

Documents

THE LETTERS OF DECIUS

*Edited by John D. Barnhart**

The *Letters of Decius* is one of the early publications written in Indiana Territory. It is a criticism of Governor William H. Harrison and his political associates, embodied in five letters, which were previously published in the newspapers. Copies of the newspapers seem not to have survived. The author was later forced to retract the charges against Harrison, but a forced retraction carries little weight. Jacob P. Dunn thought that William McIntosh wrote the letters, because of "their intense bitterness, the skill with which they are composed, and their subsequent appearance in pamphlet form" Dunn considered them to be unjust to Harrison in many respects but not as to the slavery question.¹ Logan Esarey was not particularly impressed with the letters, but regarded Isaac Darneille as the author.² Miss Goebel considered it impossible to sift the truth of the charges and agreed with Esarey that Darneille was the author. "Considering all the circumstances, it seems wise," she wrote, "not to place much dependence upon either the accusation or the retraction."³ She gave the work greater consideration than Esarey or Dunn, but no one has attempted a detailed evaluation. Perhaps, they are not worth such attention, but they do need to be made available to students of the history and literature of Indiana.

Isaac Darneille appears without doubt to be the author although it is possible that William McIntosh may have had some connection with them. Harrison stated that Darneille was the author.⁴ A letter of Darneille to John Breckinridge, October 22, 1803, and the enclosure bear such resemblance to the *Letters of Decius* that they must have been written by the same person.

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¹ Jacob P. Dunn, *Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery* (Boston, c. 1916), 302, 328. The Louisville, Kentucky, *Farmer's Library*, October 26, 1805, contains the fourth letter.

² Logan Esarey, "Some Unsolved Questions of our Early History," in *Indiana History Bulletin* (Indianapolis, Indiana, 1923-), extra number, February, 1924, pp. 54-55.

³ Dorothy B. Goebel, *William Henry Harrison, A Political Biography*, Indiana Historical Collections (Indianapolis, Indiana, 1916-), XIV (1926), 63-64, 67, 87.

⁴ "Harrison to Jefferson, Vincennes 5th July 1806," in *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison*, ed. by Logan Esarey in Indiana Historical Collections, VII (1922), 194-196.

Three letters of Darneille, including the letter to Breckinridge, and a petition concerning Darneille are published with the *Letters of Decius*, because they give some further information about Darneille and about conditions in Indiana Territory. The *Letters of Decius* are republished because of their scarcity. Copies of the latter are in the Library of the Boston Athenaeum, Boston, Massachusetts, and in the Library of Congress. The copy in the Boston Athenaeum was microfilmed and used with the permission of the library authorities.

The letters under Darneille's own name are more restrained, while those under the name "Decius" were written in the extremely violent style of political controversy of that day. The year before the *Letters of Decius* were published, Benjamin Parke, a reputable political leader of Indiana, called William McIntosh a thief, a filcher, a pilferer, a knave, a puppy, a coward, and an unprincipled soundrel,—all in one letter.⁵ In contrast, Darneille was a more skillful writer than Parke, using faint praise, maddening insinuations, ridicule, sarcasm, and rapier like thrusts. His letters betray considerable ability, but do not carry conviction in respect to his more serious charges. His judgment of men and events has not stood the test of time.

The author was thought to have come to the West from Mary and and to have been a minister. He was appointed an attorney for the United States in Hamilton County, Northwestern Territory, November 27, 1794.⁶ He resigned April 2, 1795. John Reynolds said that he came to Cahokia in 1794 and that he was the second professed lawyer who emigrated to Illinois. Perhaps he went to Cahokia after resigning the above position. Reynolds regarded him as a polished gentleman, a classic scholar, a person of strong intellect, and an honest and moral man, except in what Reynolds called his "gal'antry" with the women of Cahokia.⁷ The petition of 1818, printed below, refers to him as a practicing lawyer and an "Editor of a republican print." Presumably he had moved to Kentucky before this. Reynolds wrote that he taught school in western Kentucky where he died in 1830.

The contents of the *Letters of Decius* afford a more dif-

⁵ Vincennes, Indiana, *Gazette*, September 11, 1804.

⁶ Clarence E. Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States* (Washington, 1934-), *The Territory Northwest of the River Ohio, 1787-1803*, III (1934), 430.

⁷ John Reynolds, *The Pioneer History of Illinois* (Chicago, 1887), 221-223.

ficult problem than the author. A detailed evaluation will not be attempted, but something of the contents may be indicated. In the letter of May 10, 1805, he clearly pointed out that a delegate to Congress under obligations to the governor would not represent the interests of the people of the territory. Developments in Indiana Territory demonstrated the truth of this observation. That Harrison manipulated the Vincennes Convention of 1802 in order to secure the support of the territorial leaders for his reappointment as governor was charged in the letter of August 1. That the governor endeavored to guide the course of events and that his success as governor depended upon his ability in this matter seems a more likely interpretation, although Darneille may have been substantially correct. He also asserted that Harrison was active in securing the second stage of territorial government, just two years after he had opposed it. Here he referred to a letter supposedly written by Harrison opposing the advance to the second stage in 1802, which is not known to be in existence. Historians have accepted his statement in this matter. They have not so readily accepted his statement that Harrison was universally detested. The third letter was addressed to Benjamin Parke on May 10, 1805. In this letter he became more extreme, stating that Park was destitute of principle, a sychophant, and an aristocrat who was bewildered and lost, but who was expected as the territorial delegate to Congress to secure a second reappointment for Harrison. He then broke into sarcasm and ridicule. In a fourth letter, which was dated October 15, 1805, and addressed to Governor Harrison, he accused him of being a Federalist under President Adams, but a Republican under President Jefferson, and of refusing to confirm land titles unless the applicants signed a petition requesting the governor's reappointment. Finally, in the fifth letter, which he addressed to James Madison, Secretary of State, he presented eleven formal charges against the governor, four of which he certified were true, while the remainder he said he believed to be true. In the first of these he revealed that Harrison had refused to confirm a land claim for him, which establishes a motive for his hostility to Harrison. The charges included improper appointments to office, improper conduct in office, interference with the courts and the right of petition, and opposition to the division of the territory. Throughout the letters runs the accusation that Harrison and his followers maintained a political machine to control territorial

affairs and to keep themselves in office. Even more pronounced is the evidence that there was dissatisfaction in the Illinois Country with Harrison's policies and his distribution of patronage. During the time that the Illinois counties were a part of Indiana Territory there was much turmoil, but when they were given a separate territorial government their progress assumed the character of peace and contentment. Perhaps, this confirms in a general way the broad and less extreme contentions of Darneille.

The letter of Darneille to John Breckinridge of October 22, 1803, reflects the desire of the French on both sides of the Mississippi to be joined in one government after the purchase of Louisiana, and of the people of Illinois to be separated from Indiana Territory. It contains interesting comments on John Edgar and John Rice Jones.

The enclosure with the above letter, "Note on the Government of Indiana Territory" clinches the authorship of the *Letters of Decius* and indicates that the dissatisfaction with Harrison in the Illinois counties was not new in 1805. Some of the charges are stated here which later were repeated in the *Letters of Decius*. He developed more fully what he considered the tyrannical organization of the governor and his friends, and his criticism of the Northwest Ordinance is also more complete than in the *Letters of Decius*.

In the letter to the Editor of the *Indiana Gazette*, September 8, 1804, Darneille appeared as the champion of the French on the west side of the Mississippi. The contentions which he set forth in this letter were probably sound in the main. The "Petition of Members of the Bar of Kentucky" at least helps to locate Darneille in his later years. It indicates that he was favorably regarded by some of his neighbors at that time.

Each student of Indiana History should make up his mind about the value of the writings of Darneille. It is quite possible, however, that they deserve more credit than they have received.

The *Letters of Decius* are reprinted as in the original. To have inserted the term *sic* to indicate every error would have peppered the text with insertions. The numbers in brackets indicate the beginning of a new page in the original text. The page follows the number.

Letters of Decius

To the Members of the Legislature of the
Indiana Territory, to B. PARK, Dele-
gate to Congress for Indiana,
and to WILLIAM HEN-
RY HARRISON,
Governor;

TOGETHER WITH

CHARGES AGAINST THE GOVERNOR

ADDRESSED TO

THE HON. JAMES MADDISON, SE-
CRETARY OF STATE, FOR
THE UNITED STATES.

LOUISVILLE,

Printed for the Author.

DECEMBER 10th, 1805.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY.

GENTLEMEN,

THE people of the Indiana Territory have been led about in their opinion concerning the second grade of government by a whimsical and capricious executive; until at length it has been fixed upon them, either with or without their consent.—This is not a time, however, to investigate the propriety of the measure. It is done, and you are to act accordingly. Permit me to suggest that, it becomes you as the representative of the people, to guard in a particular manner, in future, against the undue influence of the executive. An important trust has devolved upon you by the voice of your fellow-citizens. Your intentions, in general, are believed to be good. There is no doubt, but that a majority of you, will discharge the duties of your station, with unblemished integrity; and to the best of your abilities. But you will pardon me when I premise that, many of you have been unacquainted with business of this kind; much less have you been accustomed to the stratagem, finesse and fraud, used by some of the more artful [3] members of the legislative assemblies, in order to carry some favorite point.—Let not the graceful address, the affable manners and the artful, engaging and fascinating insinuations of the governor lead you from your duty. The business which will present itself before you, and on which you will be called upon for your suffrage, will be important; not only as it concerns yourselves, your liberty and your property; but as it concerns the public and posterity. It would be endless, indeed to enumerate the many important matters which will come before you; but I beg leave to draw your attention, in a particular manner, to an object, which seems to me of the first consideration; it is the choice of a representative to congress. This is an object, which at first view will strike your attention. You will consider that, this is the first time you have had it in your power, to make a direct communication to the national legislature. You have never yet been known to the general government as a people. It is admitted without doubt, that this representation to congress, is of the utmost importance to the people of the Indiana territory. What a numerous catalogue of grievances have already been stated to exist in the territory, removeable only by acts of congress. How often have you made representations to congress and prayed for [4] relief, without success?—I ask, if such grievances do exist, in the government, as have, and will if not removed, impede the population of your country?—In such case, (and on which your future happiness depends,) will it not be necessary to use the utmost circumspection in the choice of a representative?—Will you trust a man without talents, without education and without experience upon such important matters?—Then endeavor to make choice of a man of a different description—choose a representative of talents, erudition and experience. For this purpose, permit a friend to your country, to recommend Thomas T. Davis. I know that you would feel sensibly his loss from the seat which he now fills—but he would be able to render you more service

in congress than on the bench of the general court of your Territory.

