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Title: Letter from John Tyler to Henry Wise

Date: January 1, 1841

Location: I-SpahrB-1952-5

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Williamstown Jan. 1. 1841

My Dear Sir:

Along with the congratulations due to the sea-
- son, I return you my thanks for the promptitude with
which you complied with my request in bestowing
rooms for one at 12 Crown- Unambitious as I am of
show and parade, I would nevertheless not have been satis-
- fied to have had the person of the Vice President on the
occasion of the 4th of March -

In suggesting to you the attitude in which you
would be placed as the leader of the Reform Party in the
House, I meant to express nothing more than my lan-
guage imported viz. that if you remained in Congress
you would be regarded as the leader of a party resolved
honestly upon Reform, and deeply committed to that
task by numerous pledges - I shall ~~not~~ regard as
nothing, nay worse than nothing, the result of the late
election, if promises are to be violated and expectations
disappointed - If such consequences are to follow,
I would much have preferred a state of perfect retire-
- ment, to the occupation of the position, unenviable in every
point of view, of elevated office - You shall always find
me a co-worker with yourself in the cause of the country
associated as that cause is with the faithful redemp-
tion of the pledges of the Whig Party - I was well
aware throughout of the discordance which existed
among the members of that party upon certain politi-
cal measures - but placing those discordances in the

one exclude, and the nominated reformer in the other, I he
retained not to respond in sentiment as I had done in
practice, with your toast in Philadelphia of "A Union
of the Whigs for the sake of the Union." That Union
can only be preserved by moderation, and if any one
faction shall set itself up as exclusive, the disolu-
tion of the party will be most seriously threaten-
ed. Such I confess has been my fear. The Old Nationals
may urge their schemes too rashly - I think they are
bad calculators and are too much inclined to substitute
will for reason. The restraint may however be
found in the strength of the Southern vote, which has
told too strongly in the late election to be altogether
despised.

Your information as to the Cabinet may be
unfounded. As late as the 21. Dec^r a friend writes
me from Columbus Ohio, that Genl. Harrison was
not there believed to have designated any person
for his Cabinet, and I certainly have no informa-
tion from himself, of his having done so. But they
have their own way of doing things to the north
and west - Public - feelings are thrown out in the
newspapers, with a view to manufacture public
sentiment - My confidence in Genl. Harrison leads
me to think that he will do his whole duty. He
will be President & firmly trust in thought and
in deed - I do not believe that he will submit him

self to the dictation of party - He should undoubtedly
receive respectfully its suggestions, but he will doubt-
-lessly esteem it to be his duty to decide for him-
self - Should he do me the honor to consult me
as to the cast of his Cabinet, I shall give him
candidly my views, and in any event I trust
that he will so acquit himself in the discharge
of this delicate task, as to meet the just expec-
tations of the country - Of your suggestions,
in any interview I may have with him, I shall
not fail to avail myself -

Very truly Yrs &c

John Tyler

P.S. Our friend Peyton shall have my best efforts
to ~~advance~~ ^{to} ~~advance~~ his views - I wish that in his
case at least, I could have my own way -

1841
JAN 30
BOSTON

Hon Henry A. Wise
Member of Congress

Washington

SLNX

Williamsburg Jan. 1, 1841

My Dear Sir:

Along with the congratulations due to the season, I return you my thanks for the promptitude with which you complied with my request in bespeaking rooms for me at Browns. Unambitious as I am of show and parade, I would nevertheless not have been satisfied to have hid the person of the Vice President on the occasion of the 4th of March.

In suggesting to you the attitude in which you would be plac'd as the leader of the reform party in the House, I meant to express nothing more than my language imported viz. that if you remaind in Congress you would be regarded as the leader of a party resolved honestly upon reform, and deeply committed to that task by numerous pledges. I shall regard as nothing, nay worse than nothing, the result of the late election, if promises are to be violated and expectations disappointed. If such consequences are to follow, I would much have prefer'd a state of perfect ret^{re}cecy, to the occupation of the position, unenviable in every point of view, of elevated office. You shall always find me a co-worker with yourself in the cause of the country associat^{ed} as that cause is with the faithful redemption of the pledges of the whig party. I was well aware throughout of the discordancy which existed among the members of that party upon certain practical measures - but placing these discordances in the one scale, and the promised reforms in the other, I hesitated not to respond in sentiment as I had done in practice, with your toast in Philadelphia of "A union of the whigs for the sake of the

union." That union can only be preserved by moderation, and if any one faction shall set itself up as exclusives, the dissolution of the party will be most seriously threatened. Such I confess has been my fear. The old nationals may urge their schemes too rashly - I think they are bad calculators and are too much inclined to substitute will for reason. The restraint may however be found in the strength of the southern vote, which has told too strongly in the late election to be altogether despised.

Your information as to the Cabinet may be unfounded. As late as the 21. Decr. a friend writes me from Columbus, Ohio, that Genl. Harrison was not there believed to have designated any person for his Cabinet, and I certainly have no information from himself, of his having done so. But they have their own way of doing things to the north and west. Pulse-feelers are thrown out in the newspapers, with a view to manufacture public sentiment. My confidence in Genl. Harrison leads me to think that he will do his whole duty. He will be President I firmly trust in thought and in deed. I do not believe that he will submit himself to the dictation of party. He should undoubtedly receive respectfully its suggestions, but he will doubtlessly esteem it to be his duty to decide for himself. Should he do me the honor to consult me as to the cast of his cabinet, I shall give him candidly my views, and in any event I trust that he will so acquit himself in the discharge of his delicate task, as to meet the best expectations of the country. Of your suggestions, in any interview I may have with him, I shall not fail to avail myself.

Very truly Yr Frd

John Tyler

P.S. Our friend Peyton shall have my best efforts to advance his views. I wish that in his case at least I could have my own way.