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Dear Sir, Our friend Mr Gen. forwarded to me by the last post your favor of the 30th of April. The post office appointment is a small affair in which I felt no great interest, my advice was however better than that you have followed. With respect to party the Candidates are both on the Democratic side. Their relative popularity, in their own ranks, has never been tested - but at the last town election, Tyler caused his nomination as town Clerk ~~giving~~ a strong opponent. Francis' support is extraneous. Neither the Senators nor Assemblymen knew the name personally, but gave their names to the first who asked them and J. Van Rensselaer is a resident of Albany, not having lived here for 12 or 14 years past. The Neighbors who sign for him, or those mentioned by you with the exception of Woresta are poor vouchers for anybody or anything. The Rev. A Kittle has been lately disgraced by one of his congregations for the sin of lying & and the other had him under trial for offences of the same kind very recently. Knickerbocker Rowley and Phelps I do know even personally, but Francis Mt. Canack jun. (for there are two of the name) is a drunken Irish Ditcher and Francis jr was my coachman & is now (I believe) Gen. Lewis's, but both good democrats.

Neither of our State News papers so far as I have seen them, have republished Harrison's letter. It is good as to forward the copy you have promised. Something in reply from me may

be proper.

Kosciuszko tells me that he some time since, wrote directly to Mr. Wallack, wishing to learn from him what measures he had taken to find the surviving witnesses, if one of them was yet living - but that no answer had been given to him. From what you state, it would appear that he has doubts whether either of them be dead. Now I am able to tell him that they are both dead. Carter in 1826 & Morris in 1829. The former resided in Lancaster County, Virginia, near a place called Kilmarnoch, where he died and Joseph C. Cabell, living at Warminster, Amherst County, Virg^a is his Administrator. Morris died in New York and a gentleman of that place, a lawyer (thru whom the information has been procured) says, that he and many others are familiar with his handwriting & can readily verify it, so that Mr. Wallack's difficulty will at last be got over. The gentleman I employed to look up Carter, if living, and evidence of her death if dead, come at the facts stated above in the course of a fortnight. What we want to know now from Mr. Wallack is, the time & mode of proceeding required by the usages of the Orphans' Court or Court of Probate, ~~under~~ in similar cases & if furnished with the necessary authority of the Court, Kos. will take his York witness or witnesses with him and will obtain testimony of the death of D^r. Carter, so as to complete the

proof of the will I have the question ready for the
supreme court at their next sitting. I am dear for you
very truly. John Armistead

9 May 1828. Red Hook

Genl Armstrong

9 May 1878

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Recd post paid 1/3

Printed
9 May

Col. Charles H. Gardner

Post Office Dep't.

Washington.



30 July 1829

Dear Col.

I avail myself of Mr. Livingston's visit to Washington to apprise ^{you} that the gentleman, as I understand, carries with ^{him} a number of letters to the post master Gen. on the subject of the removal of Carly, a P. M. at Upper Red Hook landing & the appointment in his room of one of the Outwaters. What was obviously an error in that business, was that after deciding to leave early in office, as communicated by you to me he should have been ejected, without a hearing of any kind. That this course might be somewhat troublesome, and in some cases, perhaps unnecessary, it would in general, be both just & wise, particularly where the characters of the ~~complainers~~ ^{complainers} complained against, are in every way respectable, and the more so, as the complaints are often got by means in the present case, having at home, no pretension of any kind to character. Mr. Livingston mentions a petition (growing out of the success of Outwaters) for removal of John Fyle also, recently appointed for Upper Red Hook Village - which was offered to him for his signature, but which he refused to sign. On hearing of this, I advised Fyle to ~~address~~ ^{address} himself by letter to Mr. Barry, and to solicit the favor of a hearing in case any charges were made against him, involving either disrespect to the administration, or official mismanagement & pledging himself to show, that if any such were made, they ^{were} utterly false. I hear also that in the petition against Fyle, they have thought proper to connect my name with their grievances - asserting that I had boasted of my Washington influence & power of putting in, or out, of office, whom I pleased. I need not tell you, that this imputation is sheer falsehood, without a shadow of truth. So far from this, I have never given even those I interested myself for, any hopes of success from my intercession and have turned aside many applications for office, made by persons in, and even out of the State, ^{with very little ceremony} ~~as you know~~, no great hand at bragging, on any subject, least of all, on my powers of persuasion, personal or intermediary. I know myself well enough to know, that this never was my fort. A man, who ~~through the whole~~ ^{through the whole} course of his life was too proud to ask anything for himself, is not likely to be very adroit in making interest for others. I should like to know confidentially the names of the subscribers to the petition against Fyle, who have taken such a liberty with me. I write this from my bed, where I am lying ill with a humbug.

Believe ^{me} yes respectfully & faithfully and let me hear from you.

John Armstrong

Mr. L. stops for some time on business in Philadelphia. I therefore forward this by mail. J. P. Vanepp keeps up his old trade of accommodating his friends. When he could not get the Philadelphia post office for his cousin Jacob Vanepp, he found no difficulty in getting it for his cousin Jacob Van Benthyzen. I was lately at Poughkeepsie, in a company of which the new post master was one, it was admitted by all, that the story of V. Klee's anti-Jacksonism was a fiction got up to oust him. His only crime was letting for Thomson versus Van Buren, but with this fault, it had nothing to do. Thompson had done him some act of kindness, for which he was grateful.

(6)
29th Dec. 1830.

Dear Gardner,

I received your two late letters and thank you for them. Their
past infrequency was easily accounted for. I can imagine the bustle of
your bureau and ascribed your silence to a very praiseworthy cause
— a sense of public duty. I am sorry to hear however that there was another
cause for it, in the state of your health. I suspect you of not taking sufficient
exercise. This is a great fault and will surely bring ^{on} its own punishment.
Beware of it then in time to escape the penalty.

Gen. Parker wrote to me some time ago from Phil. that he had
procured the loan of Harrison's Memoirs for me but had left it at Washing-
ton. To correct this negligence he says "I have written to Col Gardner, told
him where it was to be found and requested him to find some means
of sending it to you; during the Session of Congress, you may find every
week, if not every day, some one travelling to N. Y. by whom it might be
brought on & given to Mr. John Bailey, of the post-office, to be forwarded
by some private person to me.

Not having much to do with presid^t. making, I think &
hear little about it. Mr. V. B. is I think the strongest candidate now
on the stage for the succession after the Veteran's term is over — I mean
his full term of 8 years. W. is a man of great talents and many
requirements & no doubt much better fitted for high office than Clay,
who is at best a tinkling cymbal. How strange that the opposition should
have preferred the latter. His supposed western influence no doubt turned
the scale. With many good wishes I am dear Gardner yr faithful
John Armstrong

Gen. Comptroller

of charges

30 June 1899

for the

for. Charles H. Gardner

P.O. 846

Washington

D.C.

