

An Old Political Letter

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

Recommended Citation

"An Old Political Letter." *The Annals of Iowa* 8 (1907), 234-234.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3412>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

succeeded in reaching Iowa City, but he some way or other made his way. Soon after the executive office was opened the following morning a lady dressed in deep black sought and obtained admission to the Governor's room. He received her very kindly as was his wont, for his was a polite and genial personality. After she had taken the proffered seat, she removed her veil and commenced her story of grief and woe. She told the Governor that she had called to make a request for the pardon of her husband who was then languishing in the penitentiary at Ft. Madison. "Of what offense was your husband convicted?" queried the Governor. "He was charged," said the lady, "with stealing a horse." The Governor's countenance changed on the instant from a smile to as near a frown as he was ever capable of putting on. "Madam," said he, "I cannot pardon horse thieves. I know too much of those gentlemen myself," and while he listened to her story he was incorrigible as to letting the man out of prison.

This story shows the meager means of transportation in those days and how a Governor could not avail himself of an automobile, or even of a stage coach, much less of transportation by railroad.

AN OLD POLITICAL LETTER.

An interesting letter was recently presented to the Historical Department by Mr. John M. McPherrin of Polk county, Iowa. The writer was an active whig of wide influence. The Knapp to whom he refers was Judge Joseph C. Knapp. Steele was a merchant and joint manager with Knapp. The addressees were the Van Buren county members of the Iowa House of Representatives, and Senate, respectively. E. R. H.

KEOSAUQUA, IOWA, January 18, 1847.

MESSRS: I have nothing more important to write than that the Dodge faction has got up a large petition instructing you to vote for Dodge. If you want anything more than the last election we will get up a petition to the reverse. There may be some Whigs on the petition who signed under false representations. I am of the opinion they can not get more than half of the Democrats in Farmington (Sanford's) township. Knapp informs us that the Democrats propose that if the Whigs will resign that they will and then come home and have another election. I have no objection for I have no fears of Old Van Buren. I made the proposition to Steele and Knapp that if they would make the issue Dodge and anti-Dodge and then head their ticket Dodge, we would head ours anti-Dodge and instruct you to come home. They would not agree.

We have eight Mormons in jail at this time for stealing at a considerable expense to the county and no doubt we will have more in a few days. If it would be possible to have a call court to try them it would suit the wishes of the people. But if that can not be done you must pass a law giving two or three weeks court at the next term.

JAMES JOHNSTON.

To Messrs. McPherrin and Sanford.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.