Wilmington 27th Dec. 1827

Dear Sir

I noticed an Editorial remark in your last paper which I was much concerned to see. But acting upon the principle by which I have been always governed never to lose a friend ~~without~~ for the worse of an attempt ~~at explanation~~ I at once determined to write to you upon the subject. I allude to the paragraph on the subject of the President's message which I sent to Mr Brown: The following are the facts in relation to it. I met Brown the day that I left Cincinnati & asked me to send him over of the Presidents speech as soon as possible I promised to do so & told him that I had made a rule to send one to all the Editors. He then requested me to send his to a gentleman at Wheeling to be forwarded by the Steam boat if there should be one going down. I agreed to do so. Now the chance was greatly against there being a steamboat there at that season of the year ready to go down & if that had not been the case Brown would have not received the message until all the other editors had got it. When I came to divide the messages (which I did all at the same moment

It occurred to me that as the weather had been remarkably mild that the River would be open & Steamboats at Wheeling ready to descend. I therefore had thoughts of directing them all in that way but upon further consideration it appeared to me that it would not be performing the spirit of the promise I had made to Brown for he explained to me the reason of his asking me to send the Message in that way was from the little vanity which exists among the Printers to have the Message out first. Now as I had promised to send him the things in the way he wished I did not think that it would be honourable to do a thing which would counteract his intention. I never had the least intimacy with Brown never was not a Subscriber to his Paper & have no motive to oblige him more than any other Editor in Cincinnati. Nor would I have turned upon my heel to have had the Message first printed by an Administration or a Jackson Press. I have determined never to take any offence at any thing however harsh which you might publish against the party to which I belong. But I really should have thought at any rate rather than a personal attack upon me from you

Your son has been with me several times. He is well I told him to give in my hands any thing which he wished to send you. I send you the report upon Naval Offering. I may say to a Jackson man that his brother Duff has not yet furnished half of the other documents. Indeed I have as yet got but five of the Message Reports

I write in the Spirit of the law & have no time even to read over what I have written

Yours very Respectfully

W. H. Harrison

M. Dawson Esq

Gen. Harrison
27. Dec. 1827