
[offered with] THIRD SERIES FOR 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1840; FOURTH SERIES FOR 1ST OCTOBER, 1840; FIFTH SERIES FOR 15TH OCTOBER, 1840; and SIXTH SERIES FOR 1ST NOVEMBER. Scattered foxing, loosened. Good+. Five of Six Series, lacking the Second for 1st September.

A bitter attack on the character and policies of President Van Buren. The author was evidently one G. H. Belden. Van Buren "is in his element only in a crowd; in the scenes where he may exhibit the novelties of fashion, act the demagogue, or play the political chieftain." Belden is a committed Whig supporting Van Buren's opponent, William Henry Harrison.
FIRST EDITION. AI 40-568 [4]. Not in Miles, Wise & Cronin. Under several accession numbers, OCLC locates six locations for the complete series of six numbers, as of November 2021.

(15181) $350.00

The first great spokesman for the interests of the West, Benton was a pre-eminent Democrat and a strong supporter of Andrew Jackson, despite an early violent dispute in which Jackson received a bullet in his shoulder. Benton declines consideration for the Vice Presidency in the upcoming 1836 election. He writes warmly of the Northern Democrat, Martin Van Buren, Jackson's Vice President, who has no peer in his opposition to the banking system; and provides a detailed biography of Van Buren's public life.
FIRST EDITION. Wise & Cronin 37. AI 30385 [4]. Not in Eberstadt, Decker, Soliday, Sabin, Owen, or Miles.
(24200) $175.00

3. Currier, N[athaniel]: HAND-COLORED LITHOGRAPH: MARTIN VAN BUREN, EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. N. Currier, @1837. Van Buren seated at center in red chair in front of green draped column, his right hand is grasping arm of
chair, his left holding a book on table, on which rests a quill pen. 13-1/2" x 17-3/4", matted in a gilt wood frame. Very Good.

(33011) $250.00

4. Currier, N[athaniel]: MARTIN VAN BUREN. THE CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY. New York: Lith. & Pub. by N. Currier, 2 Spruce St., [1840?]. Broadside, 9-7/8" x 14," on thick paper stock. Full-length portrait of Van Buren astride a horse, head angled to the left, looking front, with the ground in green, pale blue, and uncolored, a few rocks and plants, and a bird at the left. He doffs his top hat, and is dressed formally in a black, three-piece suit, with bow tie. The horse is white with black speckles. Toned along the margins, blank verso spotted. Very Good.

This is a rare Currier print, depicting Van Buren on horseback. The Currier firm worked at 2 Spruce Street from 1838-1866. Not located in Reilly or on OCLC or the online sites of AAS, New York Public Library, New York Historical Society, Library of Congress as of September 2023. We located a copy at the Van Buren National Historical Site.

(37109) $750.00

5. [Election of 1832]: PROCEEDINGS OF A CONVENTION OF REPUBLICAN DELEGATES, FROM THE SEVERAL STATES IN THE UNION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOMINATING A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. Baltimore: Printed by Samuel Harker, Republican Office..., 1831 [i.e.,
"Convention held May 21-23, 1832, resulting in the nomination of Martin Van Buren." [Wise & Cronin, Martin Van Buren] The names of a couple of hundred delegates are listed. Van Buren was nominated on the first ballot as Andrew Jackson's running mate, with minimal competition from Richard Johnson and Philip R. Barbour. Wise & Cronin 53. AI 12123 [4].

Jackson and his first Vice President, John C. Calhoun, had become enemies in the Nullification Crisis, their polar opposition bringing them into conflict. New York's Martin Van Buren, leader of Northern Democrats and a skilled political manipulator, was the easy choice. These Proceedings record the Delegates by State, the balloting and its result, and the "Address of the Republican Delegates of the State of New-York," defending the President's record, tracing Jacksonians' roots to Thomas Jefferson, and warmly endorsing their Favorite Son. OCLC locates only four copies, under two accession numbers.

FIRST EDITION. Sabin 93603. AI 13888 [1]. Not in Eberstadt or Decker.

Connecticut's State Democratic Party supports Martin Van Buren in the 1836 presidential elections, and excoriates the Whig Party, which had recently organized in opposition to Jacksonian Democracy. The pamphlet warns of "the dangerous and pernicious tendencies of monopolies and special legislation," and the importance of maintaining "equal rights" and "principles of democracy." Whigs, like their Federalist ancestors, advocate "a preference of kingly over republican government." Page twelve begins a "Short Review of the Acts and Proceedings of the last General Assembly," emphasizing the monopolistic tendencies of the opposition.