I would beg leave to caution you at this early period, against the influence of the executive in the choice of your representative. Be assured that the *instrument* of the governor will never be the *friend* to the people. You wish such measures to be adopted, by the general government, as will encourage emigration to your country.—This is not the interest, and therefore not the wish of the governor. Whatever may be his public declarations in the Territory, [5] his communications and operations will accord with his interest. His government and salary will become precarious in the same proportion as population increases.

DECIUS.

May 10th, 1805.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY.

GENTLEMEN,

POLITICAL contests tend to destroy that social harmony so desirable under every civil institution. Personal animosity, a consequence of civil discord, destroys that mutual confidence and good faith which ought always to exist among the members of the same community: it excites mutual distrust and suspicion among neighbors and friends, kindles into public strife and faction, and often produces civil commotions and insurrections.

It was not, therefore, my intention to enter into any political discussion, respecting the government of your territory: but since there have appeared objections to what I advanced in a former letter to you; and since the matter contained in that letter has been misrepresented; in justice to Mr. Davis in justice to myself, and for the satisfaction of the public, I will now give you explanatory answers to some of the more [6] weighty objections that have appeared.

I well know that, calmly to animadvert on the conduct of public officers is a right inherent in the citizen, and guaranteed to every member of the community by the constitution of every free state. But this right ought not to degenerate into licentiousness; contrary to this principle, I am sorry to find that,

A violent attack has been made against the matter contained in my letter to you of the 10th of May last. Two letters under different signatures, are the productions of one and the same man. His literary and political character and language are so well known that, a man of the most moderate information in this line, cannot mistake it. His elegant expressions, "foisted," "impertinent fellow," "mouth piece and puppet," "ignorance and stupidity," pragmatic whiffler," and a variety of others of equal taste and elegance in the republic of letters which abound in his political essays, under a variety of signatures, are a collection of fine words and expressions peculiar to himself, and shew to the world that his imagination is not by any means sterile, but on the contrary, abundantly furnishes him with a command of the most choice epithets and metaphors in the English

tongue. A happy circumstance, gentlemen for the prosperity of your country, is that, he hap- [7] pens to be a member of your own body: for with his natural turn of mind, and present political disposition, accompanied with great talents and the profoundest erudition and eloquence, much, very much indeed, may be hoped for. But I would not by any means, gentlemen, advise you to submit calmly, without accurate investigation, to any of his propositions—for the greatest men may err! And as a proof of that, that gentleman has already erred in the most egregious manner, I shall call on you gentlemen, to give testimony in support of the facts which I shall now state, in contradiction to his famous letter to Decius and to Mr. Stout. And although I cannot boast of elegant diction, and correct composition, yet if I can bring to your recollection, certain facts in plain common language, it will answer my purpose: for you must then say that, *what I have advanced is true.*

About three years ago, the governor, publicly, and violently opposed the second grade of government: witness his letter to a friend which found its way into a Louisville gazette. Last year the governor was active in bringing about the second grade: witness the polls of the election for that purpose, at Vincennes, where he voted in favor of it. Is this not whimsical and capricious?—Can this be called consistent political conduct in the executive?—Has [8] any influx of population into your territory, authorized this political change in the governor's opinion?—A reference to the polls of the election for the second grade of government will prove that the whole number of suffrages for and against the measure, did not amount to five hundred freeholders. This proves that population has not encreased. But a majority of these supported by the governor's opinion, is now said to be a "large majority!!"

It is well known that, previous to this famous letter of the governor, against the second grade of government, the people, whether right or wrong, had generally petitioned the governor to adopt the measure. A declaration of his own opinion, accompanied with an exaggerated calculation of the expences incident to this form of government, alarmed the people, by a representation of heavy taxes—and they immediately changed their opinions, for no other reason than those stated by the governor. *Was not this undue influence?*

A variety of questions have been put to me, some of which have been answered already. There remains one, however, which it may be well to answer in a particular manner. It is asked, "on what occasion he (meaning the governor) found laqueys, and understrappers so useful in his measures."

[9] Why really I am surprised that such a question should be asked: (in such handsome language too, for it must be admitted that the words, "laqueys and understrappers," vibrate most gratefully in the ears of the delicate readers, and judges of fine language) and that too in the face of all the world, who will testify to the truth of what I shall state in answer!—

When a change of administration had taken place in the general government, and federalism, the tenure of Mr. Harrison's commission,

had rendered his government precarious—do you not recollect the petitions that were circulated for signers in the fall 1802, addressed to the president, humbly praying that Mr. Harrison might be re-appointed governor of the Indiana Territory? Who was it but “laqueys and understrappers,” who drew up the petitions in his favor, and put them in circulation? Do you not remember the convention holden at Vincennes in the winter of 1802—3? Here Mr Harrison with his usual address, influenced the whole convention. It will be asked, in what did Mr. Harrison influence the convention? In answer, I will ask if you do not know that, by his art and intrigue he gulled a majority of the convention into his measures? Was he not the man who proposed to the convention to recommend John Rice Jones to the president, for commission of first judge of the territory, and that too contrary to the wishes of a great majority of the citizens of the territory? And did he not by his instruments get himself recommended by the convention to the president for a reappointment? Do you not recollect the artful manner in which the governor succeeded with the convention in the appointment of an agent to congress? Do you not believe that, that agent, to the best of his abilities (in gratitude, for he is a man of some principles) would have sacrificed the Indiana territory, and all its inhabitants to the ambition of the governor?—

But the members of the convention were not blamable; a great majority of whom were honest industrious farmers. They acted without any sinister views themselves, and suspected none in others. Advantages were taken of them and they were led into measures, on which, a few days after, they reflected with regret.

The conduct of the governor is well known, and therefore the round assertions of sycophants and parasites will not be listened to in support of an executive, who is almost as universally detested as he is known.

Notwithstanding all that Mr. Harrison’s friend and panegyrist may say, there are gentlemen in the eastern states, who are possessed of great taste for fine language and diction in composition—but at the same time, they will not be led away by a flow of fine words and expressions. They will consult reason and be guided by it. They will draw conclusions from a statement of facts, on which they will form their judgments. The good lad “Ned,” ought to take advice, and write nothing for the future for his friend Harrison; for every thing he says in his favor, is construed by the public, and particularly in the literary world as satirical against him. To render the most essential service to Mr. Harrison his boy “Ned,” ought to be kept perfectly silent.—

In justice to Mr. Davis, I most frankly confess that I never consulted him on the publication of my letter to you, recommending him as your delegate to congress. Nor did I know at that time, that he would have accepted of the appointment; nor have I yet spoken to him about it, nor does he know me. But I thought and yet think that he is the man you ought to send. Mr. Davis is known, as a member of congress by representation, to be *active, firm and independent*. His *experience, information, erudition and native goodness of*

heart are sufficient appologies for my having proposed him as a candidate, & it is believed that he would act with recitude of principle as well as [12] disposition in discharge of the duties of a representative.

I had reason to believe that Mr. Harrison intended to use his influence for his favorite to be elected, who certainly does not merit the appointment, but from whom Mr. Harrison might expect much more than from Mr. Davis. I therefore gave you to understand that, in my opinion, you ought to beware of *executive influence* ; and I believe that *your most essential interest depend on this particular*. Nor can I well understand how this can be considered as unfair. In politics, it is necessary to strike at the source of impending evils, in order to remove them. And where is the harm, if Mr. Davis should be elected by an exposition of the *truth* against Mr. Harrison?

DECIUS.

August 1st, 1805.

CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS.

TO THE HON. B. PARK, ESQ. DELEGATE TO CONGRESS
FROM THE INDIANA TERRITORY.

SIR,

On the late unexpected event of your election to congress, permit me to address you. The station in which you are now placed renders you sufficiently conspicuous [13] to draw from your numerous admirers those soft and flattering addresses, so grateful to the feelings of an aspiring and enterprising young man.

Know then that, among the numerous concourse of your humble devotees, none is inspired with a more ardent zeal in discharge of this duty than myself. You may rest assured, sir, that I shall speak the language of your best friends. Then without waiting the opportunity of a formal introduction, you will not be surprised by my approaching you in this direct manner.

You know me not : because, perhaps, the etiquette of your station had not permitted you to take notice of me in the more humble, but enviable walks of life. In the character of *Decius*, however, I have had the honor to be taken notice of, not only by you, but by your *Patron* and superiors.—In that character, therefore, I shall now address you ; and I shall take the liberty also, of investigating your political conduct under the appropriate character of “Ned,” which you have assumed.

Whatever regard you may have had for the principles and language of a gentleman ; and whatever you might have thought of the principles of honor and delicacy in the several conversations which you have had, and in the composition of the several letters which you have written concerning [14] me, and what I have advanced relative to the government of the Indiana Territory, I leave to the world to judge.

