



THE NORTH BEND FARMER and HIS VISITORS.

The North Bend Farmer and His Visitors. One of many Whig campaign cartoons juxtaposing a dandified Van Buren with the rustic farmer by the plow, William Henry Harrison. In this cartoon, Van Buren and his fancy-dress politician friends (from left to right, Francis Preston Blair, Amos Kendall, and John Calhoun) have alighted from their fine coach to find Harrison hard at work on his farm. Van Buren says, "As I live that is old Harrison himself the old fool. After the many opportunities he has had of enriching himself to live in a log cabin and plough his own ground. Now look at me who never pulled a trigger, or chased an Indian unless by proxy: I roll in riches, and live in splendour, dine with kings, make my sons princes, enrich my friends, punish my enemies, and laugh in my sleeve at the dear People whom I gull." While Van Buren sneers, Harrison greets his visitors with generous hospitality. "Gentlemen," he says, "you seem fatigued. If you will accept of the fare of a log cabin, with a Western farmer's cheer, you are welcome. I have no champagne but can give you a mug of good cider, with some ham and eggs, and good clean beds. I am a plain backwoodsman, I have cleared some land, killed some Indians, and made the Red Coats fly in my time." (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

to \$1,500 in 2020 dollars).<sup>20</sup> Having seen their president brought low by a demagogic populism and vague chants of republican reform, Whigs could barely disguise their glee at the opportunity to even the score.

Some Whigs, to be sure, found it all a bit distasteful. The lurid fantasies, the hackneyed ditties, and the ubiquitous log cabins hardly seemed the stuff of serious politics. On the last day of July, with Ogle's wild charges