The pamphlet concludes at page 16 with a satiric skewering of the Whigs: "The Shorter Catechism for the Use of 'Whig' Boys of All Ages." "Q. Who arrogate to
themselves all the respectability, all the talents, all the morality, and all the religion in
the land? A. The 'Whigs'."
Not in Sabin, American Imprints, or on OCLC or the online sites of AAS, CT State Lib.,
as of November 2023.

(39627) $750.00

8. Election of 1840: ADDRESS TO THE DEMOCRACY OF THE STATE OF NEW-
YORK. Albany, N.Y.: May 7, 1840. pp [89]-96, large folded folio sheet printed in triple
columns. Caption title [as issued], scattered light foxing, Very Good.

An Extra, denominated No. 12, from the Rough-Hewer, a Democratic Party campaign
publication published from February - December The Address supports the Democrats' presidential candidate, and New York's favorite son, Martin Van Buren, against the Whig candidate, William Henry Harrison. The Whigs, descendants of the aristocratic Federalists, are "constantly struggling to create [distinctions in society] by legislation for the special benefit of individuals and classes, thereby throwing into their hands a power and influence strong enough to control the suffrages of the people, or set them at defiance." Resolutions and discussion of the issues, all presented with great passion, ensue.

(15487) $175.00
The pamphlet's illustrations: 'Harrison and Prosperity,' depicting a happy and industrious populace; and 'Van Buren and Ruin,' portraying a deeply depressed community, with a fat and happy manager of the Sub Treasury Office, and an elaborately uniformed Standing Army in the background. Harrison's sturdy character, patriotism, military service, and opposition to Standing Armies in time of peace eminently qualify him for the Presidency. Miles attributes authorship to Jacob Bailey Moore, the New Hampshire journalist.

The Democrat Van Buren, author of disastrous banking and economic policies, is a Loco-Foco at heart and anti-democratic. "We have had EXPERIMENTS enough; and the next change ought to be a CHANGE OF RULERS." Miles 138. Sabin 16181.


A detailed contemporary report of the 1840 presidential campaign, from the perspective of this Democratic publication. It begins with the Democrats' National Convention in Baltimore, with the speeches, proceedings, and Address to the People. A campaign biography of Van Buren, the Democrats' candidate [and Blair & Rives's as well], is included, plus discussion of all the issues: slavery, abolition, internal improvements, tariff, banks, the Whigs' [repeatedly referred to as the 'Federal' Party, in order to drive home the Democrats' point that the Whigs were descended from the
discredited Hartford Convention Federalists] muddled program and candidate, William Henry Harrison, "still shrouded in mystery."


This document records the terms of a wager on the outcome of the 1840 presidential election. "Watkins betts Swoope Ten Bales Cotton of Best quality weighing Five Hundred Pounds Each, on each State in the union (26 in number) that Van Buren will receive a majority of the Electoral votes in the contest now pending between Van Buren and Wm. H. Harrison for the Presidency."

In case that's not entirely clear, "The true intent and meaning of the parties is that Watkins risks Ten Bales Cotton in each State in the Union in favour of Van Buren and every state that Van Buren receives a majority of the Electoral votes." The bet is made on the electoral vote of each State. Watkins risking in favor of Van Buren & Swoope in favor of Harrison. . . The cotton to be delivered in Courtland to the winning party in five parcels annually for five years commencing on the 1st day of January 1841..."

A calculation of States and bales can be seen at the bottom left corner in pencil.


Item No. 12

"Democratic efforts to reelect Martin Van Buren are portrayed as hopeless in the face of broad popular support for Whig candidate William Henry Harrison. Here one of Harrison's campaign emblems, a log cabin, is a trap imprisoning the incumbent. The cabin's timbers are labeled with names of twenty states and its roof with 'Maine.' Its chimney is a cider barrel (another Harrison campaign symbol) on which sits an eagle. Jackson tries to lift the cabin with a 'Hickory' lever braced against a cotton bale 'New-Orleans.' This refers to the Democratic attempts to exploit the personal popularity of the 'hero of New Orleans' in the western United States. To Jackson's frustration the cabin is..."
wedged tightly against an embankment of 'Clay'-- Henry Clay being the Whigs' drawing card for the West.

