

From the Globe.
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
23d July, 1811.
Gentlemen:—I ask you to do me the
favor to publish in the "Globe" the ac-
companying "Card." I applied to the
Editors of the National Intelligencer and
to the Madisonian, (the organs of the
party to which I belong,) to do me that
justice, which they refused for reasons
which the public can easily see. I have
no claims upon you, either personally or
politically, and if you will do me the fa-
vor asked, I will not only be grateful to
you for it, but I will pay you my charge
for the same, which you may think prop-
er to make.

Yours respectfully,
Wm. L. BRENT.

To Messrs Blair and Rives.

A CARD.—TO THE PUBLIC.
With great reluctance that I pub-
lish the following correspondence be-
tween the honorable Henry Clay and
myself. I am compelled to do it by the
unfounded rumors which have
circulated the public ear, in regard to the
origin and termination of the unpleasant
difficulties it presents. I am opposed in
principle to the disclosure of making priv-
ately the subject of public discussion.
In the present instance, I have no other
alternative left me. In giving publicity
to the whole transaction, I leave the de-
cision of the controversy to those who
are most capable of giving it a calm in-
vestigation, and of pronouncing upon it
a just judgment. I could have obtained
any other satisfaction which I might
have desired. It will be seen below that
Mr. Clay admits that I had cause of com-
plaint, as would require of him "explan-
ations" of his conduct in the matter
referred to, yet he has suffered a period
of more than four weeks to elapse with-
out offering to me the slightest "explan-
ation," as an acknowledgment of a wrong
committed, or without demanding of me
reparation for the insulting language I
had fastened upon him. I had been
struck by him, and I would not have
shown justice that he should have atoned
for it, in his long period of time, if he
had omitted to do so, while the corre-
spondence was pending. If I had re-
sisted him with offensive language, with-
out cause, he has had more than suffi-
cient and reasonable time to have sought
reparation at the hands of one who has
declared in his note of the 22d of
June last, worthy of his "friendship,"
and who must be equally worthy of his
"affection." In either case, he would
be obliged to say, whether he has exhib-
ited in this instance a proper sense of jus-
tice, or in that civility which is the last
proof of honorable men.

Wm. L. Brent to Henry Clay.
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
July 10, 1811.

Dear Sir: I have just been informed
from a source entitled to much respect,
that you had the influence of your name
in favor of Mr. Fenall's application for
the office of District Attorney of this
District. I cannot but think that there is
mistake in the statement made to me.
Considering our past acquaintance, and
especially too conversations, which I had
with you upon this subject, during the
last session of Congress, I feel myself
authorized in inquiring of you, whether
this information be true. If early an-
swer will oblige, yours most respectfully,
WM. L. BRENT.

The Hon. H. Clay, U. S. Senator.

Wm. L. Brent's reply.
WASHINGTON, June 10, 1811.

Henry Clay's respects to Col. Brent,
and in reply to his note, he informs him,
that during the Presidency of General
Harrison, he adopted the role of non-
interference in office appointments, to
which he has adhered generally since the
accession of Mr. Tyler to the Presidency.
That, about four or five weeks ago, in
consequence of his long and intimate ac-
quaintance with Mr. Fenall, and in re-
ply to a letter received from him at Ash-
land, requesting a testimonial or recom-
mendation in his favor, (H. Clay
addressed a strong letter of recommenda-
tion in his favor to President Tyler for
the office of attorney of this District.

To Col. Wm. L. Brent, &c. &c.

Wm. L. Brent again to H. Clay.
WASHINGTON, July 20, 1811.

Sir: Your note in reply to mine of the
10th instant was received this morning.
The avowal made by you "that about 3
or 5 weeks ago" a strong letter of recom-
mendation, directed to you at Ashland,
you addressed a strong letter of recom-
mendation, in his favor to President Ty-
ler, for the office of Attorney of this Dis-
trict, cannot be referred upon any prin-
ciple to your deceptions and the con-
fidence, as I supposed, of sincere friend-
ship, before you left for Ashland.
You observed to me, that if you had
the giving of the office, you would offer it
me, in preference to any other, if Gen.
Jones would not object to my suc-
ceeding in the office. In the presence
of Mr. Fenall being an applicant, you pos-
sibly would not offer it to me, and I
would not intend General Harrison's
between Mr. Fenall and myself, and as
stood in the same relation towards you,
a personal and political friend. Af-
ter holding such language to me, and af-
terwards taking a part in favor of Mr.
Fenall, and of course against me by
which I have lost that office, offered to
me by my old friend General Harrison,
as has been determined by President Ty-
ler, I can no longer stand or feel towards
you as a personal friend; and I conceive
it right to say so in regard to your
conduct as insincere, inconsistent
with the high estimate I have heretofore
placed upon your character, and as such
as honorable men ought to have pursued.

When told by General Harrison, "to
a letter now before me, that from you he
had experienced more of the same treat-
ment in regard to years of devoted ser-
vice." I little thought that I would have
occasion, in my own case, to make the
same complaint.
That you had the right to prefer Mr.
Fenall to me, and to recommend him I do
not question, nor would I complain of
it, had you not stated to me that you
would not interfere in this matter. My
complaint is not against the recommenda-
tion, but against the *perfidy of the act*,
for saying that you would not interfere,
I have always considered you a friend,
and for you I have entertained stronger
feelings of personal and political friend-
ship, than for any man living, as my acts
and conduct for nearly twenty years of
my life have shown, and as is well known
to the public.

