

dollars, I expressed to them my extreme regret, that this had not been done before their patience was exhausted, but hoped forgiveness on the principle, that "to err is human, — to forgive, divine."

This letter, as before observed, was forwarded by the pilot, and not knowing the persons to whom it was addressed, it was difficult to conjecture how it would be received. I was uncertain whether the President was not a choleric and arrogant young man, whose angry feelings would be roused by what he might imagine to be a want of due respect, and who would be prepared to resent it, or whether he was one who had reached the period of life, when the passions become subdued; and who, entering into my feelings, would have the candor to acknowledge them natural, and receive me with cordiality. I presented myself, therefore, at the office, prepared for peace or war.

The very agreeable surprise at the hearty and cordial reception I experienced from the venerable President, when introduced to him, quite overcame me. He rose to meet me, his frank and benign countenance beaming with expressions of goodness and amiability; inspiring no other sentiments than those of respect, confidence, and veneration; and, taking both my hands, he said to me, "I have received your letter, Sir. I honor your feelings. I thank you for what you have done for us; although I am not authorized to promise you pecuniary remuneration, you will nevertheless have it." Having expressed to him, how much more gratifying to my feelings was the expression of such approbation and kindness, than any pecuniary reward, I left the office with emotions very different from those with which I entered it.

My voyage, I perceived, had made a considerable sensation with the mercantile community; and I was complimented on its fortunate termination, by some whom I did, and others whom I did not know. Among the former, particularly, was an old and respectable merchant who had retired from business with an ample fortune; one well versed in mercantile affairs, but of a generous disposition. After the interchange of the customary salutations, on meeting, he observed to me, "You have done well for the office; you have raised the value of its stock ten per cent.; they cannot give you less than ten thousand dollars." Several of the stockholders, also, expressed their obligation to me.