Van Buren, pointing to the mound of 'Clay,' says, 'Why General it is of no use trying, there is no hope in the North and East and don't you see the West end is all chinked up with Clay, except one small corner where Benton sits . . . while Calhoun has nullified himself and me at the South. I have made up my mind to go to Kinderhook as soon as I get specie enough in the Sub Treasury to pay me my salary and would advise you to go to the Deserts of Arabia.'

"Jackson admonishes him, 'Why Matty my boy! What have you been about to let those d---d British Whigs get you in such a fix.'

"The print is signed 'Boneyshanks,' more than likely a pseudonym for Napoleon Sarony. The lithographer employs the distinctive broad crayon work found in signed Sarony work..." [Reilly].


(38859) $2,750.00

Item No. 14
This rare broadside, issued by the Democratic Republicans of the Town of Madison, reports the results of their meeting on March 23, 1836. The assembled members praise the Jackson Administration for embodying "the political precepts of that great apostle of Liberty, the illustrious Jefferson." Their opponents, the Whigs, are the incarnation of the loathsome Federalists, "advocates of the odious Hartford Convention, opponents and revilers of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, and of all true Republicans and Republican principles." A breakaway "class of men claiming to be Jeffersonian Democrats, and acting with the Federal Wigs [sic], are political bastards." The Federal Wig party, seeking "to conceal its deformities," fraudulently seeks to hide its opposition to the War of 1812 and its support of the Alien and Sedition laws.

The Meeting endorses Van Buren and Johnson at the head of the National Democratic Ticket, and its support of the State Ticket led by Henry W. Edwards for Governor.


$750.00


"A comic portrayal of the alliance between Free Soil Democrats and Whigs and the more extremist abolitionist Liberty Party interests during the election campaign of 1848.
The factions joined to form the Free Soil party and nominated a presidential candidate in a convention at Buffalo in August" [Reilly].

Our broadside illustrates this critical political alliance, which within a few years would blossom into the Republican Party, in mocking fashion. Using the contemporary racist trope equating abolition with miscegenation, it depicts an interracial marriage between Free Soil candidate Van Buren and a crudely dressed, uneducated black woman whom Weitenkampf describes as "a fat Negress."

"That union is lampooned here as the wedding of Free Soil presidential candidate Martin Van Buren (center left) and a ragged black woman (center right). Van Buren ally Benjamin F. Butler presides over the 'marriage.' Van Buren, reluctant to embrace the aged bride, is shoved forward by antislavery editor Horace Greeley (left), who says, 'Go, Matty, and kiss the bride. That is an indispensable part of the ceremony.' Van Buren's son John (far left, here called 'John Van Barnburner') also urges him on, 'Walk up, dad. You can hold your breath till the ceremony is over, and after that you can do what you please.' Van Buren says, 'I find that politics, as well as poverty, make one acquainted with strange bedfellows.' In contrast, the woman beckons with open arms, 'Come here, my flower. You is a great stranger, and I want to get acquainted wid you.' A black man behind her says of Van Buren, 'I neber hab berry good pinion ob de gemman; but if he ax pardon for all he hab done and said agin us, I will shake hands wid de gemman.' A black woman (further right) remarks, 'Mercy on me! How bashful he is!' Butler, with arms raised and book in one hand, intones, 'Who giveth this man to be married to this woman?' " [Reilly.]

Reilly 1848-52. Gale 4359. Weitenkampf 90. OCLC 981401226 [1- DLC] as of October 2022. Not at the online sites of Boston Athenaeum, NYPL, Huntington, AAS, Library Company. (38869) $4,000.00
16. [Free Soil Party]: THE UTICA CONVENTION. VOICE OF NEW-YORK!!
PROCEEDINGS OF THE UTICA CONVENTION, FEBRUARY 16, 1848, WITH THE
SPEECHES OF JOHN VAN BUREN, GEORGE RATHBUN, &C. "FREE TRADE, FREE

This historic Convention, precursor to the Free Soil Party's nomination in June of Martin Van Buren, was chaired by his son John. It was a gathering of New York Democrats who opposed the Deep South's domination of their Party, after the Mexican Cession had brought the question of slavery in the territories to the forefront of national politics.

Proclaiming that they will no longer be "the abettors of human slavery," the delegates praise the Wilmot Proviso, which would bar slavery from the new Territories; and they adopt a platform blending Free Soil principles with traditional Democratic stances favoring free trade and opposing monopolies and the national bank.

FIRST EDITION. LCP 3054. Not in Sabin, Dumond, Blockson, Work, Weinstein. OCLC shows a number of institutional locations.

