions should be answered in the Court House on Monday last, but the arrangement could not be made.

My object in this communication, is simply to answer categorically the questions as submitted.

1st. As to free turnpikes.

There are legal questions involved in this subject, which, so far as I am informed, have never been satisfactorily settled. If elected to the Legislature, I shall do all in my power to make every turnpike in Fayette county free.

2nd. As to the Whipping Post, I shall introduce a bill (if elected,) and give it my heartiest support. I believe the public sentiment of the County is in accord with my personal convictions.

Now a word as to the card of Maj. Johnston, and the editorial by the nominal owner and editor of the Sunday Press. Maj. Johnston says "that they (meaning the Fayette county Democracy) readily agree, that a man worthy to represent the honor and interests of Fayette county, and I be ought to have convictions, and the firmness to adhere to them under any pressure that may be brought to bear." This is very well. But just observe what he says in the preceding paragraph.

"I will in the event of my election, carry out the expressed wishes of my constituents on all questions, though I might hold a different opinion. Wonderful elasticity of conscience! The Democracy wants a man capable of resisting any pressure that may be brought against him, but when the pressure is brought to bear against him, he must sacrifice his convictions and yield heartily and cordially to the pressure."

Now, Democrats of Fayette, I want you to give your instructions on the first Saturday in March, in the selection of your Candidate. How else are you to instruct your Representative? By another precinct election, or perhaps, a mass meeting in Lexington of two or three hundred men, half of whom are from the city?

Having thus responded frankly to the above questions, I now desire to say a word or two with respect to the editorial in the Lexington Press. "No man," says the etologist of Maj. Johnston, is expected to forego and abdicate his personal opinions, but he is expected nevertheless to subordinate his personal convictions, however, pronounced, etc., "Subordinate" I thank thee for that word! Note well the distinction. No abdication of conscientious convictions, but only subordination. This is a question of casuistry rather than of practical politics. Shame upon this stab at the character of Maj. Johnston, as a man and a gentleman which is beyond reproach.

But how, if elected without committing to anything except the will of an unascertainable majority of his constituents is the position of a candidate to be known? And who subsequent to the Primary Election is to be the judge of the will of the majority of the Democracy of the county? What better opportunity is offered to ascertain the opinion of the majority of the Democracy of Fayette, upon these and other vital questions than the primary election to be held the first Saturday in March? If you want the Whipping Post vote for a Representative, who declares himself openly and unequivocally for it now, and does not seek to evade the question by appealing subsequently to a majority which cannot possibly be ascertained and whose personal convictions are against the measure. So also if you want free turnpikes, vote for a candidate who says now that he is in favor of abolishing toll-gates, having due regard to the rights and equities of all parties concerned. Let your Representative go to Frankfort with his instructions in his pocket.

One word in conclusion. If I am called upon to "surrender, abdicate or subordinate" any conscientious opinion or conviction, you will need to bring no "pressure against me." I shall resign the trust reposed in me and my commission to the honest Democracy who confided it to my hands.

My friend Maj. Johnston says: "My candidacy for the Legislature has so far met with comparatively no opposition."

If Major Johnston would steal a little time from his business in Lexington I am persuaded he would modify very slightly, of course the positiveness of his statement.

I take this occasion to renew my invitation to my distinguished opponents to meet in the Court House Saturday next, the 15th, inst., at 2 p. m. for the purpose of discussing the vital questions which concern not only the Democracy, of Fayette, but the whole people of the Commonwealth. Should the platform on which I stand meet the approbation of my fellow Democrats, I should hold it as the greatest of all honors to represent the county, in which I was brought up, in the Legislature of the Commonwealth in which I was born.

Respectfully,
HART GIBSON