But, sir, I wish to remind you that you here start up to defend a cause in which you have no apparent interest. The objections made

to the conduct of the executive in my communications to the members of legislature of the Indiana Territory, were objects on which you ought not to have displayed your wit. As a member of congress you ought to have manifested a certain degree of impartiality. What confidence can be placed in you as a delegate to congress, by the citizens of the territory, when under the flimsy shadow of "NED" you attempt violently to support a tottering executive, against whom there are innumerable complaints ! Destitute of principle as of argument, you denounce in the most vulgar manner, the writer against a tyrant, the oppressor of the people ; and at the same time you expose yourself to that unlimited ridicule and derision, of which, the wits of the times are so ready to take advantage. As you have thus exposed yourself in defence of your friend you must not expect to escape with impunity; for you must be sensible (if you are sensible of any thing) that you are not provided with the necessary apparatus for such an enterprise.—You must therefore fall as other heroes have done in similar circumstances.

[15] In terms little suited to the gravity of your station, culled from among the flowers of the Billingsgate and Grub-street dialects, and raised to the superlative degree of furious declamation—you have began hostilities. It now becomes me to take a certain position to maintain the ground and support the cause. That position I have taken and you may now discharge your heaviest artillery. But Mr. Park, would it not be well to reason a little on the matter? Then permit me to propound a few enquiries.

When as a member of congress you made an attack upon a private citizen for having published a statement of facts to the members of the legislature of the Indiana territory, respecting the governor, what could you have thought about that article in the constitution, which guarantees to the citizens the freedom of speech and of the press?—Did you not feel on that occasion like a little despot?—Did you not adopt the conduct of the government of which you are the diminutive representative? Did you not think of aristocracy and federalism? Of the sedition law &c. &c? Did not a thousand chmeras of this kind agitate your mind? And did you not blame in your heart the mild administration of Mr. Jefferson?—Yes certainly ; and so would any other little sycophant in the like dilemma.

In consequence of this attack, Mr. Park, [16] I would not pretend to use any uncivil language to you, such as to call you a liar, a rascal or the like ; for you declare yourself in the gazette, and the world may judge of you. For my own part if you will permit me to form an opinion of you from your style and manner of communication in your furious political disquisitions, I will only beg leave to infer that in my opinion you could not have been destined by nature to occupy any of the first offices of the nation, nor to become one of the *great luminaries* of the republic ; nor to *shine* in any of the *brilliant circles of life*. Nor do I believe that your *philosophic researches* will transmit to posterity *any important discoveries* ; nor will *your name* resound in the *anals of fame* as that of a *Solon* or a *Lycurgus*. On the contrary I conclude that *you were destined by nature to creep through*

the inferior walks of life, and die in obscurity and be forgotten—perhaps you might have made a good private citizen, if so I should have respected you in that capacity. But this desire of becoming a politician, a delegate to congress a legislator! This mission on which you are appointed, has put you out of your road, has deranged the order of nature with respect to you, has lifted you out of your proper sphere, you are bewildered and lost.

Anxious as you are to shew your wit in sup- [17] port of your friend Harrison, (who, by the bye thinks no more of you, than he does of any other of his creatures) you ought to do it by dint of reason and argument, drawn from certain facts—and not fly into a passion and abuse a private citizen, for, you know not what. But even *this* you ought to reserve until you arrive at the post of your destination. For if you harp on your pasquinades at present, they will become stale and ridiculous before you can twist them into the real service of your friend.

"You have no doubt, been instructed by your friend, as to the *great object of your mission* ; which is very plain to all the world who wish to know it. It will be your duty as well as you can, agreeably to your instructions, to keep the company of the members of congress, & tell them & the several ministers of state, handsome stories about Mr. Harrison, and say how popular he is in the territory, in order that he may be assured of his commission. You may do this with much ease, and some truth : for Mr. Harrison is a man of some merit, has handsome manners, and a certain *Jane sais quoi*, to acquire popularity with a certain description of men; in conversation he is sprightly and gay—can repeat a theatrical performance, and mimic a blackguard as well as I ever saw a man in my life. All this, and much more repeated by you, and [18] embellished by the fertile invention of your imagination and language, might be of service to Mr. Harrison, and he is well assured that you would not injure him intentionally ; it would be the height of ingratitude, for it is to him you owe your political existence and consequence ; for which reason I would advise you to take care, and not suffer yourself to fly out into such furious transports of passion ; for, in such a state of enthusiasm, you might let slip something injurious to your friend. The consequence of such a mistake, as it might effect yourself, would be *nothing* ; for by this time all your acquaintance and many others know you well. You have *nothing*, in the strictest sense of the expression, to loose, but your friend has a great deal. I said all your acquaintance by this time must know you well; yes & I make no doubt, but that the imaginations of many have been upon the torture to find out the reason why the people of the Indiana territory have been induced to make use of a person of your talents upon such business! But there are also many gentlemen with whom you have found means to be made acquainted, whose penetration has led them to the truth of the matter ; and they have seen that the contrivance of a legislature and a delegate to congress, is not a business in which the people of the [19] territory are much concerned : no, it is your friend Mr. Harrison who is interested, and you are most properly supposed to be

his instrument, under the mask of delegate to congress for the Indiana territory. Should you then conduct yourself in a cool & deliberate manner, gentlemen who even know the contrivances, would notwithstanding be induced to believe what you might say *in that simple awkward manner* which you sometimes put on, and which seems to become your person so well, that one would believe it to be natural—but when you break out into those enthusiastic transports of passion, the order and symetry of your features entirely distorted ; the hedious frowns and unparalleled grimaces that you make, the spleen and gall that you vent on such occasions, accompanied with the most obscene and indelicate expressions, with the manners and gesticulations of a perfect simpleton, you must certainly place your friend Harrison in the most eminent danger. For notwithstanding the many handsome lessons which you will no doubt receive from your friend before you set out on this important embassy, yet the difficulty of making yourself acquainted in this new sphere of action, with the art and intrigue necessary to Play your part to advantage, is too great to be surmounted by a man of your composition and capacity in the course of [20] a few years. To do business of this kind, it requires a considerable fund of good sense handsome and engaging manners, and agreeable address, and all these attached to a person of a different mould from that long uncouth frame that you have to train about the city of Washington. All these things put together, I must conclude that your friend, *not you*, must be in some danger. Else why this violent attack, by a person in your station, upon a simple individual?—You break out like a storm, like a hurricane, and in the most tempestuous and turbulent manner, you hurl out execrations against *me* as well as against the subject matter of my communications.—

But, Mr. Park, you have attacked me, and now pray what can you do? You cannot put me out of office, nor oust me of my pension, for I have neither. You cannot destroy my future expectations, nor blast the embryo of future elevation, for I most frankly declare to you, and to the world, that I have no pretensions whatever to any public employment. In despite of all your wanton shew of malice, of vengeance, and of I know not what, I shall still live happy in my little retirement, in the cultivation of the social virtues and in the great circle of my friends, when your spleen, fury and rancour, will finally recoil on yourself, your vain efforts will prove abortive, and you [21] will at last become the victim of your own folly and extravagance. Poor unhappy man! I lament your fate! For although a misfortune of this kind, would seem of very little consequence to a man in the ordinary walks of life yet from the elevated situation in which you now believe yourself to stand, the fall, the tremendous fall! Which will inevitably happen, will not only shock your whole vital system, as an immense dischare of electrical fire, but will finally annihilate your political existence. Is it not a dreadful precipice on which you now stand? From which, believe me, the slightest touch will send you down, down to the very bottom of the abyss below, where you will find yourself in entire darkness and obscurity. What an awful spectacle presents itself immediately to the imagination of

the fallen *creature!* When he reflects on the beauties and elegance of the eminence on which he formerly stood! Would you not prefer the final dissolution of your terrestrial fabric? Would you not prefer to fall from the tarpean rock? Where you would only terminate this transitory existence, and leave behind you that uncouth mass of stupid clay, but where there would remain a probability that your fame would occupy too or three lines in history?—Yes, certainly, say you. But, Mr. Park, the probability is, that you will fall before you have done any thing in [22] your mission to congress or elsewhere, sufficiently remarkable to occupy one line in history.

It requires very little skill in the art of divination to foretell that such men as you will never immortalize themselves by any important service rendered to the public. But there are many such, who from a disposition to be talked of, and *to rise in the world*, as they term it, *would do any thing* to attract the notice and attention of the people: some of whom have had the honor *to be raised up in the world*, several feet higher than they wished, amidst the shouts and acclamations of thousands of spectators ; but such marks of distinction are soon over, and then all is at an end ; so fickle are the tides of popularity, and the caprices of *fame* !!!

Should you think fit to beat a retreat and call off your legions, I assure you that you may do it with safety and without prusuit ; for I have no disposition to spend my time in a contest with such men as you. Believe me, sir, I should blush to wear the laurels of such a victory. If you will not raise the siege, but continue to pester me with your squibbs, I shall take an opportunity of answering all your invectives at leisure. But you had better take advice, and “cease viper, for you bite against a file!”

DECIUS.

October 10th, 1805.

[23] TO HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,
GOVERNOR OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY

SIR,

YOUR friend and panegyrist is gone to proclaim your virtues and talents, to the house of representatives, the senate, and to the several ministers of state, at the city of Washington. On your account, sir, I have furnished him with a letter of recommendation, which may serve him as an introduction among strangers. You are therefore under some obligation to me. But I shall claim no favors on that account, except it be in his absence, and in the recess of the legislature the honor of a correspondence with you. I shall therefore, without [24] further ceremony, take the liberty of addressing myself personally to you.