(34285) $500.00

The Meeting voted to offer these Proceedings "for publication to the Hartford Courant, the Hartford Times and the Charter Oak." Dated and signed in type at the end, "Samuel N. Reid, Secretary. David Hale, Chairman. Suffield, July 8th, 1848." This rare broadside records the historic beginnings of the Free Soil Party, the precursor to the Republicans.

The end of the Mexican War brought a divisive question to the forefront of American political life: Would the Territories acquired from Mexico be Slave or Free? Many
Northern Democrats and Whigs, fearful that the "Slave Power" controlled their Parties, experienced "deep and grave dissatisfaction." "Gen. Cass is the supple tool of Slave-holders and Slavery extensionists... Gen. Taylor is also opposed to the restriction of the limits of Slavery,-- and therefore we dare not trust either of them with the interests of Free Labor."

The new Party takes the position advocated by Abraham Lincoln a decade later: disclaiming any intention to interfere "with the reserved rights and domestic institutions of any of the States of the Union, we are, at the same time, the determined and uncompromising opponents of the extension of Slavery over any territory now free." The Meeting calls for the selection of delegates "to represent this State, in the National Convention at Buffalo, on the 9th day of August, 1848," in order "to form an effective organization for the defence of the principles of Freedom, and to oppose the extension of Slavery." The Buffalo Convention nominated Martin Van Buren and John P. Hale for the presidency and vice presidency.


(33647) $1,500.00

A campaign booklet supporting the Martin Van Buren—Charles Francis Adams presidential candidacy on the Free Soil ticket. Much detail is provided on the split of the Democratic Party in New York State, the effects of the Mexican Cession on the political parties, the divisive influence of the all-consuming slavery issue, the proceedings of the Herkimer and Utica Conventions giving birth to the Free Soil Party, and the history of Free Soil movements during the nation’s existence.


(28846) $250.00

19. [Harrison, William Henry]: THE HARRISON AND LOG CABIN SONG BOOK. Columbus: Published by I.N. Whiting [Printed at the Straight-Out Harrison and Tyler Office], 1840. 3-1/2" x 5-1/2". 105, [3 Index] pp. Bound in printed paper over boards and quarter sheep [some rubbing, dulling, and spotting], the front board illustrated with a log cabin and American flag; the rear cover advertising 'The Life of General Harrison,' with illustration of the Screaming Eagle and the Campaign song, 'Go it Harrison,/ Come it Tyler,/ And we'll burst/ Van Buren's biler.' Title page repeats the front board
"In these times of feeling and patriotic action, the merry Harrisonian Log Cabin Songs have rushed through the country. Every body is singing them, and every body but the sour and crabbled Locofocos, is delighted with their simplicity and spirit. It is to meet the wants of the Harrison boys-- to furnish them all with a plentiful supply of these patriotic and pithy songs, that this little work is compiled."

Songs [no music] include 'Tippecanoe Song,' 'Log Cabin and Hard Cider Candidate,' 'New National Whig Song,' 'Van Buren's Lament,' 'Tippecanoe and Jackets of Blue,' etc. Thomson 516. AI 40-2977 [5]. Sabin 30580. Miles, Songs Odes Glees Ballads 008. Not in Cronin & Wise [Harrison], Eberstadt.


One of two different Washington printings, the Letter explains why Hopkins, a Virginia Democratic Congressman, continues to support Martin Van Buren. Though Hopkins had vigorously opposed Van Buren's banking policies, most particularly his Independent Treasury, he now modestly confesses error. Harrison, Van Buren's Whig opponent, is a Federalist of the old school with views "favorable to the federal administration of the elder Adams."

Harrison’s views on a variety of important subjects-- slavery, the relation of the federal to the state governments-- are "confused, inconsistent and unsatisfactory", and motivated by unseemly ambition for the presidency.

AI 40-3257 [5]. Not in Haynes, Swem.


President Van Buren is trampled by a horse because of his hard-money policies. His vanquisher, Senator Nathaniel Tallmadge, left Van Buren's Democratic Party to join the Whigs. Other figures include (left to right) Amos Kendall, William Marcy, Thomas Hart Benton, Levi Woodbury, and Francis Preston Blair.

"The artist envisions public repudiation of Democratic hard-money policies, and the triumph of administration opponent Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, a conservative Democrat.