I will further add, that placing the
question, I had supposed you would be
the last man to throw your influence into
the scale against me, under any circum-
stances. I had supposed that from the
warm expressions of regard used by you
towards me, and from the sentiments
avowed in your letters to me (some of
which I have not over again) and from
our long personal and political associa-
tions, and more especially from the zeal
and feeling which I have shown, in my
humble way, in the support of your views
and fortunes, and to defend your honor
when it has been assailed, a friendship
had been formed, that no length of
time or change of administration could
have believed that, with the evidence of
such feelings and the uniform and un-
dying conduct on my part, you could re-
frain from prevailed upon to even express a
preference for me over another, in the
presence of me, as every one who
knows him and his feelings towards me
will admit. To say that I do not feel
that you have wronged me, is to say that
Mr. Clay's covered and secret influence
(which, if known, might have been con-
sidered) and the decision, made by you
in favor of Mr. Fenall, a political friend
of General Harrison, whose popularity
had elevated him to the station he
now fills, would be to assume for my-
self the credit of your own good sense,
and not to be candid to obtain
Mr. Clay's great error, if he really sup-
poses, as he insinuates in his note of 22d
June, that you will look upon me as
the result of mortification and disap-
pointment at the loss of an office. If
it were all that I desired or cared
for, I would not read should as I have
done, and now publicly brought before
you. Mr. Clay says "should not be al-
lowed" to be broken off, even after my letter
of the 20th June last. His voice is, as
yet, potential, with these words, "I
think I can make such explanations,
in regard to my agency in the appoint-
ment of Mr. Fenall, as will satisfy
you." In your present temper of mind,
I shall not sue.

I am, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
H. CLAY.
Col. Wm. L. Brent.

Wm. L. Brent's note, returning the en-
closed letter.
WASHINGTON, June 22, 1811.

Sir: Under existing circumstances, I
cannot consent to withdraw the enclosed
letter; I therefore return it to you, for
fear my retaining it might be construed
into such withdrawal.
Yours, respectfully,
W. L. BRENT.

The Hon. H. Clay, U. S. Senator, pres. at.

N. B. Mr. Clay received the last note,
with the enclosed letter returned to him,
upon 23d June, and has kept it ever
since, without either withdrawing or re-
turning it, after his former proceeding in
the affair, upon his part.

It is proper that I should accompany
this note with a few lines explanatory of
the various matters connected with it.
It is, doubtless, well known, in the cir-
cles of the friends of the cause, that
I have been a political friend and dis-
ciple, and a personal and political friend,
both of the late Chief Magistrate (General
Harrison) and of Mr. Clay. With both I
had served in Congress while a Representa-
tive from Louisiana, and with both I
stood in the most intimate and confi-
dential relations. The feeling of General
Harrison towards me are shown by the fol-
lowing extract of a letter from him to me,
dated "North Bend, 1st March, 1808,"
shown to President Tyler, viz:

"Credit me, my dear Sir, when I say
to you, that yourself and Alfred Powell
of Virginia, were the only men, who
above all others that I formed an acquaint-
ance with during my Congressional ser-
vice, possessed the greatest share of my
regard and esteem."

Those friendly sentiments for me (which
I will ever prize as the highest honor in
a long and checkered life) I know, as
from all his family and his nearest personal
friends, would be continued to animate the bosom
of this pure and venerable patriot, until
the day of death. As to the estimation
in which Mr. Clay held me, I need only
refer to his last letter, as published, in
which he says, that the insulting language,
which I had applied to him, and which he
ought not to receive," shall not be with-
drawn" by him "to break off our friend-
ship."

Very soon after the arrival of General
Harrison in Washington city, during the
winter, he declared in the presence
of Mr. Clay and several other gentlemen,
in his hearing, his determination to vacate
the office of Attorney of the District of
Columbia, and to resign the office of
Chief Magistrate, for the open and active part
taken by that gentleman, during the Presi-
dential canvass, while he held office under

the Government. General Harrison had
previously made the same declaration to
me, and in the same terms, and he told
me that if I would accept the office
he would give it to me. Understanding
from this source, publicly made and
declared, that I had no objection to
being vacant, and as it was both hon-
orable, and in the line of my profession,
I felt no hesitation in saying to my old
friend, that I would accept of it, and to
show him the confidence entertained for
me, by my fellow citizens of the Dis-
trict of Columbia, I presented to him
their flattering testimonials, (which are
on file in the State Department,) and
evidence that they would be gratified at
this mark of his friendship towards me.
I did not present myself as a "seeker" for
office, but as a friend of the cause, of
the able accomplished individual, who was
then the incumbent of that office, and
who has since been removed. That I
would not receive the office, had not my
warm hearted friend been so soon re-
moved, by the will of Heaven, from the
exalted station in which he had been
placed, I do not think I could have
done it; I do not think I could have
done it; but because in addition to his
friendly feelings towards me, my testimo-
nial, on file in the State Department, are
on file in the State Department, and
if applied, and because, immediately
after the office was tendered by President
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I had no opportunity of presenting my
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