The immense deserts of Indiana have not yet produced a Brutus to extirpate the monarch, and bring about a reformation ; nor a Cato to oppose the tyranny of Sylla ; nor has the illustrious example of Philip of Macedon taught *you to remember that you are a man.*

Raised to the summit of human power in your government, you

consider yourself, at present, one of those superior beings, to whom common sense and *plain* truth are not permitted an audience. Accustomed for a long time, to the flattery of your courtiers, and to the fulsome, ironical and satirical addresses which are printed and re-printed in your Gazette, you have entirely forgotten yourself, and you will, no doubt, proscribe the author of the present, as an intruder on your dignity and consequence.

But, sir, you must learn that human happiness and human glory, are fluctuating unstable possessions, and that one discordant voice, whose accents pierce with the irresistible shafts of truth, will penetrate the most secret recesses of your soul, and will embitter those splendid convivial hours, where you are encircled with those satellites of despotism, whose reflected glory, like the golden vapors of the west, will di- [25] minish and become obscure and dark, as the great luminary descends below the horizon.

Nature has implanted in matter of the same texture and quality, a principle known among philosophers by the name of attraction, cohesion and magnetism. By this natural impulse, creatures of your own disposition and capacity flock around you, and are received and admitted into your favor and friendship ; and are even initiated into the secrets of your cabinet, and are made counsellors of state !!—Without a personal knowledge of *you*, sir, your are known to all the world by the creatures you keep about you as your companions and favorites.

An unbounded confidence in your own talents, is the greatest proof of your extreme weakness. untaught by precept and unawed by example, you launch out on a perilous and dangerous ocean, without one skilful mariner on board ; exposed on all sides to the fury of the elements, you cannot be surprised, should you ere long, experience the effects of your temerity on a Scylla or a Charybdis.

The commissions which honor you, render your conduct too conspicuous, even in a desert, to pass without notice. The pranks that you have played, to keep yourself in office, are publicly known. The art, [26] intrigue and low cunning, that you have practised on a weak and credulous people, have marked you as an object of detestation. Men of honor and delicacy shudder at the baseness of the means you have employed to bring about your measures. The *premium mobile* of your conduct is your salary. To every other consideration you are perfectly indifferent.

Under the auspices of Mr. Adams, secure in your government, without sufficient political information to foresee the change in favor of democracy, you spurned from before you the numerous petitions which were presented to you by the people, praying for the adoption of the second grade of government. You then displayed your eloquence in furious declamation against the measure, as ruinous to the infant settlements of the territory ; and denounced the legislature as the forerunner of innumerable evils, and of burthensome taxation. And you had the glory of a triumph over a passive and uninformed, but a virtuous people.

No sooner was Mr. Jefferson elected to the presidency, than you began to apprehend danger. Your conduct was then marked with the

most consummate duplicity ; which has been a prominent trait in your political character ever since. From the firmest federalist you wheeled about like [27] like the cock on a steeple and declared yourself a republican ! But a simple declaration of a change was not sufficient. You then found it necessary to have recourse to the very people, whose petitions you had rejected, to assist you in obtaining a reappointment. And for this purpose your imagination suggested several expedients, by which you calculated on success.

Your *official influence* and *official power*, you took care to put in action to bring about your measures. As to the former, those who think fit may judge from the multiplicity of commissions which you dealt out with a liberal hand, to men of every description, in order to procure their favor ; many of whom were thereby metamorphosed into petit tyrants your humble devotees. You even went so far as to commission three persons who had been indicted for horse stealing a few years before, to assure yourself of the interest, of their family who are numerous.

With respect to the latter, that is, *your official power!* During the summer of 1802 many persons put themselves to the trouble and expence of going from the western counties of the territory to Vincennes, to present their titles to lands, for confirmation, and you constantly refused to take their claims into consideration ; saying that you would go to the western counties [28] yourself for that purpose. Accordingly in the autumn in the same year, you visited the western counties, and took in the claims of land without deciding on them ; but said that you would consider of them at your leisure, after you returned to Vincennes.

During your visit to the Illinois country you let the people know that, it would be agreeable to you, if they would petition you to call a convention, under the pretence of considering the expediency of the admission of slavery into the territory. The people, unwilling to express a disapprobation, consented to your proposition. Petitions were made out but it took some time to procure signers. In the mean time you returned to Vincennes ; and before the petitions were sent forward, you issued your proclamation, under the great seal of the territory, authorising elections to be holden for representatives to the convention—which you sent by express from Vincennes to the western counties. And at the same time petitions were made out at Vincennes, by your creatures and sent by the same express, to be signed by the people in the western counties for your reappointment.

In this situation you had the chances for success in your reappointment, the petitions for that purpose, which the people were in some measure bound to subscribe, as their claims for lands were yet undetermined ; [29] and should that fail the powerful aid of a convention, which you doubted not, would second your pretensions, seemed to assure you in the government. You had the good fortune to succeed in your projects. The convention not only recommended you to the president for a reappointment, but were induced to recommend one of your creatures [*sic*] for the commission of first judge of the territory & another was appointed agent to congress, at your special instance and request.

During the operations of this masterpiece of policy, by which you gulled the people into your measures, you proscribed such men as were supposed to possess too much firmness and integrity to become the passive dupes of this barefaced intrigue and duplicity ; and in order to effect the destruction of such men, you stooped from the station of a governor, to the low drudgery of fabrication, calumny, tale bearing and defamation. But this is not all, to such men you refused to confirm claims to lands, the titles to which were supported by the same documents and evidence, under which on other occasions, you did not hesitate to confirm lands to your favorites. And now, sir, instead of acting as the father of the people, you have become their oppressor. Instead of adopting conciliatory measures to unite contending parties, [30] you have sown the seeds of discord in the community : you have become the bane of social harmony, and the chief mover of civil commotions.

But after all your efforts, your appointment thus fraudulently obtained, was only for three years. You rationally apprehended that your conduct would ere long be investigated ; and you knew that it would not bear examination. Anxiety possessed your mind. You presently determined that it would be expedient to have recourse again to the weakness and credulity of the people for further support. To petition again would shew your weakness and betray your alarms and apprehensions to public observation and criticism. Another convention would be ridiculous. To propose and advocate the second grade of government, in the first instance, would, personally expose your tricks and duplicity to the public odium and censure. You therefore artfully set your creatures to work ; and your champion Park, with your assistance, behind the curtain, bullied the territory into your measures ! And with your influence, you have got him elected to congress. He knows the roll he has to play—I know it—and the world knows it.—Query, will Mr. Park succeed in procuring a second reappointment for you at the next session?—

[31] As a republican, sir, you would despise such measures, such artifice, such duplicity. As a real advocate for these principles which distinguish the present administration of this [sic] general government, you would say that six years in the commission of governor was long as any man ought to continue in office. And you would therefore disclaim all pretensions to a reappointment. But you will, now no doubt, adopt the finesse of soliciting a reappointment, as a justification and an honorable mark of public confidence in contradiction to the charges which are exhibited against you. But in this it is thought you will fail.

This, sir, is only a small sketch of the out-lines of your political conduct in the Indiana territory. I have merely suggested these things, to prove to you and to the world, that I know you, and am acquainted with your stratagems, finesse and cunning. By the next mail I shall make formal charges against you, and you may prepare yourself to defend them, for they shall be of a very serious nature.

Now, sir, should you undertake to defend yourself against the charges which I have made and shall make against you, I shall expect that you will come forward calmly, dispassionately and fairly, and

justify yourself in your gazette, as a man of honor, and prove to the world if you can, that the [32] charges against you are groundless, and that your conduct has been upright and just and not adopt the pitiful subterfuge of demanding the name of the author or prosecuting the printer. Nothing but conscious guilt can suggest to you such violent proceedings : which alone would more than convince the world of the truth of all the charges against you.

DECIUS.

October 15th, 1805.

[33] A SKETCH OF CHARGES AGAINST WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON GOVERNOR OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY, ADDRESSED TO THE HONORABLE JAMES MADISON, SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES, TO BE BY HIM, LAID BEFORE THE PRESIDENT AND SENATE.

Article 1. Notorious partiality. In support of this charge it will appear that, governor Harrison granted lands to his favorites, and refused claims under the same circumstances, and supported by the like documents and evidence which were pre- [34] sented by those whom he supposed not in his interest. Witness a militia right granted to Louis Labossiere, and several others granted to Nicholas Jarrot as assignee of several persons resident at Peorias on the Illinois river ; and two claims of a similar nature, refused, on application of Isaac Darneille assignee of the first proprietors. The evidence on which the governor granted to Labossiere and Jarrot, may be seen on the records of the Indiana territory in possession of general Gibson secretary of the territory ; and the evidence of his having refused claims under the same circumstances and supported by the like documents and evidence, may be seen in the office of the register of the land office at Kaskaskias, and the governor's evasive answer in his own hand writing, in possession of Michael Jones, esq. Register of the land office.

