

Washington 27th. Decr. 1827

Dear Sir

I witnessed 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 ie “never to loose a friend ~~without~~ for the want of an attempted explanation I at once determined to write to you upon the subject.” I allude to the paragraph on the subject of the Presidents 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 & he asked me to send him one of the Presidents speeches as soon as possible I promised to do so & told him that I had made it a rule to send one to all the Editors. He then requested me to send his to a [gentleman] at Wheeling to [~~send~~] 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 direct 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 [illegible] 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 existed [amongst] the Printers to have the message out first. Now as I had promised to send him the thing in the way he wished I did not think that it would be honourable to do a thing which would Counteract his intentions. I never had [the] [least] intimacy with Brown am 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 [comerciliation?] or a Jackson Press. I had 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 of any thing rather than [a] personal attack upon me from you

Your son has been with me several times. He is well I told him to put in my hands

any thing which he wished to send you. I send
you the report upon Naval affairs. I may
say to a Jackson man that his [brother] [Duff]
has not yet furnished half of the other do
cuments. [Now] I have as yet got but
[five] of the Treasury Reports

I write in the session of the Senate
& have no time ever to read over what
I have written

Yours very Respectfully
W. H. Harrison

M. Dawson Esq.

{ Gen. Harrison }
{ 27th. Decr. 1827 }