

sufficient understanding of the intent of the act of Parliament, that the conditions of it were not accepted by the United States."

I have already shown you how far the bill was from meeting the intent of the act of Parliament, although drawn by Gen. Smith for that purpose. You will therefore feel the awkwardness of your position, in saying that the rejection of that bill was a rejection of the proffer of your act.

But what if I should say that the bill was not rejected? I will not say so; but I will quote you Gen. Smith, whom I presume you will admit to be competent authority, for it was his own bill:—

"I took my own course," says the General, in his speech last winter, and "moved that the report of the committee on commerce should be recommitted with instructions, and I succeeded by a large majority of the Senate. It was sent to the committee of finance, and I reported a bill which would have passed, but for want of time. It was not rejected, as Mr. Canning has stated. The Senate simply refused to consider it, because members had other bills which they were anxious to act on."

If, then, Gen. Smith is right, the Senate, instead of rejecting this bill, merely laid it aside for want of time to act on it, in the press of business at the close of the session.

I designed, sir, as far as possible, like a patriotic citizen, to make no allusion in these letters to our parties in America. You had committed errors enough to fill all my space, without making it necessary for me to advert to what I might think the errors of any man or body of men at home.

You, however, have looked at our parties; you have calculated on our divisions. You know which side Gen. Smith has taken in this controversy, and I therefore commend to your special notice his declaration, that but for want of time his bill would have passed—and that "it was not, as you state, rejected."

This topic will, however, require another letter.

Till when, I have the honor to be, &c.
AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

MR. CLAY & GEN. JACKSON.

FOR THE CATAWBA JOURNAL.

MR. BINGHAM: You will oblige a subscriber by giving publicity in your Journal of Tuesday next, to the accompanying letter of General Jackson, which I have extracted from a Washington paper.

This letter refers to certain overtures made to General Jackson during the pendency of, and a short time previous to, the late presidential election. Although these overtures are said to have been made by Mr. Clay's friends, yet the circumstances under which they were made induce not merely a suspicion, but a strong belief, that Mr. Clay himself was not ignorant of the part which his agents were playing in the interesting drama then going on: (a) it is perfectly in character with the well known talents for intrigue and management which has for some years past distinguished that gentleman, and for which he has justly been held up as an object of scorn and indignation to a large portion of the people of this country. (b)

It is notoriously known, that Mr. Clay has always professed to maintain, as a fundamental principle not to be departed from, that in a government like ours, "the representative is bound to obey the will of his constituents;" in fact, it was by a seeming zealous adherence to this principle, that much of his early fame and character was acquired. How far his actions have corresponded with his professions, facts will show.

When Mr. Clay was excluded from the presidency by the vote of the electoral college, his restless and scheming mind began immediately to look out for means to repair the injury sustained by his recent defeat. He was not long in fixing his views upon the office of Secretary in the State Department; (c) naturally enough thinking, that if this important station could once be secured, it would place him in the direct line of legitimate succession, from whence, according to the doctrine of "safe precedents," there was but one step to the glittering goal of his ambition: this was a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Clay was well aware that he held the balance in his hands, and that it was in his power, by throwing his interest into the scale, to give a preponderance to whatever side he pleased. This was a delicate dilemma to be placed in—a great and sacred obligation rested upon him. Then it was that "the note of preparation" began. To heighten the scenic effect, a mysterious silence was observed by the party—all eyes were turned to the great arbiter, whose voice was to decide the important question—public expectation was on tiptoe—the most intense anxiety was on all sides manifested; and truly it was a period of great interest to every American, for the crisis had at length arrived, when the question was to be decided,

whether the voice of the people, (d) or the machinations of an unwholy coalition should triumph. Amidst all this anxiety and suspense, the great magician, by the waving of whose wand the issue of the controversy depended, was sitting behind the screen coolly calculating chances.

General Jackson went into the House 15 votes ahead of Mr. Adams. He was evidently the choice of the people; (e) and it is glaringly apparent, that if their wishes had been fairly represented, his election would have been certain. Under these circumstances, honor and duty both pointed out to Mr. Clay, in characters as strong and awfully impressive as "the hand writing upon the wall," the only course he could consistently take: (f) this was to add his strength to that of the people, and thereby secure to them the election of the man of their choice.

