

From letters to H.A. Muhlenberg
March to August 1844
Lancaster 26 July 1844
p. 493 (letter of S. Cameron)

Middletown July 22, 1844

My Dear Sir,

The enclosed is from the Democrat's candidate for Congress. He is the shrewdest politician in his district & a man of fortune.

Martin Gorgell [?], the son of Lewis F. wants a letter from you recommending him for the post of Surgeon Genl of Iowa, which he says is vacant xxx

I am going to Northumberland on Thursday to attend their big meeting & will take a turn through Dauphin County. I am somewhat alarmed as to the vote of this country, for I have no faith in the friend of Shunk & very little in the integrity of Porter. Here the administration has some weight.

From what I heard in the city I am afraid you have been given a wrong impression of my connection with the newspaper. I only agreed to give my money to aid my friend with whom I have acted from the beginning of the contest for your administration. [When Read called on me at Lancaster & talked of his affair I told him candidly my position & agreed to give it up on condition that all my friends] agreed. I had no desire or expectation of personal benefit from it, & as little to get into the strife of a paper, but as a rule of my life I always stick to my friends with my purse & my person. When Read called to (as above). He previously telling me that he had consulted them instead of carrying out this condition he starts his paper without consulting them. Hearing this I refused to be connected with it & his paper died. It was a poor abortion & I should have been ashamed of its paternity. Like all such sickly father[?] things it soon died without any one to mourn its loss. It seems Read wanted to use my money & influence & at the same time avoid what he considered my unpopularity & that of my friend. I am tired of such slang, I've not choose to be use by any man who had not openly avow his connection with me. I know well my own capacity for good and evil & I feel deeply the indignities that have been heaped on my reputation] by such men I could name who have feared my rivalry & in secret slandering me by innuendo. I have no desire for either office or political distinction & therefore such fellows may go to the devil. A paper may yet be started if it be only to keep such rascals in awe.

Of course I write this without reference to you for one of the few public men who have always treated me fairly, candidly and honorably because you did so I have stuck by you for ten years without a faltering step. I know that you have already been assailed in regard to me but I have too much confidence in your good sense & good heart to believe that you can be operated upon to the injury of any one who claims only your good opinion for his services. In the rest I can still take care of myself.



LancasterHistory

The Whigs are beginning to rally their friends for [Joseph] Markle & they will make much greater effort than we had imagined in the hope of aiding Clay. I do not fear the result, but we must omit no effort in any quarter that will give us a vote. I wish you not merely elected for that would be no great honor, but I want you to have such a majority as will be remembered with pride by coming generations of the Democracy. You can have such a vote if all your friends will cease dividing your patronage & go to work with their sleeves rolled up to make votes.

Yours truly & respectfully
Simon Cameron

Hon. H. A. Muhlenberg