Article 2. The cotinuanee [*sic*] of a surveyor in office, against whom a charge of malfeasance had been made and supported in order to serve a friend ; to the great injury of the public. In the autumn of 1802, when governor Harrison was at Cahokia, complaints were made to him, by respectable persons against Danl. M'Cann surveyor of St. Clair county, charging him with malfeasance in office, as surveyor. The complaints were so well authenticated that, the [35] governor declared, in every public company in which he was during the time he stayed in St. Clair county, that M'Cann was a damned rascal, and that he deserved to be hanged ; and further that he would have him *tried by a jury* at Hull's and break him. He accordingly had a mock trial at Hull's ; and on examination it appeared that, M'Cann as surveyor, had been employed by William Biggs, to survey a tract of land of 400 acres, and that he returned a platt and certificate of survey to governor St. Clair in the name of John Sullivan, in order that the grant or patent might issue to Sullivan who had set up a claim for the land to M'Cann. And notwithstanding no sort

of defence nor justification was made by M'Cann the governor did not break him, but continued him in office as surveyor. A person who was present at this mock trial, enquired of Shadrach Bond esquire, who would be appointed in the place of M'Cann ? Mr. Bond told the person that he had desired the governor to appoint his nephew Shadrach Bond, jr. who was then in the state of Maryland, and who was not expected in the Illinois country until the spring following, and that the governor had promised to keep M'Cann in office, notwithstanding his notorious malfeasance, until young Mr. Bond should arrive. Several other respectable persons, and whose abilities were [36] adequate to the duties of the office, had solicited the place, but the governor wished to do a favor to Mr. Bond, and therefore continued M'Cann in office, waiting the arrival of Mr. Bond. And M'Cann under these circumstances was continued in office two years afterwards, and until the office of surveyor was virtually done away by the late act of congress. Is not this a government of favorites ?—Witnesses to prove the above charge ; col. John Edgar, Shadrach Bond, William Biggs, Nicholas Jarrot, James Seman, and John Whiteside esquires.

Article 3. The appointment of improper persons to offices to gain popularity.—There are three persons of the name of Whiteside, appointed and commissioned in the county of St. Clair, to wit : William Whiteside appointed captain of militia, and justice of the court of Quarter-Sessions, Uel Whiteside, Justice of the Court of Quarter-Sessions, and William Witeside [*sic*] appointed captain of militia. This family and their connections are very numerous. And these appointments were made or promised at a time, when the governor courted popularity, & his creatures were handing about petition for his reappointment. All three of these persons were indicted for horse stealing a few years ago ; the records of which, is now in the general [37] court of the territory, or the general court of the state of Ohio. They were not tried & honorably acquitted, but have got rid of the prosecutions, by the art and address of their attorney who had the trial continued over from term to term, until the witnesses died or absconded, on whose testimony, the prosecutions were instituted. Two of these persons have a seat on the bench of justice, because their family furnished many subscribers to the petition of the governor, and two command each a company of militia !!!

Article 4. The governor employed a party of soldiers of the U. S. army in burning lime for his private use, on the head of the Wabash river, while he went to Detroit. On the 31st of March 1803, governor Harrison and his suite, in his capacity of superintendant or Indian commissioner, obtained a party of military, consisting of one first lieutenant and Seargent, and twelve rank and file, to convey him in a splendid barge, to the head of the Wabash river. At Fort Wayne he obtained a military escort down the Miami of the lake, and from thence was conveyed to Detroit in a public barge or cutter, which had been sent for that purpose from Detroit. The party taken from Fort Knox at Vincennes, were not ordered back, when they had conveyed the governor to the head of the river, nor put [38] under the direction of the commanding officer at Fort Wayne, but employed

by the governor in burning lime for his own private use ; exposed to hunger and thirst, and surrounded without the means of defence, by a party of Missouri indians. The public cloathing was destroyed, and they were ordered back to Vincennes, in parties of two or three at different times and in separate peragues [sic], with cargoes of lime and merchandize for the governor. Witnesses, Lieut. Nathan Heald of the first regiment of infantry, Seargent Andrew Dunn, of capt. Lyman's company of infantry, Judge Griffin, Genl. Gibson, John Rice Jones and Col. Vigo.

Article 5. The manner in which Will. Henry Harrison disposed of public property consigned to him, as superintendant of Indian affairs. On or about the 30th of August 1803, Mr. Harrison distributed the annuities to the Indians resident on the Wabash in conformity to the treaty of Greenville. Before the annuities were delivered he obtained a party of soldiers from the garrison to assort the packages. During the assortment of the goods, there were found among them several pieces of chintzes and calicoes of a superior quality and fashionable figure. I do not say, however, that governor Harrison embezzled any of these, but will leave that to future [39] enquiry ; but he permitted several of his favorites to purchase calicoes of an inferior quality and exchange them for calicoes and chintzes of a superior quality, which were sent by the authority of the United States to the superintendant, not to be by him bartered and trafficked away for goods of an inferior quality, but to be delivered to the Indians faithfully and without fraud or collusion.—Witnesses to prove the facts general Gibson, John Rice Jones, judge Vanderburgh, col. Vigo, Robert Buntin and doctor M'Kee.

Article 6. The officious and interested interference of Governor Harrison in a cause pending before the general court at Vincennes. This was a suit instituted by Habeas Corpus for the emancipation of certain negroes, who had been arrested by Simon Vannorsdoll as agent for the heirs of John & Elizabeth Kuykendall. On a former Habeas Corpus, in which the same principles were involved, the general court discharged the negroes. And pending the second suit, during the absence of the counsel for the negroes, and before judgment was rendered, the governor by certain stratagem, finesse and cunning, outwitted one of the poor unhappy negroes, called George, as well by assuring him that the court would decide against him as by unmeaning fair collusive promises, induced the poor fellow [40] to consent to bind himself to him (the governor) for eleven years ! The suit was dismissed without a decision. In this case the governor has done an enormous injury either to the poor unhappy negroe, or to the heirs of John & Elizabeth Kuykendall And the truth of this assertion rests on this simple argument ; The negroes were free ; or they were not free; if they were free, what greater injury could the governor do a man than to deprive him of his liberty for eleven years?—And in what terms should the character of such an executive be spoken of?—If the negroes were not free why should the governor by an illicit interference prevent the heirs from a free disposition of their property ?—The case is so plain against the governor that it does not require a comment. Witness the record of of the general court

of the Indiana Territory for September term, 1804, Judge Davis, Judge Vanderburgh and E. Hamstead, esquires.

Article 7. In the trial of Robert Slaughter for murder, before the general court at Vincennes, September term 1804, during the whole of the trial, and on a motion for a new trial, the governor manifested an extreme and unusual anxiety for the conviction of the prisoner ; argued the case with unbecoming warmth in the streets ; attempted to change the written opinion of [41] Judge Griffin on a plea to the jurisdiction of the court ; put himself to the trouble of searching the law for the United States counsel, and rewarded him for the conviction of the prisoner, with the office of attorney general in the district of Louisiana, not being authorised by law to make such appointment. Witnesses to prove the facts, Judge Griffin, John Johnston, E. Stout E. Hempstead an Gen. W. Johnston, esqrs.

Article 8. Governor Harrison's appointment of a surveyor general for the district of Louisiana, unauthorised by government and extra-official ; and his orders to col. Soulard, appointed surveyor general illegal. In the month of October 1804, Governor Harrison gave to col. Soulard a written commission as surveyor general for the district of Louisiana, accompanied with written instructions, particularly authorising and directing him to proceed and survey all lands claimed under grants prior to the treaty of St. Ildephonso (Oct. 1st 1800) without any restriction whatever as to floating or antedated concessions, with which the district abounds. This appointment and order of governor Harrison was made from motives of favoritism, and with a view to create prtizans [*sic*], and it is believed, in direct contradiction to, and in violation of the act of congress passed the 26th of March 1804, entitled, "An act erecting [42] Louisiana into two territories and providing for the temporary government thereof." Witnesses to prove the facts, col. Soulard, gen. Wilkinson, col. R. J. Meigs, commandant of St. Charles, maj. Seth Hunt commandant of St. Genevieve, William Prince and Gen. Gibson secretary.

Article 9. Neglect of official duty in the district of Louisiana ; governor Harrison neglected or refused to appoint militia officers in the districts of St. Genevieve and Cape Girardeau and New-Madrid, from the first of October 1804, to the 4th of July 1805. thereby leaving the said districts without an organized militia to protect the inhabitants against the incursions and depredations of hostile savages !—Witness col. Scott, commandant of Cape Girardeau, Mr. Loromier, marjor Seth Hunt, commandant of St. Genevieve, B. Valle, Moses Austin, W. C. Carr, Doctor R. J. Waters, Doctor Dorsey, Edward Wilson, and Gen. Gibson secretary.

Article 10. Disgraceful inconsistent and highly dishonorable conduct as governor. About the first of November 1804, gov. Harrison promised to appoint John Dunnahow sherriff of the district of St. Genevieve and sent Mr. Menard nine miles to request him to come to St. Genevieve and recieve his commission, and after his arrival informed him that he could not have the ap- [43] pointment and gave the commission to another person. At the same time the governor made a similar promises to the friends of John Price which he violated.

Witnesses to prove the facts, Peter Menard, Judge Eastin, Doctor Fenwick, Pascal Detchmendy, St. James Beauvais, B. Valle and Thomas Olliver esquires.

Article 11. An illicit interference against the petitions of the people. In the month of September last, during the sitting of the general court, at Vincennes, governor Harrison made a very extraordinary attack on the sherriff of Randolph county, who attended the general court on business ; and from the authoritative and despotic manner in which this unforeseen attack was made, extorted a certificate from the sherriff, which was intended to operate against a petition of the people, in the western counties, for the division of the territory. It is believed that this conduct of governor Harrison is in direct contradiction to, and in violation of, the third article "in addition to, and amendment of, the constitution of the United States of America," and ratified by the legislature of the several states, pursuant to the fifth article of the original constitution, which the said governor had solemnly sworn to support-Because if congress shall make no law abridging the right of the people to petition [44] the government for the redress of grievances," *a fortiora*, the governor, a mere ministerial officer, limited and bound by the law, shall not assume that power. Witnesses to prove the fact, James Edgar, Col. Vigo, Wm. M'Intosh, Judge Vanderburgh, Judge Griffin, John Rice Jones, Benjamin Park, and Peter Jones, esquires.