"Tallmadge, on horseback and armed with a lance 'public opinion,' rides over a fallen Van Buren, saying, 'Roll off that ball, tis the voice of the People, they tolerate no more of your hard money humbugs.' Van Buren protests, ' . . . take your horse's hoofs from off my shoulder; I've no room for 'Sober second thoughts' now.' He leans against a large ball
marked 'Solitary and Alone,' which rolls over Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton and Treasury Secretary Levi Woodbury.

"Benton, who wields a quill 'Expunger' and holds 'Mint Drops,' exclaims, Woodbury get out of my way, or the ball will overwhelm us both. 'Mint drops' was a colloquialism for gold coins, and refers to Benton's advocacy of a higher ratio of gold to silver in circulation.

"Editor Francis Preston Blair (seated on a bench at right) says, 'Benton out with your old pistols that you shot Jackson with, & pop down Tallmadge & his horse, or he'll reach the Capitol.' Behind him appear the faint outlines of the Capitol.

"At left former postmaster general Amos Kendall and former New York governor William L. Marcy sit on the ground. Kendall asks, 'By the powers tis the Bronze Horse, he carries all before him. Marcy what shall we do? Marcy complains, 'Confound it I'm down, quite down, with my britches torn again.' Marcy's trousers are mended with a '50 cents' patch.

"The print probably appeared during the 1840 presidential campaign, when Tallmadge used his formidable influence in New York State in support of Harrison. It is also possible that it appeared during one of his own bids for reelection in 1838 or 1840. Comparison with other 1840 prints by 'HD' supports the later date." [Reilly]


(38956) $2,500.00

A scarce explanation of New York's arcane, hard-fought feuds within the Democratic Party: "Hards" vs. "Softs," "Hunkers" vs. "Barnburners." As the slavery crisis heated, New York Democrats who inclined toward the Free Soil policies of Martin Van Buren came to be known as Barnburners, because they allegedly would destroy the Party [burn the barn down] in their zeal to defeat slavery. "Regular" Democrats were "Hunkers," for hankering after and hungering for spoils of office.

Hunkers wishing to bury the hatchet with Barnburners "softened" their animus; the Hunkers' "rule or ruin" faction tauntingly referred to their erstwhile allies as "Softs." The "demagogue Hunkers" -- that is, those who opposed the Grand Compromise between Hunkers and Barnburners -- were "Hards" or "Hard Shell." Softs and Hards sought control of the State Party in 1856; the presidential convention in Cincinnati would pick the winner. The author is a "Soft."

FIRST EDITION. LCP 9591. Sabin 86211. Not in Eberstadt, Decker. (27021) $350.00

This scarce Democratic publication ended after the 1817 issue, its third. The first issue opens with an essay on the Fourth of July, noting, "It is not only astonishing, but really humiliating, to observe with what veneration a certain class of our good citizens look upon every thing of British birth, or British origin."

The Corrector specializes in analyzing and evaluating several characters—whose identity is never explicitly stated—prominent in New York politics. The first person so sketched, perhaps Aaron Burr, is treated with contempt, his "uniformly dark and repulsive" character described. He is "Controlled by no principle; bound by no tie but that of self interest, and accessible to no feeling but that of fear." The second, entitled 'Character of the A----- G-----, ' treats Martin Van Buren, New York's Attorney General, generously: "He sees at a single glance the whole subject before him," and is "a republican of the Jeffersonian school." Though perhaps lacking in genius, he has "judgment, integrity, talents, and address." Also described are Chancellor Kent, DeWitt Clinton, and several unidentified others.

AI 34448 [1]. Lomazow 119.

This speech chronicles a crucial juncture in the career of the venerable Rives. He had been elected to the Senate as a Jacksonian. In 1839, his term expiring, he sought re-election but was caught in a squeeze: a powerful faction of Virginia Whigs, led by John Tyler, opposed him for his substantial support of Jacksonian policies; but Democrats, angered by Rives’s opposition to the Specie Circular and President Van Buren’s Sub-Treasury system, denounced him as a turncoat. In defending his record and principled consistency, Rives thus began his gravitation toward the Whigs, many of whom—with Henry Clay’s gentle advocacy—deserted Tyler in Rives’s favor. Everyone went away happy: Rives was re-elected, and Tyler was nominated for the Vice-Presidency, succeeding to the Presidency upon the death of Harrison.

