

Nov. 11, 1910

My Dear Gongwer:

Yours at hand. I wanted to write you yesterday, but possessed no address. The framed "deference and devotion" came Thursday morning and I wanted to make instant acknowledgment. Let me tell you, Charley, I had rather had that framed souvenir and your letter than a certificate of election as governor of Ohio, especially if I had to be a hypocrite to secure the latter. I believe the highest victory in this world is to measure well in the estimate of those of intimate association.

I never deceived you except in one thing, and I'll swear that now. All through the campaign, away deep in my heart, I felt the danger of defeat. It was little less than conviction, but I felt myself duty bound to repress it, and drive cheerfully on. In spite of this, I was not prepared for the sweeping defeat. The enthusiastic meetings fooled me. We didn't know the feelings of those who stayed away. Neither did the county managers apparently. But I am harboring no great grief, nor painful resentment. I had my whirl, enjoyed the time and the experience of our "show," and I am now content. I am glad I came to know you, and Bill, and Ralph, too. The bunch will dwell in grateful memory with me, and wherever there is opportunity, no matter when, I'll be happy to attest to my "deference and devotion." If you didn't believe me, then there is no longer any sincerity among men.

Very Truly Yours

W. Harding