I do hereby solemnly certify that, the contents of the first, second, third and eighth articles in the foregoing charges against William Henry Harrison, are the truth, and that the contents of the rest of the charges, I believe to be true, and will undertake to support them when required.

DECIUS.

December 1st, 1805.

FINIS

OTHER LETTERS OF DARNEILLE

Isaac Darneille resigns as attorney for the United States

Territory of the United States north-west of the river Ohio,
Hamilton County, April 2d, 1795.

SIR,

When I made a virbal communication to you of my intention to resign the commission of attorney for the United States, which I had the honor to receive at your hand. I was impelled by various considerations, but principally by pecuniary interest—The small pittance on conviction of respondants being an inadequate compensation for the duties of that office.

Other considerations alone are sufficient, but they are both numerous, and immaterial with you, consequently I omit to mention them.

The same causes still produce the sane effect in my mind:—I therefore transmit to you this letter officially informing you of my resignation which I trust you will not hesitate to receive; & if you should not consider yourself vested with the powers of the Governor at this time, you will please, as Secretary, to transmit this letter to his Excellency Arthur St. Clair, that he may be informed of my resignation, and do in that behalf as to him shall seem expedient.

Accept my Respects.

ISAAC DARNEILLE.

The Honorable Winthrop Sargent,
Esquire, Secretary of the Territory of the United States
north-west of the river Ohio^s

Isaac Darneille to John Breckinridge

Upper Louisiana. St Louis, 22d of Octr 1803.

Mr Breckenridge.

SIR, A knowledge of your patriotism and zeal manifested on many occasions in your capacity as a Representative in Congress, in supporting with manly firmness measures calculated to promote the welfare of the Republic, as well as in opposing, in the same manner, measures tending in their consequences, to tyrrany oppression and Slavery; and a firm reliance that such will be the rule and guide of your conduct in discharge of the present important duties which have devolved upon you by the voice of your Countrymen;—An anxious solicitude for the welfare of the Republic in General, and that part, in particular in which I have made a residence; Are objects of sufficient consideration with me to Solicite your attention to the present Critical Situation of that part of the Indiana Territory which bears the name of the Illinois Country upon the Mississippi, together with upper Louisiana.—

^s Cincinnati, Ohio, *The Centinel of the North-Western Territory*, April 11, 1795.

This country (I mean the western part of the Indiana Territory together with upper Louisiana) is an object which requires the utmost attention at the present moment. Considered as to population, this Country is respectable. The Citizens of which have never yet felt the mild operation of a republican form of Government They have always been taught to obey the voice of a Commandant. They have not yet learned that they have rights and privileges of their own, which are equal to the rights and privileges of their Commandants and of other great men. They have always heretofore been taught, and yet believe themselves bound to obey whatever has been, or shall be commanded them by their Superiors.—It is for this reason that there are so few signers to a petition which has been sent forward to Congress, praying a division of the Indiana Territory, and for adding the Western part thereof to Upper Louisiana, which will connect the Settlements on both sides of the Mississippi under one and the same Government. Which is an object of the utmost importance to the people, on both sides of the Mississippi river; as their common interest, their commercial connexion and daily intercourse with each other, furnish at once a demonstrative proof. And the division cannot by any means injure the government of the Indiana Territory nor any part of the Citizens thereof; As it is well known that there is a tract of country of 200 miles between the Settlements in the Illinois country and those in the County of Knox on the Wabash river, at the Town of Vincennes, where the seat of Government for the Indiana Territory is now fixed. Although this is a measure which would be productive of the greatest good to the Inhabitants of both sides of the Mississippi River, yet there are many who have refused to Sign the petition on the Eastern bank of the Mississippi, fearing that the measure would be detrimental to the Governor of the Indiana Territory! And however ridiculous such reasonings may be in the contemplation of well informed men; yet I assure you it is the reasoning made use of there by the Creatures of the Governor of the Indiana Territory.—The people here in Louisiana are not permitted to sign any petition to Congress untill the province shall be given up to the United States. But,

To shew the arrogance of that party in the Indiana territory, they propose using their influence in Congress to Join the whole of Upper Louisiana to the Indiana Territory and to put the whole under the Same Constitution and Laws which are now in force in the Indiana Territory; a measure the most absurd ridiculous and injurious to the people of upper Louisiana that could possibly be imagined, and is fraught with the greatest arrogance and presumption of those who propose it. I should be sorry, indeed, Should Governor Harrison be active in this measure; for it will render him obnoxious and odious to the people of Upper Louisiana, notwithstanding his present good understanding with the Lieutenant Governor of this place. To force and oblige the people of Upper Louisiana to go to Vincennes the seat of Government in the Indiana Territory, whenever it might be necessary to make a communication to the Government, or to obtain a final adjudication of any Suit at Law at all Seasons of the year across the

Mississippi and through a desert of 200 miles which is rendered uninhabitable for want of wood and water; would be a grievance insupportable; and which has already been spoken of in this place with *deep regret and concern*. The apprehension of the people of Upper Louisiana, of their being put under the laws and Government which now exist in the Indiana Territory, is matter of the greatest inquietude, and has filled the minds of those who reflect, with great alarm and anxiety.—And notwithstanding how desirable the measure might be of dividing the Indiana Territory by a line drawn due north from the Wabash and St Vincennes, running thence to lake Michigan and the territorial line, between the United States and Canada, and of annexing the western part thereof to Upper Louisiana, and of putting the whole under the Government of Louisiana, for the mutual advantages of both parties, yet if this cannot be done without subjecting the Citizens of Louisiana to the grievances of being subject to the laws and Government of the Indiana Territory, it will be much better for upper Louisiana to be made a Seperate and distinct Government from the Indiana Territory and *every part thereof*.

In consequence of the want of information among the Citizens of this Country (which I have already observed) it is probable that petitions will be signed and sent forward to the President and Senate, for the appointment of some designing men in the Illinois Country East of the Mississippi (who now occupy places sufficient to give them influence over the Ignorant and uninformed part of the people, who are, by the by, the majority) to places of the utmost importance in the Government of upper Louisiana. We are informed that petitions have circulated on the Eastern Shore of the Mississippi in the name of the people of upper Louisiana, and Signed by many, and addressed to the President and Senate praying that John Edgar of Kaskaskias may be appointed Governor of upper Louisiana.—[There is another of the same spurious kind for the appointment of Thomas Davis—I am surprised that Mr Davis has suffered it!!!—] And we are further informed that John Edgar is causing letters to be written in his name (for he is incapable of writing them himself) to several members of the Senate soliciting theiir interest in his favour. And we are further informed that one John Rice Jones, who is at present Attorney General of the Indiana Territory, and who is a kind of instrument for Governor Harrison, and therefore one of his favorites, has made pretensions, and is supported by Harrison and his influence, to be appointed one of the Judges of the Province of upper Louisiana. John Edgar and John Rice Jones have lived at Kaskaskias for many years past, perhaps for 15 or 20 years both the one and the other; and in consequence of which are both well known to the people of Upper Louisiana, and are both hated and detested by them—as having been the cause of the almost entire depopulation of the Town of Kaskaskias and its environs—As for John Edgar, (as I hinted before) he is a man of no information at all, nor can be be placed in any higher than the most common rank as to natural abilities; and as to education or asquired abilities he is as perfectly devoid as any country clown, you ever saw. Jones formerly wrote for him; but now there

is a young man who serves him in that capacity of a different turn of mind, and who without understanding the English language, or any other, produces nothing but bombast; as you well see by his letters, as I make no doubt but that you have seen or will shortly see some of them. Jones is a *cunning fellow* and capable both from natural and acquired Abilities, of overshooting the greater part of the people; he is a man of a bad character, for which reason he was not suffered to set at the Same table with Governor St Clair while the Governor was at Kaskaskias.—In fact, should both or either of these persons be appointed to any of the Offices in the Government of upper Louisiana, it will be directly contrary to the wishes of the people of this Country (I I mean the people on both sides of the river Mississippi) for they are both perfectly obnoxious to the people on both sides of the river, and could not be suffered in Louisiana. [As for Mr Davis, it is well known that he is a stranger here and altho' of sufficient abilities and capable of any Office in the Government, and how worthy soever he may be thereof, yet as he is a perfect stranger to the people, you must be sensible of the impropriety of petitioning in his favour, who is so much better known in Congress than he is here—I think that Mr Davis could not have known of the petition that was circulated in his favour, or he would have Stopped it.—] But one word for Jones—It is thought very strange by *all* the people that Governor Harrison has taken Jones into favour, but it must be considered, that Jones is a *convenient fellow*, and is ready at all times to serve the Governor in any thing he pleases. In fact he is the very humble Servant of the Governor, which is a sufficient reason.

I have but very little time, as I only consented last Evening, to write; and am obliged to send this letter off immediately to the Post Office in Cahokia, as the mail will be closed there this Evening. In consequence of which, and willing to give you all the information that I can, I beg leave to trouble you with a note that I made the first of January last, on the operations of the Government of the Indiana Territory; and which I intended to publish in one of the Gazettes at the City of Washington: But in consequence of the inclemency of the season, the communication was Stopped so long that the note got out of date, and has never been sent to the press—But as it contains a good deal of information about the Government of the Indiana Territory, you will be so good as to accept of it, and make whatever use of it you please; In confidence, however, and without naming names.—I am sensible that the note may contain many inграмmaticisms, and may want order and Style, but I assure you that it contains the naked truth of the facts.—

Altho' I have the honor to be acquainted with several members of Congress more particularly than with you, yet I hope you will pardon the intrusion, as I make the present communication to you, under a conviction that, Should you interest yourself in the support of the Division of the Indiana Territory and of adding the Western part thereof to Upper Louisiana, &c. &c. from that convincing and persuasive eloquence of which you are known to be so great a master, I trust that you will effect the measure.—And with that prudence

which has always heretofore marked every step of your life, with the information that I have given you, you will be able to frustrate the pretensions endeavours and influence of John Edgar and John Rice Jones who aspire at the first offices of the Government of upper Louisiana, through sinistre views and intentions.—Be pleased to drop me a line on this subject.—And believe me to be with every Sentiment of Respect and Esteem. Sir, Your most Obedient and very humble Servant

I: DARNEILLE.