FIRST EDITION. Haynes 15765. AI 58242 [5]. Not in Eberstadt or Swem. (18334) $250.00


The broadside illustrates an important political event: the beginnings of the Democratic Party’s splintering over the issue of Slavery. Former Democratic President Martin Van Buren, running for President in 1848 as a Free Soil candidate, failed to
bridge the gap between his erstwhile Democratic allies and his new "Whig-Abolition" friends. For this failure he is about to take a spill into Salt River. "Salt River" is 19th century American slang: a losing candidate for office was taking a trip "up Salt River." Tickets for passage "up Salt River" were frequently printed to mock supporters of losing candidates.

Item No. 25

"Martin Van Buren's inability to bridge the distance between the "Conscience," or abolitionist, Whigs and conservative Democrats is portrayed as his downfall in the 1848 presidential race. Van Buren led the Free Soil party coalition of antislavery Whigs, Liberty party abolitionists, and "Barnburner" Democrats as a presidential candidate in that race, opposing regular Democratic candidate Lewis Cass.

"In "The Modern Colossus," Cass (far right) stands on the "Democratic Platform," a solid embankment, with running mate William O. Butler (in uniform, arms folded), South Carolina senator John C. Calhoun (behind Butler), and a fourth man, probably John Van Buren. An American eagle perches at their feet. Van Buren has one foot on the Democratic ledge and stretches the other across Salt River toward the eroding "Whig-Abolition Platform."

"Calhoun: "Poor devil! he'll plump into Salt River, directly."

"Cass: "That will be no hardship. He was in Salt River before. He only goes back to his old place."

"From the left New York "Tribune" editor Horace Greeley (long coat) and fiery antislavery advocate Abby Folsom reach out toward Van Buren. Folsom: 'Come to these
arms, thou chiefest of ten thousand!" Greeley: "Oh! that his legs were a little longer!"

Behind Greeley are Massachusetts abolitionist and Van Buren running mate Charles
Francis Adams, and (far left) a third man (possibly William Lloyd Garrison) who
exclaims, "O Lordy! Lordy! I'm afeared he [Van Buren] can't fetch it." Van Buren, indeed
about to fall, exclaims, "O! I'm gone! I'm gone! I can't stretch myself asunder!" In the
distance is a smoking volcano.

Reilly 1848-96. Weitenkampf 90. Gale 4529. Library of Congress Control Number
2003674558. Not located on OCLC as of November 2023.

26. [Slavery] [Election of 1852] : FEDERALISM AND ITS ALLIES EXPOSED! IS HE A
TRAITOR TO LIBERTY? [New London CT: 1852]. Broadsheet, 8-3/8" x 16". Each side
printed in two columns. The verso is headed, "THE LAST GUN! REV. S.W.
COGGSHALL, WILL ADDRESS THE FREE DEMOCRACY AT BART'S HALL, THIS
MONDAY EVENING." Bold and large type faces. Old folds and a few crimps which do
not affect the text. Good+

A passionate, evidently unrecorded attack on traitors to the anti-slavery cause. John
Van Buren, son of the President, has deserted the Liberty and Free Soil cause. He
supports the dough-face Franklin Pierce for president in 1852. In 1848 he had been a
leading Free Soil man, later denouncing the Fugitive Slave Act "as unconstitutional and unjust." He now falsely claims that Pierce and the Democratic platform do NOT support that abominable law. The carrot for this "apostate and traitor to liberty" is "the promise of office as a bribe to Free Democrats to turn traitors to the cause of Liberty." Indeed, Van Buren "has been bribed back to his party again."


Not located on OCLC or the online sites of CT Hist. Soc., CT State Library, AAS, Boston Athenaeum, NYPL, Newberry, LCP, Harvard, Yale, Brown.

(36014) $1,750.00


"Stockton cites wasteful expenditures of public money by the Van Buren administration, and the unseating of New Jersey's congressional delegation and the resulting 'Broad Seal War,' as his reasons for supporting Whig candidate William Henry Harrison over Democratic incumbent Martin Van Buren" [Felcone]

Felcone 1328. AI 40-6335 [4].
(38466) $250.00

28. [Taylor, Zachary]: QUESTIONING A CANDIDATE. New York: J. Baillie, [1848]. Folio lithograph broadside, oblong 13" x 17." Lower blank margin with a small stamp: 'Microfilmed.' Mounting remnants on blank verso. Very Good, with manuscript copyright notation at blank lower margin.

This rare broadside mocks Whig presidential candidate Zachary Taylor as a political cypher, having never expressed opinions on political matters.