To suppose, for an instant, that Mr. Clay was not fully aware of all the circumstances by which he was surrounded, their nature, and the probable bearing they were likely to have on the approaching contest, would be doing injustice to the well known sagacity of that wily politician. He knew that if he could bring about a coalition with Jackson, such as he wished, it would be by far his most politic course. Such a union, he was apprised, would best accord with the views of the South and West, whose favor he was anxious to retain: besides, he had received explicit instructions from Kentucky, by the only legal organ thro' which that state's wishes could have been made known, namely, its legislature, that Jackson was, next to himself, the man of their choice. Under such circumstances and considerations as these, how was it possible for him to vote for Mr. Adams, without violating the sacred obligations he was under to the state whose representative he was? an obligation, too, made (if possible) more binding by his previous professions? (g)

The truth is, Clay had resolved before hand to leave nothing to the precarious issue of chance. He was willing to vote for Jackson, but with a condition annexed, that is to say, he must be paid for it. For some weeks before it was ascertained what would be Mr. Clay's final determination, certain meetings and conversations took place between the friends of Jackson and Clay, in the course of which propositions were made in a half serious half jesting way, that if Jackson would make Clay Secretary of State, they (Clay's friends) would make Jackson President; finding this plan not likely to succeed, the expedient alluded to in Gen. Jackson's letter, was resorted to; and this also failing, Clay at once adopted the alternative of transferring his interest to Mr. Adams; and verily he has met with his reward. (h)

When we see a man who once occupied so high and distinguished a place in the hearts and confidence of his countrymen, guilty of so flagrant a dereliction from duty, of so open a violation of the most sacred moral obligations which a sense and knowledge of right can impose, language becomes feeble and inadequate to express fully the strong indignation with which we are animated. The journals of our country have been rarely stained by an act of such glaring, such culpable inconsistency, of so shameful an abandonment of principle. (i)

It is now apparent that all Mr. Clay's disinterested professions concerning the subserviency of the representative to his constituents, was a mere pretence, made use of to conceal from the world the selfish and inordinate ambition that lurked at his heart; and that they were only put on as a cloak, to be thrown off whenever an opportunity of advancing his interest presented itself; but the act by which he attempted (but too successfully) to barter away as transferrable property, the sacred trust reposed in him, has unmasked him to the world, and his hypocrisy now stands fully exposed in all its hideous and naked deformity. (j)

Gen. Jackson's letter is now before the people. It is for them to draw the inference which its contents so evidently point at; and to them I cheerfully submit it, convinced that their candor and good sense will give it a fair construction.

(a) It is yet to be proven that any proposition was made by Mr. Clay's friends. When proof of this is adduced, then it must be shown that the proposition was made with the knowledge or permission of Mr. Clay. Neither, in our opinion, will ever be done, for the very good reason, that no proof exists.

(b) Who have thus held him up? Duff Green, a bankrupt in fortune, if not in character; a man totally unknown to a very large portion of the American people, until he took charge of the Telegraph, John Randolph, and others of like stamp, with all the retainers, who, parrot like, can bawl "management, intrigue, corruption." But that Mr. Clay is "an object of scorn and indignation to a large portion of the people of this country," is an assertion wholly gratuitous. The "scorn and indignation" of the people will fall heavily on the heads of his calumniators.

(c) How does "a subscriber" know what was passing in Mr. Clay's mind at that time? Has Mr. Clay told him? It is to be presumed not. Whence, then, does he derive his information? Until he tells us this, we are compelled to place this assertion along side of his others, as nothing worth.

(d) One would suppose, that those who are so loud in their denunciations of Mr. Clay for disregarding, as they say, the "voice of the people," would, under all circumstances, how to it with the utmost deference. But alas! for the inconsistency of man, such is not the fact. The loudest declamers against Mr. Clay now, for disregarding (as it is asserted) the voice of the people in his vote for President, were then

least disposed to pay any regard to it. "A subscriber," at the last election, was a most zealous and devoted friend of Mr. Crawford, and up to the last moment, was anxious that the House should elect his man, notwithstanding he was returned the lowest on the list, and the "voice of the people" was decidedly against him; and had Mr. Crawford been elected, our world for it, "a subscriber" would never have lifted up his voice like a trumpet, against Mr. Clay, nor any one else, for voting for him in disregard of the "voice of the people." And so Van Buren, Thomas Ritchie, Gen. Bonulus M. Saunders, and all the good people's men now, would be as silent as the grave about the "voice of the people"—the public can judge from this, what their professions are worth.

