CIRCULAR.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

When I proposed myself to you, as a candidate to represent you in the Congress of the United States, I flattered myself, that I should be enabled to get through the canvass, without being compelled to obtrude myself upon your notice, through the medium of the press, or a circular.

It occurred to me that, inasmuch as I had resided amongst you for ten or twelve years, and was more or less known to you, from my having been in the discharge of several public functions, it was needless for me to attempt to bias your judgments, by means usually resorted to on such occasions: I was willing to abide the result in patience, and in the full confidence of your doing me impartial justice. I had marked out for myself such a course as I felt assured would meet with your approbation; that is, that I would never, directly or indirectly, solicit the suffrages of any of my fellow-citizens; but I find that, in order to do away, as far as I can, groundless imputations against me, I am compelled to resort to the only means left me of counteracting the effects of those imputations—that of communicating with you in this way.

I have been informed, that it has been urged, to my prejudice, that I have been friendly to the election of Mr. Adams to the Presidency; and that it was feared, that should I be elected, I might confer the vote of the state in the House of Representatives upon an individual, who might not be the choice of the state; to the prejudice of General Jackson; and to the frustration of the views of his friends in regard to him. And it would seem to me, that where I am known, that this objection to me, should not even be cast in the scale against me. Because my friends would have answered for me; and said, that as an honest man, I would be bound to pursue the wishes of a majority of my constituents, on this important, national question, should it ever become my duty to vote upon it.

In short, I would be governed therein entirely by the will of a majority of my fellow-citizens, and the vote of the electoral body. Here, then, the objection (if it be one) should end; that is, if my pledge is of any value in your estimation. I am no partisan: no administration man: but I am always ready to bestow the tripping meed of my approbation, on any measure having a tendency to promote the true interest of my country, without reference to men or to party.

Yet, there are always more or less in every society, whose occupation and delight it is, to infuse poison into the public ear, regardless of the consequences.

Amongst this class of men, I do not hope to apply the corrective with any success; but with the dispassionate and considerate class of my fellow-citizens, I do really hope, that the attempt to injure my standing as a candidate, (by what I consider to be a mere chimera; and may I not say, this shadow of an objection,) will recoil, with redoubled violence, against those who have been so hasty, so thoughtless and so ungenerous as to make such objections. It would not be the first instance of this kind of reaction.

My fellow-candidates have resorted to this mode of communicating with you, which I now use with hesitation, and in self-defense; and I feel, therefore, that I am justified in swerving from my original intention.

Some of my opponents, I am informed, have promised you much, upon the subject of your lands, &c.

I have lands in the same predicament with yours, and it is to be presumed that I would be as anxious to have that measure of relief extended to you, (in that regard,) as the gentlemen who have gone the round of the state making promises of this nature.

It is also to be presumed that, I know your wants and privations, fully as well as those gentlemen; I having made a settlement ten years ago upon government land; and succeeded in opening the plantation upon which I reside on Pearl River.

I have always made it a rule throughout life, to expect the least from that man who would promise most. Promising, and performing are two different things. Beware of the man who comes to you with his mouth filled with promises and pledges. This much I will promise, and no more—to enter upon the duties of my office, (should I be elected,) with a heart warmly devoted to your interests, and attached to no party or faction.

I remain, fellow-citizens, respectfully yours,

JOHN H. NORTON.