From Reilly: "Zachary Taylor's stubborn resistance to declaring his views on the major political issues during his candidacy in the 1848 presidential campaign was a favorite theme of the opposition. Here Taylor, in uniform, fields questions from a group of "Office Seekers." The first asks, "What is your opinion of Free-Trade Sir?" A bespectacled man behind him inquires, "What do you think of the Tariff Sir?"

"Two other men standing in background debate: "We can't find out anything by him."

"That's because he's got it in him--A still tongue makes a wise head. Didn't he lick Santa Anna at Buena Vista?" Taylor, sitting with feet propped on a chair back, declares, "Ax my ------! Do you think I sit here to answer your bothering questions? You'll find out what I think when I'm President, & then it will be my part to command & yours to obey."

"At left, editor Horace Greeley (in long white coat) confides to an unidentified man, "We must take up with Matty [i.e., Martin Van Buren, Free Soil candidate]."

"The other man states, "We must elect Hale." He refers to John P. Hale, Liberty party nominee for president in the fall of 1847. His nomination was superseded in the
coalition of Liberty party and Barnburner Democrats forming the Free Soil party in August 1848 to nominate Van Buren."


(38925) $2,500.00


AAS calls Upton’s Address "An anecdotal attack on Amos Kendall, Martin Van Buren, and Democratic policies in general." Upton was a Louisiana Whig and Harvard-educated lawyer who wrote the State’s Civil Code. In a celebrated case Upton would successfully represent Sally Miller, whose owner claimed she was a part-black slave. Sally prevailed in her assertion that she was in fact free: a white, German immigrant who had been hired as an indentured servant for a term of years.

In this Address Upton turns his attention to the foibles of Van Buren and his Party. "When I think of Martin Van Buren, when I pass in review how little there is in his political or personal character to entitle him to the respect or love of his fellow citizens, I cannot help the conviction, that next year at Kinderhook the little magician himself will
wonder not why he fell from his 'pride of place,' but how he ever attained such a height to fall from."


(38271) $250.00


With finely dressed men and women in the background, an angry Mrs. DeWitt Clinton snubs President Van Buren, who says, "Stay, Madam, I would beg some words with you." Mrs. Clinton's companion inquiries of her, "Mrs. C - - - why did you not speak to him when he look'd so very Pleasant?" She responds, "I! Speak to the . . . who persecuted my husband to the day of his Death!"

"Mrs. Clinton's refusal to speak to Van Buren at Saratoga, on the grounds that he had allegedly dissuaded former President Jackson from visiting her, was widely reported in the New York press" [Reilly].

Reilly 1839-3. Weitenkampf 59. OCLC 299944676 [1- DLC], 1136519800 [1- AAS] as of December 2023. Not located at web sites of NYPL or NYHS.

(38950) $1,500.00

This document mocks Van Buren's alleged transformation, from leader of the national Democratic Party to Free Soil antislavery candidate for President in 1848. Until rejected by the Democrats, and seduced by the allurements of the presidency, Van Buren had been the mouthpiece of extremist pro-slavery Southerners. His convenient turnabout is mere hypocrisy.

Free Soil material is significant because it presages the dissolution of the Democratic Party and then the Union.

Wise & Cronin 65. LCP 5117. Not in Sabin, Miles, Dumond, Work. $150.00


Van Buren throws his support to Buchanan in the 1856 campaign. He decides to swallow Kansas-Nebraska, emphasizing that Popular Sovereignty can restrict slavery as well as extend it. He believes (mistakenly) that Buchanan will fairly execute the will of the people of Kansas. Van Buren's view of Popular Sovereignty as an anti-slavery tactic was correct theoretically but dreadfully wrong; from the Doctrine's application during the Pierce administration, he should have known better. During his long career Van Buren metamorphosed from a national Democrat into an anti-slavery Free Soiler in 1848; here he tests Regular Democratic waters again.


Item No. 33

   A rare broadside printing of Van Buren's Address, devoted entirely to the catastrophic Panic of 1837, which he calls "the revulsion through which we have just passed." Issues of bank failures, specie payments, the question of a National Bank and other political reforms are reviewed in the first six months of Van Buren's single term as President.