(e) Why did not Mr. Crawford's friends, then, vote for the people's candidate? Why did they show such contempt for the "wishes" of the people, by adhering, to the last, to that candidate who had less of the people's confidence than either of the others? Let "a subscriber" clear himself and his friends of this sin against the "wishes of the people," before he again whispers aught against any one else. It is a singular fact, that North Carolina was the only state, whose delegation voted directly contrary to, and in contempt of, the vote of the people in the electoral college; and yet, many of these delegates are now loud in their denunciations of Mr. Clay for voting against a candidate which his state voted against! Why does not "a subscriber" denounce these men? The reason is obvious, and it will have its due weight with the honest and unprejudiced portion of the community, who have pursued a uniform and consistent course, and are actuated by no new-born zeal.

As to Gen. Jackson's being the choice of the people, it is an old story a thousand times repeated and as often refuted. If he had been the choice of the people, the people would have elected him; but instead of this, he obtained but a fraction over one-third of the electoral votes. Mr. Adams received a fraction less than one-third; the representatives of the people, therefore, were then left to the exercise of their best judgments in making a selection; and they chose Mr. Adams, honestly and fairly.

(f) What course did "honor and duty" point out to Mr. Crawford's friends? Will "a subscriber" answer us that? But "honor and duty" plainly pointed out to Mr. Clay the course he should pursue; and, true to his principles, he did pursue it.

(g) Mr. Clay never bound himself to obey the instructions of the legislature of Kentucky—they had no right to instruct him—he was not their representative, and in no way amenable to them. He always professed to be bound by the "will of his constituents," and he did obey their will. After the legislature of Kentucky had assumed to themselves a right which did not belong to them, of instructing the representatives in Congress, Mr. Clay's constituents took the matter in hand, and sent him instructions, of which the following is a copy:—"We, the undersigned voters in the Congressional district, having viewed the instruction or request of the Legislature of Kentucky, on the subject of choosing a President and Vice-President of the U. States, with regret, and the said request or instruction to our representative in Congress from this district, being without our knowledge or consent; we, for many reasons known to ourselves, connected with so momentous an occasion, hereby instruct our representative in Congress to vote on this occasion agreeably to his own judgment, and by the best lights he may have on the subject, with, or without, the consent of the Legislature of Kentucky." Here was an express instruction from his constituents; and Mr. Clay was bound by it. And, as another evidence that he did represent the wishes of his constituents, they elected in his place a known personal and political friend of his. So much for this attempt of "a subscriber" to defame Mr. Clay's character.

(h) This paragraph is, like the rest, a mere tissue of assertions, unsupported by proof. The charge against Mr. Clay is now in a train of investigation. It has been met by his positive and unqualified denial, and Gen. Jackson will be called upon for the name of his informer. If Mr. Clay be guilty, let the public indignation rest on him; if he prove himself innocent, as we have not the least doubt he will, then let his calumniators meet with that indignation, scorn and contempt, which they will so richly deserve. In the mean time, why attempt, by preposterous inferences and bold assertions, to sustain a charge, the falsity or truth of which will soon be established to the conviction of every one? The reason is plain—Gen. Jackson's letter has disappointed his partisans—they see how it will terminate—that Mr. Clay will come out of this fiery trial like "gold seven times purified;" and they wish to forestall public sentiment and shield themselves from the fate which awaits them. But the "hand-writing is on the wall" against them, and they must abide the issue.

(i) This may pass as a pretty specimen of declamation and unfounded assertion, but for nothing more. We would again ask, is "a subscriber" equally as indignant against Mr. Crawford's friends who did vote against the wishes and expressed will of their constituents, as against Mr. Clay, who did not? Answer us this.

(j) This paragraph has already been fully answered in note (g). We will only add, that Mr. Clay has been in the service of his country between 20 and 30 years—his name is honorably identified with the history of his country during the most of that period—his services have been neither few nor small: during the most gloomy period of the last war, he stood firm and undaunted, while many who are now his calumniators, were then as bitterly opposed to the government as they are at this time; and is he now to be hunted down and his character blasted by hireling editors like Duff Green? or by men, whose services, when compared to his, are as a mustard seed to a mountain, and whose characters and principles, if not questionable, have not been tested? Are John Randolph and Duff Green more worthy the confidence of the people than Henry Clay? Can the people trust George K. Ecker, Samuel D. Ingham and Bonulus M. Saunders, as they would, and as they have trusted, Henry Clay? We believe not. Nor do we believe that they will sanction the vile and almost unparalleled calumnies heaped upon an old and faithful public servant by such men or their agents and imitators.

