

New Orleans, 4th July, 1848.

Hon. Henry Clay,
Ashlands.

Dear Sir,

I have chosen a day interesting to yourself, in common with every true American, to correspond with you for the purpose of asking you to do me the honor & pleasure to accept, (as coming accompanied by the most sincere wishes, warm from the heart of an American Seaman, for the welfare of his country's ablest Statesman,) of the painting which accompanies this. It is a correct picture of the Schooner "Whig", a vessel which I recently commanded in the service of the Government, and one that for beauty of model, fleetness and good sea qualities generally, was entirely worthy of the honorable name she bore. Although not enjoying the honor of a personal acquaintance, I have long been one of your most ardent admirers, both personally and politically, and I but do myself justice when I say that in the several contests in which the true American Party of the country have been engaged with the view of placing the helm of the ship of State in the hands of the "Father of the American System," I have done the State some service. In fact I may boast of a genuine Whig descent from the old North Carolina stock, and may add (in which perhaps you will coincide with me,) that having been born in the congenial climate (politically considered,) of Raleigh, has not tended to abate that proclivity towards Whigism which characterized my forefathers.

Entertaining the sentiments suggested, I have often desired to

July 4. 1848

William Lewis

Parent's School
New Orleans