P.S. Should you be so good as to write, be pleased to address my letters to the Care of Post Master at Cahokia Indiana Territory.—

Ut ante. I have almost forgot the English Language, since I have lived so long among the french people; for it is very seldom that I speak read or write in English, therefore you will be pleased to pardon whatever you may observe amiss in my writing.—I.D.—

[Addressed] John Breckenridge Esqr—Senator in Congress.—City of Washington.—Mail [*Postmarked*] Cahokia 22d Octr 1803 Free with compliments & thanks for the perusal. Th:J.

[Readdressed] The honble John Breckenridge

[Endorsed] Mr Darneile⁹

Note on the Government of Indiana Territory

[January 1, 1803]

A New year's Gift to those who may be interested in the affairs of the Indiana Territory.

"Countries thinly inhabited are the most proper places for tyrants; wild beasts reign only in desarts." Rousseau's *Social Compact*. Ch. 8.—

There is no condition in which man can be placed more humiliating than that of despotism. Talents and mental acquirements, learning and abilities are neglected despised and held in contempt; the apparent genius of youth is oppressed and perverted into ignorance and error; and the long catalogue of every Species of Vice and immorality Supply the places of Virtue and her happy Attendants. In this State men grow callous to the principles of plain dealing with one another; common honesty itself is hardly known; And the great majority of the people, actuated by the base principles of avarice and duplicity, seek the favour and protection of their superiors to shield them against the operation of reason and common right. Courts of Justice are degenerated into partial machines of tyranny and oppression. In all ranks of men a servile obedience, a want of candour assumes the ascendancy over common sense and common honesty, inso-much, that from the Governor to the petit justice of the peace, each hath his flock of sheep in subjection to him: the subordinate officers of the government, who have the populace to deal with personally are courted and carressed by them; the Superior officers are courted and

⁹ Carter, *The Territorial Papers of the United States, The Territory of Indiana, 1800-1810*, VII (1939), 129-134.

carressed by the inferior, and so on, untill one may assert, with truth, that in a despotic government, there cannot be expected, nor does there exist that best ingredient of human happiness Candour among the members who compose it.

Such has been the unhappy lot of the people of the Indiana Territory, for the long period of ninety or a hundred years past. They have been so long accustomed to the absolute orders if a *commandant*, and implicit obedience on their part, that (with but few, very few exceptions) they may be considered, at present, as the vassals or slaves of their tyrant. Nor is the abject obedience and servile attachment of these people to their tyrant, any thing more than that of a negro slave to his master: The latter obeys the commands of his master, for fear of personal correction, and the former for fear of the power of their tyrant over their property, their commissions, their future expectations, or some other similar servile consideration, which would make a free man blush with abhorrence. But slaves think themselves bound to obey their masters, and the master, sensible of his power, condescends to accept the servile homage, the base prostitution of dignity and Sentiment, as nothing more than a duty that his dependents owe him, and, perhaps, will frown and maltreat them after all, which is frequently the case in this unhappy government.

It might be thought by strangers that these people are now some what informed with respect to their rights and privileges since the introduction of the American Government. Let them not be deceived. The operation of the government of the United States, as it effects that Territory, is calculated to promote and encourage the same lethargy and inaction, the same Stupidity and ignorance and the same abject submission to their tyrants that existed previous thereto. This may not be very intelligible without further explanation; but it will be easily understood, when the present administration shall be examined.

A Governor and three Judges are appointed by the general government, to rule over the people. They reside at Vincennes. They are at one time a legislature; at another time they are a General Court; every one has his post, and all have the same post. It is a jumbled Chaos, a heterogenius body, an amphibious animal, a paradoxical machine; whose component parts are despotism aristocracy and anarchy, ludicrously fringed over with false appearances of republicanism. How public business is transacted at Vincennes, the seat of government, where this extraordinary thing, this monster of politicks, is found, I leave to the imagination of those who may think fit to draw conclusions from it's operation in the other parts of the Territory. The machine is so calculated, that the Judges, who, in the capacity of a legislature, make the laws, do, in the capacity of a general court, interpret them. And for their ease and convenience, they have devised the means of removing from the distant counties of the Territory, almost all the suits, which are brought before the Circuit courts, to Vincennes, where it is impossible for the complainants to prosecute; being obliged to go through a wilderness of two hundred miles, which is impassable during the winter season, on account of water and ice,

And in the Summer, for want of water. The plaintiffs, of course, are non suited, and have to pay the costs, which are no trifle in that country, where there is no such thing as a circulating medium. Upon cases of this kind, the Sheriffs in the distant counties are permitted by what is called law, to demand fees of milage, which, from the western counties on the mississippi, amount, besides other costs, to the Sheriff and other officers to about Sixteen dollars—the costs, *in toto* upon such a non suit, are between thirty and fifty dollars. The sheriffs in these counties, at present, think themselves little lords, and take advantage of the abuses of government, and calculate upon making their fortunes, presently, and that too with some reason; for at Kaskaskias where the courts are held for the county of Randolph on the Mississippi, distant two hundred miles from Vincennes, and upwards of One hundred and twenty from fort Massac on the Ohio, the Sheriff may well calculate on the fees of his office. But in the county of St Clair (likewise on the Mississippi) we shall presently See a field of the greatest abuse that, perhaps, ever existed in any government. That county includes a tract of country more than Seven hundred leagues in length, and upwards of One hundred in wedth. In that extensive country is situate the town of Michilimackinac, which is the most considerable in the county, at one extreme; and that of Cahokia, an inconsiderable village, at the other extreme. The officers of the county are appointed in Cahokia and its' vicinity, And the county courts are held in Cahokia. In this Situation, it is said, that, there is a law obliging all retailers of merchandise, to pay ten dollars a year for a license. There was a Witness produced at a court that was held at Cahokia last fall to prove that twenty odd merchants at Michilimackinac had retailed goods without paying for the license required by law. Indictments were found against them by the grand Jury, on which process were ordered, And now the Sheriff calculates on a voyage to Michilimackinac next spring which will be worth upwards of two thousand dollars in fees to him. Besides this, the Sheriff of St Clair occasionally executes process at a town on the Mississippi known by the name of La Prairie du chein, about three hundred leagues above Cahokia; And he executes process, frequently, as I am informed, at a town on the Illinois river about Eighty leagues above Cahokia. Upon the whole, the Sheriff of that county may reasonably calculate on a revenue of three thousand dollars a year. These circumstances alone, in a country like that, where there are so few people, and so little money, are sufficient to make every citizen curse such an administration, and with one voice, make a great effort for a change; or, abandon the government; which last is the ordinary remedy for such grievances, And which accounts for the reason of so many of our citizens removing to the Spanish territory.—In order to lessen the expenses of legal proceedings, and to bring Justice home to the citizens, would it not be conducive to their ease and convenience, and productive of their happiness, should the Governor establish courts of Justice in each of these towns, which are situate so far from Cahokia?—Yes, certainly.—

But, it may be asked if these people experience so many grievances, under the present form of administration, why do they not enter into

the second grade of government and constitute a legislature, as they are entitled thereto by law?—I answer, that they have already petitioned the Governor for a legislature, and have been *refused!* And further, these people have been so long accustomed to obey their tyrants, that at present they know not how to resist them. And the Governor, in order to form for himself the strongest party has taken care to commission a majority of the greatest fools in the Territory, many of whom can neither read nor write, and who are thereby metamorphosed into a sett of petit tyrants: he has gone so far as to commission two, who, I am informed, was indicted some time ago for horse-stealing, in order that he might be Sure of their interest; having conferred so great a favour on those who knew themselves unworthy of it—he might well suppose the interest of that party secured. But, it will be asked, if it is true that the people have so many causes of complaint against the Governor, why have they so universally petitioned the President for his reappointment for the next three years — I answer that, the petitions were set on foot by the immediate dependents and creatures of the Governor, and presented by them to the people, to be signed, And the people were afraid to refuse, not knowing the consequences of refusing that which might possibly give Offence to their tyrant. And the same reasons may possibly actuate the Convention who are now Sitting at Vincennes, under the immediate eye and control of the Governor, to petition for his reappointment; And I doubt not in the least but that it will be done. But the policy of the Governor, to bring about his purposes, is too evident, too glaring, to pass without observation. Knowing that his commission was soon to expire, last summer, when many persons put themselves to the trouble and expense of going from the western counties of the Territory to Vincennes, to present their claims of land to the Governor for confirmation, he constantly refused to take their claims into consideration, saying that, he would go himself into the Western counties for that purpose. Accordingly, last fall, the Governor Visited the two western counties, and took in the claims of land without deciding on them, but said he would consider of them at his leisure.—During his visit to the Illinois, he let the people know that it would be agreeable to him, if they would petition him to call a convention, under a pretence of considering the expediency of the admission of Slavery in the Territory. The people unwilling to express a disapprobation, shewed a willingness to petition the Governor to call a convention. Petitions were made out immediately, but it took some time to get them Signed. The Governor returned to Vincennes, and before the petitions were Sent forward he issued a proclamation authorizing elections to be holden for representatives to the convention, And at the same time his creatures presented a petition for his reappointment. In this situation the Governor had two chances of Success in his reappointment, the petition for that purpose, which the people were in some measure bound to subscribe, as their claims for lands were yet undetermined, And should that fail, the powerfull aid of a convention, which, he doubted not, would second his pretensions, seem to assure him in the government: contrary to the wishes of a great

majority of those who have thought themselves obliged to sign the petition for his reappointment: And I make no doubt but that it will be contrary to the wishes of a majority of the Convention, notwithstanding they may agree to petition in his favour, through a false delicacy, or dastardly fear of expressing their sentiments like free men. It is well, however, to observe that the petitions have not been universally Signed; nor is the convention any thing more than a very partial representation of the Territory, And chiefly composed of the creatures of the Governor.