General Jackson to Mr. Beverley.

HERMITAGE, JUNE 5, 1827.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter, of the 15th ult. from Louisville, Ky. is just received, and in conformity with your request, address my answer to Wheeling, Va.

Your inquiries relative to the proposition of bargain made through Mr. Clay's friends to some of mine, concerning the

then pending Presidential election, were answered *freely and frankly* at the time; but without any calculation that they were to be thrown into the public journals;—but facts cannot be altered,—and as your letter seems not to have been written for publication, I can assure you, that having no concealment myself, nor any dread arising from what I may have said on the occasion and subject alluded to; my feelings towards you are not the least changed. I always intended, should Mr. Clay come out over his own name and deny having any knowledge of the communication made by his friends to my friends and to me, that I would give him the name of the gentleman through whom that communication came. I have not seen your letter alluded to, as having been published in the Telegraph; although that paper, as I am informed, is regularly mailed for me at Washington, still I receive it irregularly, and that containing your letter has not come to hand, of course I cannot say whether your statement is substantially correct or not—I will repeat, however, again the occurrence, and to which my reply to you must have conformed, and from which, if there has been any variation, you can correct it. It is this. Early in January, 1825, a member of Congress of high respectability, visited me one morning, and observed, that he had a communication he was desirous to make to me—that he was informed there was a great intrigue going on; and that it was right I should be informed of it—that he came as a friend—and let me receive the communication as I might, the friendly motives through which it was made he hoped would prevent any change of friendship or feeling with regard to him. To which I replied, from his high standing as a gentleman, and member of Congress, and from his uniform, friendly and gentlemanly conduct towards myself, I could not suppose he would make any communication to me, which he supposed improper. Therefore his motives being pure, let me think as I might of the communication, my feelings towards him would remain unaltered. The gentleman proceeded. He said he had been informed, by the friends of Mr. Clay, that the friends of Mr. Adams had made overtures to them, saying, if Mr. Clay and his friends would unite in aid of the election of Mr. Adams, Mr. Clay should be Secretary of State. That the friends of Mr. Adams were urging, as a reason to induce the friends of Mr. Clay to accede to their proposition, that if I was elected President, Mr. Adams would be continued Secretary of State, (inuoendo; there would be no room for Kentucky.) That the friends of Mr. Clay stated, the West did not wish to separate from the West; and if I would say, or permit any of my confidential friends to say, that in case I was elected President, Mr. Adams should not be continued Secretary of State, by a complete union of Mr. Clay and his friends, they would put an end to the Presidential contest in one hour. And he was of opinion it was right to fight such intriguers with their own weapons. To which, in substance, I replied, "that in politics as in every thing else, my guide was principle; and contrary to the expressed and unbiassed will of the people, or their constituted agents, I never would step into the Presidential chair; and requested him to say to Mr. Clay and his friends, (for I did suppose he had come from Mr. Clay, although he used the term Mr. Clay's friends,) that before I would reach the Presidential chair by such means, of bargain and corruption, I would see the earth open and swallow both Mr. Clay and his friends and myself with them. If they had not confidence in me to believe, if I was elected, that I would call to aid in the cabinet, men of the first virtue, talent and integrity, not to vote for me." The second day after this communication and reply, it was announced in the newspapers that Mr. Clay had come out openly and avowedly in favor of Mr. Adams.

It may be proper to observe, that in the supposition that Mr. Clay was privy to the proposition stated, I may have done injustice to him; if so, the gentleman informing me can explain.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
ANDREW JACKSON.
MR. CARTER BEVERLEY.

The following article from the Wheeling Gazette has, no doubt, the sanction of Mr. Clay, who was at Wheeling when it was written. We recommend it to the serious attention of all impartial persons, who are anxious to arrive at the truth, and who would not condemn even the meanest individual, until he is proved guilty by credible testimony.

[From the Wheeling Gazette.]

