

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE IOWA LEGISLATURE, JANUARY, 1855.

The following correspondence was preserved among the papers of the late George Frazee (a notice of his life is in THE ANNALS VI, 639). Ebenezer Cook, of Davenport, and Milton D. Browning, of Burlington, were Whig candidates for U. S. Senator, but could not get the Free Soil vote, which went to James Harlan, of Mt. Pleasant, and he was elected. The contest of James C. Jordan for his seat in the State Senate was decided later in his favor.

IOWA CITY, Iowa, 6th Jan'y, 1855.

DEAR FRAZEE:—The thing you spoke of in your letter was attempted to-day, but “the cock would not fight.” The great “National wing of the Whig party” has literally “busted,” and the remains of Cook and Browning are scattered to the four winds. So mote it be.

Wright and Woodward are already elected Judges of the Supreme Court. There is trouble about the third, but something satisfactory will be done. I still have hopes of a Senator, but I cannot indicate the man yet. There has been more lying, cheating, swindling and corruption here this winter than was ever conceived of in my philosophy. The democrats do not seem to have any principles, not even the “five loaves and two small fishes.” They openly confess that Jordan is entitled to his seat, yet refuse to give it to him. They have sacrificed all their self-respect, and nobody has any respect for them.

Yours truly in haste,

JAMES W. GRIMES.

Mt. PLEASANT, Jan. 13th, 1855.

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 30th Dec., '54, was received by me at Iowa City—and now it is only necessary for me to say that your frankness in suggesting to me the true policy to be pursued by “a Whig” under the contingency suggested, adds another reason for my increased regard.

A man who has the frankness to advise his friend to a course that may conflict with his aspirations, is worthy of the highest consideration.

It is due to me however to state that my friends understood me to occupy the position indicated by you, *from the first*. And it so happened in this case, as it generally does, that what *Honor* required was in strict accordance with interest. For when my friends gave those, who had supported my election but coldly, and Whigs who openly opposed them in this regard, to understand that, although no principle of party usage could require it, yet that my name should be withdrawn if necessary to secure an election,—it was soon ascertained to be much more difficult to harmonize on any one else.

With high considerations of respect,

Yours truly,

GEORGE FRAZEE,
BURLINGTON, IOWA.

JAMES HARLAN.

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