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## Letter from Geo[rge] G. Mackenzie to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, 1892 Dec 11.

George G. Mackenzie

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Raymond, Fresno Co., Cal.  
Dec. 11, '92.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I enclose a slip (from the Fresno "Expositor") as a sample of stuff of which a considerable pile is getting into print. I do not for a moment imagine that there is any chance of Irish becoming one of Mr. Cleveland's cabinet officers, but I can fancy that Irish might gather up enough of the "rot" published by the railroad organs, and by some well-meaning but mistaken country papers, to impress the President-elect with the idea that he (Irish) is a genuine leader of the people. The claims made by him and his friends that he was importantly

[27]  
influential in the conduct of  
the State convention, or in the  
final election, is altogether base-  
less. On the contrary, he was  
a decided injury to the cause  
at each time, and there is nothing  
now conceivable which would  
do more to injure the prospects  
of the Democratic party in this  
State than for Mr. Cleveland  
to appear to be swayed by the  
counsels of Irish in matters  
affecting California. As for  
the distribution of the "patronage,"  
that concerns me not a rap.  
I have no friends among the  
men who are "out for" the offices,  
but if any word I could write  
might tend ever so feebly to  
prevent such a disaster as the  
recognition of Irish as a leader

[3]  
I would consider it to be the  
best political word that I ever  
put on paper. Two years from  
now there will be a fight in  
this State in which the People's  
Party will be a force of great  
moment. I do not know of  
anything so nicely calculated to  
drive swarms of Democratic  
voters over to the P. P. ranks  
as would be the encouragement  
of Irish by the incoming Ad-  
ministration.

There seems to be a strong  
chance that "Steve" White will  
be chosen Senator. Should that  
happen, he will be dead-set  
against anything in the shape  
of changing the situation of  
affairs in the Yosemite.

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We are trying here to divide our county, and when the Legislature shall meet there will be a large committee in attendance. If possible I will go with them, and so have a chance to watch and work with any effort that may be made to have some favorable action concerning Yosemite. I haven't heard of any proposed action of that kind, but something may be done.

Yours Truly

Geo. G. Chapman

#### THE CORRECT POSITION.

In an able article, endorsing John P. Irish for a place in Mr. Cleveland's Cabinet, that sterling Democratic journal, the "Visalia Times," lays down the doctrine that all the respectable elements of the party should be recognized in the distribution of Federal patronage; that it should not be a bone of factional contention, or the basis of factional organization. This is the correct principle, and the assertion of it by the Times is both pertinent and timely. And the Times also states a correct proposition when it says "the Democrats of California are not going to let John P. Irish be punished because he outgeneraled Mr. Cleveland's opponents at the Fresno convention." It is a good time to promote harmony in the party and inculcate a little modesty in office-seeking. We have had too much of the disposition to get all four feet in the trough, coupled with a persistent squealing and kicking if anybody else comes near the swill. Men who set themselves up for leaders should learn that there is something higher than patronage and that leadership which concerns itself wholly with the distribution of the spoils of office is mere bossism. There is no doubt that the great body of the voters of all parties in this State would be pleased to see John P. Irish in the Cabinet, and nothing could be more conducive to party harmony and the welfare of the Pacific coast.

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