We publish in our paper to-day, a copy of a letter from Gen. Jackson to Carter Beverley, esq. who is now in this place, and received by him in reply to a letter which he addressed to the General, requesting a confirmation of the statements, which were first published in the Fayetteville Observer, in the form of an anonymous letter, of which Mr. Beverley is now the avowed author. This letter from Gen. Jackson was by permission of Mr. Beverley, put into the hands of Mr. Clay, on his arrival in this town on the 21st ult. Mr. Clay, in the presence of a large number of gentlemen, declared in the

most solemn and positive manner, that the statements contained in the letter, so far as it concerned himself, had no foundation in truth, and so far as his knowledge authorized him to speak in behalf of his friends, he could pronounce it equally false and unfounded.

To those, who are anxious to see this matter more fully developed, this letter from Gen. Jackson will be deemed a valuable acquisition. The affair has now assumed such a character, that it will admit a thorough investigation. An issue can now be made up, that will test the true merits of the case. Mr. Clay has never shrunk from the most rigid scrutiny into his public character—he now professes his readiness, as well as the highest satisfaction at the opportunity which is afforded him, to meet this reiterated and degrading attack upon his political honor and integrity. He will deem it a duty which he owes to himself and the public, to stand forth and vindicate his character from a foul and odious charge, emanating as it does, from so distinguished a personage as Gen. Jackson.—The name of the hero's respectable informer must now be given up, and he must come forward, and substantiate satisfactorily the truth of his statements, or be prepared to take his station by the side of a kindred accuser, who cried aloud and spared not until the day of trial. The confidence of Mr. Clay's friends in his political honesty, is not to be disturbed by vague and indefinite reports, even although General Jackson himself propagates their circulation. He must offer something more than his own conjectures and suppositions to persuade them that Mr. Clay is an unprincipled and profligate politician. They will call for proofs, in the place of unauthorised inferences and inuendoes. So much gross and palpable misrepresentation has been thrown upon the public conduct of Mr. Clay by his political enemies, it cannot be expected that any new charge against him will be received with ready credulity. He has been visited with a measure of calumny and abuse which rarely falls to the lot of any man. His public and private character has been assaulted in every shape which it was possible for political animosity to suggest. He has withstood the storm of the most violent and merciless persecution—firm and undaunted he has braved its fury—and we feel perfect security in our belief that he will come forth uninjured by this threatening blast from the pretended tranquil region of the "Hermitage."

The advocates of Mr. Clay, notwithstanding their enthusiastic devotion to him and his cause, and their present implicit belief in the rectitude and purity of his principles, however painful may be the sacrifice, are nevertheless prepared to yield him to public indignation and scorn, if Gen. Jackson, or his political associates, shall convict him for bargain, intrigue and corruption. They ask but the same measure of justice to be dealt out to his accusers, if they should fail in their proof of the charges—if nothing should be found to authorize their assertions, let them be visited with the infamy and contempt which the enormity of their slander merits from an insulted and outraged community. Mr. Clay's friends are willing to abide the issue of the investigation, which will undoubtedly be instituted by the production of this letter from Gen. Jackson. It is not our purpose to express an opinion at this time, as to the motives which may have actuated Gen. Jackson in propagating statements so derogatory to the public character of Mr. Clay, and sustained by testimony, apparently of a loose and uncertain description—nor is it for us to say, what kind or quantity of evidence, might be sufficient to produce an irresistible conclusion in the mind of the General, that a great political rival would "descend to use the basest means for the promotion of his own ambitious purposes. The letter speaks for itself, and we recommend attentive perusal of it to our readers, as it will certainly lead to a course of inquiry attended with important results.

Upon looking in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1753, I find that a person in those days claimed to be the inventor of a new hypothesis of the internal frame of the earth, which brought to my recollection Mr. Symmes, who perhaps has seen it. He supposes that the semi-diameter of the globe is 4000 miles, which is divided as follows: First, the Earth has a thick crust, 600 miles deep, then an expanse 1000 miles deep, which is a paradise for unembodied spirits, bespangled with stars, in which reigns eternal day and perpetual spring; then a crust 400 miles deep; and then another expanse 100 miles deep; after this we come to the nucleus of the earth, 1000 miles deep, all on fire, and is the prison of devils and wicked spirits. N. E. Com. Advs.

Legal Forms.—A young man and his father presented themselves at a notary's office to sign a contract. The clerk first addressed the son—"Sir, are you twenty-one?" "Here, Sir," answered the young man, "is the certificate of my birth." "Very well; and you, Sir, to the father, "are you twenty-one?" "That is a pretty question," said the father, "do you think I am not at least as old as my own son?" "That is no answer," said the notary, "you must produce your certificate."