   (37214) $750.00

34. [Van Buren, Martin]: NEW YORK STANDARD- EXTRA. THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE, AND THE FACTS, IN RELATION TO THE REJECTION OF MARTIN VAN BUREN BY THE U.S. SENATE. New York: Printed at the Standard Office, 1832. 35pp, Disbound, trimmed closely on a couple of leaves but no text loss. Double columns, light wear. Good+. Also printed in Albany during the same year. Resolutions and meetings at Tammany Hall and Albany express New York Democrats' outrage at the rejection by the Senate of Jackson's nomination of Martin Van Buren as Ambassador to England. Clay and Webster charged that, as Secretary of State, Van Buren "had sacrificed the honor of the United States by repudiating the position of the previous administration against Britain in the controversy over the West Indian trade...In the end the nomination failed on the casting vote of the Vice President," John C. Calhoun. Peterson The Great Triumvirate 203. The Resolutions denounce the three. "Let no wolf in sheep's clothing be permitted to appear to night- no man with New York and Van Buren on his LIPS, and CALHOUN and NULLIFICATION in his heart." Wise & Cronin 115. Sabin 100676. AI 16924 [5]. Not in Eberstadt, Decker.

   (12087) $100.00


   Supposedly angered at his Party's failure to nominate him as its candidate in 1844, Van Buren bolted to the new Free Soil Party in 1848, a precursor of the Republicans. This document exposes Van Buren's doughface past: Until now, "no man had been more obsequious to the South, or more subservient to slavery, than Martin Van Buren." The record is reviewed, in exquisite detail, to show Van Buren's support of slavery. His convenient turnabout is mere hypocrisy.

   Free Soil material is significant because it presages the dissolution of the Democratic Party, the rise of the Republicans, and the crisis of the Union.

   FIRST EDITION. Wise & Cronin 113. Not in Dumond or Work.

   (6045) $125.00

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Wise & Cronin 115. Sabin 100676. AI 16924 [5].


This pamphlet was printed in response to an inquiry from Greer W. Davis of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. A prominent and long-lived member of the Missouri Bar, Davis was "the last of the territorial lawyers," working up to his death in 1878. [III Houck, A History of Missouri 24, 32-33. Chicago: 1908].

Deciding whether to support Van Buren’s re-election to the presidency, he asks New York's Secretary of State for Van Buren's voting record in the 1821 New York Constitutional Convention. If he favored "universal suffrage, elections of justices of the peace by the people, and opposed to free negroes voting," then Davis can support Van Buren with a clear conscience. "I live in that part of Missouri where Van Buren principles prevail, and it is my desire to procure that kind of testimony that cannot be refuted." The Journal excerpts printed here provide insight into the early Van Buren, who would acquire a reputation for unprincipled expediency. Van Buren failed Davis's test: he opposed unrestricted universal suffrage; supported a motion to remove the requirement that voters be 'white', but with property qualification for nonwhite citizens; and he opposed direct election of justices of the peace. Summaries of his remarks at the Convention are included.

FIRST EDITION. AI 40-6700 [5]. Sabin 98425. Not in Wise & Cronin or LCP.

38. Whig Party: PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEMOCRATIC WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION, WHICH ASSEMBLED AT HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, ON THE FOURTH OF DECEMBER, 1839, FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOMINATING

This pamphlet records the first national convention for the first successful Whig presidential campaign. The delegates attack President Martin Van Buren, Democratic successor to Andrew Jackson, for having "devoted his whole life to an exaggerated egotism, in ministering to which he has been unscrupulous as to means." The Proceedings are printed chronologically, including the balloting for President, in which William Henry Harrison emerged as the winner, trailed by Henry Clay and Winfield Scott; and for Vice President, with John Tyler chosen unanimously.

A letter from Henry Clay is printed, coyly suggesting that he would respond to a draft but assuring support to whomever the Convention nominated. The speech of Judge Burnet of Ohio appears at pages 34-42, "giving a brief history of the life of Gen. William Henry Harrison."

FIRST EDITION. AI 59201 [5]. Miles 76. (28856) $175.00

39. Workingman, A: "WHEREFORE CHANGE?" MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED REASONS WHY WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON SHOULD AND WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE DEMOCRACY, FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN PREFERENCE TO MARTIN VAN BUREN. BY A WORKINGMAN. Boston: Printed by Tuttle, Dennett & Chisholm, 1840. 16pp, stitched as issued. Light scattered foxing, Good+. (38477) $250.00

119 reasons, to be precise. The Jacksonian Era has created an "imperial" presidency; Harrison will restore the office to its proper role. "There is no republicanism in Van Burenism." Corrupt characters populate the Van Buren Administration; Harrison is the ideal of simple republicanism.

Cronin & Wise 151 [Harrison]. AI 40-4754 [5]. Not in Miles. (38477) $250.00