Whatever might have been the President's instructions to the Governor respecting the treaty with the Indians, which was holden at Vincennes last Summer, nothing has yet been done, respecting the indian boundaries in the Illinois country or western counties of the Territory. I have observed in the *American literary Advertiser*, an extract of a letter to the editor of a Kentucky Gazette, dated St Vincennes Sept. 17, 1802, which reads as follows, "I have to communicate the pleasing result of *our* council with the Indians. Every object for which it was holden, so far as it relates to *us*, is completely obtained. They listened with attention and apparent pleasure, to the plans proposed for their advancement in civilization. They *all* promised their firmest support in carrying the measures of the president into effect. To Governor Harrison's perseverance and unre-mitted attention, this successfull issue is justly to be ascribed."—I cannot believe that this was written by the Governor himself; for, I suppose, he would not have paid himself this egregious compliment: nor do I know how the egoist, who wrote, could, with any tolerable propriety, usher in the words, *I, Our*, without being jointly authorized with the Governor by the President, to hold the treaty. He says, "Every object for which it was holden, so far as it relates to *US*" (meaning the people at Vincennes, I suppose) "is completely obtained."—For, if he meant by *US*, the people of the Indiana Territory, *the proposition is false*; as nothing has been done for the people in the Illinois-Country on the Mississippi. And further, it was with the utmost difficulty that the Indians consented to relinquish their right to the twenty four leagues square on the Wabash. Besides, *all* the chiefs were not present. And although sent for and solicited to come, *they absolutely refused!*—I am astonished, indeed! that men have not more regard to truth in their public assertions!—

Upon the whole, it may be observed, that from every part of the Governor's conduct in the Territory, he Seems to have evinced a disposition to retard the Settlement of the country, and even to diminish the number of it's present inhabitants. Nothing better, however, could be expected from a young man and a federalist, than that he should act in conformity to the principles of him by whose power he was first appointed to the Government. But it is earnestly expected that our present *patriotic President* will seriously consider the Situation of the Indiana Territory, and check the rapid current of despotism without respect to persons.

A Citizen of the World.

Jan. 1st, 1803.¹⁰

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, VII, 135-140.

Isaac Darneille to the Editor of the Vincennes (I.T.), *Indiana Gazette*.

Vincennes, Sept. 8th, 1804.

Mr. Stout,

IN your paper of the 28th ult. I have observed with surprise, a piece in which the author has treated the citizens of Louisiana and the American emigrants to that country, with the most unexampled calumny! and in order to render authentic this calumny, has assumed the signature of *Looker-On*: by which the people would be induced to believe that the writer had been an eye witness to the proceedings of which he accuses the people of Louisiana. If the author has been a *looker on*, he has certainly been very incorrect in his observations: but if, as he says, "from authentic information received, his correspondents have certainly deceived him. In order to take off[f] the unfavorable impressions made on the minds of the people at large, as well as on the minds of the governor and judges of the Indiana Territory, by the calumny contained in the piece signed Looker On, I beg leave to present to your readers an account of what has come to my knowledge relative to the proceedings of the citizens of the district of Louisiana so incorrectly stated by the Looker-On.

I am authorised to publish to the world, from information received at st. Louis a few days ago, that it had been the intention of the citizens of Upper Louisiana to draw up a memorial containing a statement of their local situation and interests and praying the governor and judges to enact such laws as might be thought useful and necessary for such their local situation and interests. That standing committees had been appointed peaceably to assemble in the several districts and deliberate for that purpose. That about the first of October next, it was intended that a deputation of one or two members from the committees of the several districts should assemble at st. Louis, and after the memorial should be prepared in a proper manner, to wait on the governor and judges of the Indiana Territory, (whose arrival at st. Louis they expected about that period,) not only to present the memorial or petition, but to receive and congratulate them on their arrival, with all that hospitality, ceremony and politeness which are the known characteristics of the people of that country.

So far from instituting or organising a systematic body, a convention to *dictate* to the governor and judges, the citizens of the district of Louisiana only mean to lay before them, their own internal local situation and interests, and *pray* that certain laws may be enacted suitable to such their local situation. Strange construction, indeed, of the intention of a known well disposed people! Infamous calumny against an enlightened well informed, hospitable and polite people!

The Looker-On accuses the citizens of Louisiana with licentiousness; the contrary is well known to every well informed citizen of the United States. He "hopes that the good sense of the people will point out the irregularity of their proceedings." He then says that "the Louisianians are unacquainted with our language, customs, laws and all the ordinary principles of the police of our government." Here, indeed, there appears an inconsistency in the writer: but in the latter

observation, it must be remarked, that in branding the Louisianians with *ignorance*, he is perfectly incorrect; for a great part of the citizens of Louisiana, I apprehend, are much better acquainted with the things here cited than the Looker-On is himself, and are much less subject to contradictions in their writings.

The Looker-On "*hopes rigorous exertions*, will be made to prevent the calling of this projected convention:" and says, (he seems to speak from authority,) that, "if it is persisted in, it will terminate in the shame and confusion of all the convened," and then he says, "if the people with certain laws passed, let them petition and remonstrate, the governor and judges will be *bound* to attend to the remonstrances of the people."

Now let me ask the Looker-On what better method of petitioning can be adopted by the people than that of assembling together either in committee or in convention (if he will have it so) thereby expressing the will not of a part, but of the whole of the people? Are not the Louisianians citizens of the United States? And have they not a natural right, which right is guaranteed to them in the constitution and by the treaty of cession, to assemble peaceably together and deliberate on their grievances and to petition and remonstrate for redress?

The government of the United States ought not to be understood to operate merely by the whim and caprice of the officers of administration; no, there are known laws by which they are bound, and from which they cannot depart.

What rigorous exertions then can be used to prevent the assembling of the people, if they think fit so to do?

Strange infatuation, strange disposition, indeed! to endeavor to vilify a respectable and enlightened people, lately acquired and annexed to the United States, who ought to be treated with all that delicacy and respect which they are so well known to merit.

I am indeed surprised that the anonymous scribler (I mean the Looker-On) should not have seen the great indelicacy and high impropriety of publishing his infamous libel on the citizens of Louisiana without having first received official information from the lieutenant governor and first civil commandant of Upper Louisiana at St. Louis. An officer, give me leave to say, as much attached to good order and the interests of the United States as any man; he ought to have been treated with more respect. I think the Looker-on must be an aristocrat, who wishes to prejudice the general government against the people of Louisiana in order that a system of despotism may be established amongst them.

I once more pronounce, that from a considerable acquaintance with the citizens of the district of Louisiana, I am authorised to say that it has never been the disposition of them, either in an aggregate capacity, in committee, in convention or in any other capacity whatever to dictate to the governor & judges of the Indiana Territory.

Enough has been said; and it is beliened that the Looker-on will

sound no more the tocsin of alarm, without having first received official information.

I. Darneille.¹¹

Petition of Members of the Bar of Kentucky

[October 8, 1818]

To his Excellency, JAMES MONROE, President of the United States.

The undersigned persons (principally members of the bench and Bar, of Kentucky) beg leave to name to your Excellency, as a proper person to fill a Judicial office in one of the Territories of the United States; Isaac Darneille Esqr.

Mr Darneille, is a man of liberal education and legal acquirements: we have known him for several years past, as a practising lawyer, and the Editor of a republican print, in both of which characters he discharged his duty with credit to himself, and advantageously for his clients, and his country.

Mr Darneille has supported so far as we know, an irreproachable moral character; and we have no doubt, should your Excellency think proper to confer on him an appointment of this nature; the trust will be well *confided*.

Mr Darneille is getting somewhat advanced in life, 'tho' perfectly competent to perform the duties of an office of this kind; and finds it unpleasant and disagreeable to go through the turmoils which, a practising lawyer in the Western Country must necessarily encounter

This, together with his having been unfortunate in pecuniary matters, induces him to make this appeal.

Your petitioners cannot forbear saying, they will feel much gratification, if your Excellency should confer on him an appointment of a judicial nature.

8th of October 1818.

Solomon P. Sharp
B. W. Patton
John Breathitt
K. A. Emno
Jno. H. Phelps
Maxwell Sharp
James Breathitt
B. Shackelford
S. Caldwell
Jno McLaughlin

Fidelie C. Sharp
Rezin Davidge
H. K. Lewis
Ben P. Campbell
P Slaughter
James M Johnson
Mill. Cannon Jr
Daniel Overton
N. S. Dallam
John D Patton

[*Endorsed*] Dept of State Mr Darneille recommendations of Isaac Darneille, as Judge in one of the Territories of the U.S. Oct. 8. 1818
Entd¹²

¹¹ Vincennes, Indiana, *Gazette*, September 18, 1804.

¹² The petition will appear in Territorial Papers of the United States edited by Clarence E. Carter, Volume XVII.