

Politics of the Day.

ADDRESS OF HENRY CLAY, TO THE PUBLIC.

Containing certain testimony in refutation of the charges against him, made by Gen. Andrew Jackson, touching the last Presidential Election.

CONTINUED.

In passing from the testimony of the delegation from Ohio to that of Kentucky, we shall find it to be not less irresistible and decisive in negating the declaration of Gen. Jackson, communicated to the public through Mr. Beverly. The Kentucky delegation consisted of twelve members; eight of whom, Mr. Trimble, Mr. F. Johnson, Gen. Metcalfe, Mr. Letcher, Mr. Buckner, Mr. Thompson, Mr. White, and myself, voted for Mr. Adams. From six of them, statements have been received. That from Mr. White has not reached this city; but I am justified in stating that he has repeatedly, within his district after his return to Kentucky, borne unqualified testimony to the falsehood of all charges of corruption in the election, and especially to the propriety of my conduct; and I have no doubt that he will, whenever called upon, repeat the same testimony.

Mr. Trimble says, "I do not know of my own knowledge, nor have I been informed by others, that offers, propositions, or overtures such as are spoken of by Gen. Jackson in his letter to Beverly, or similar thereto, or of any kind whatever, were made by Mr. Adams or his friends, to Mr. Clay or his friends; or by Mr. Clay or his friends, to Gen. Jackson or his friends. I do not know, nor do I believe that Mr. Adams or his friends made overtures or offers directly, or indirectly to Mr. Clay his friends to make him Secretary of State, if he and his friends would unite in aid of the election of Mr. Adams. Nor do I know or believe that any pledge or promise of any kind was made by Mr. Adams or to Mr. Clay or his friends, to aid in the election.

I never heard from Mr. Clay, or any of his friends, or any one else, that he was willing to vote for Gen. Jackson, if the General would say, or any of his friends for him, that Mr. Adams should not be continued Secretary. Nor do I know or believe that Mr. Clay ever expressed a willingness, or any of his friends for him, to support or vote for Gen. Jackson, if he could obtain the office of Secretary of State under him.

I do not know or believe that any overtures or offers of any kind were made by Mr. Clay or his friends to Mr. Adams or his friends to vote for him or support him if he would make Mr. Clay Secretary of State, or to Gen. Jackson or his friends to vote for him or support him, if he could obtain the office of Secretary of State under him; nor do I believe Mr. Clay would have taken office under him if he had been elected. I shall borrow or have occasion to make other parts of the letter of Mr. Trimble from which the preceding extract has been taken.

Mr. F. Johnson states in his answer to Dr. Watkins, "I have no objection however in answering your enquiries. After writing the above extract, you say to me, 'If such a proposition were ever made by the friends of Mr. Clay to those of Gen. Jackson, it must have been known to a very person, and the fact thereof easily ascertained.' May I ask the favor of you to inform me whether you know or believe any such proposition was ever made, or whether conditions of any sort were made by the friends of Mr. Clay to any person on compliance with which their vote was to depend?"

To the first branch of the enquiry, my answer is, that I have no knowledge of any such proposition, nor do I believe any such was ever made. To the second I answer, that I neither know of, nor do I believe that any conditions of any sort were made by the friends of Mr. Clay to any person, on compliance with which their vote was to depend.

Gen. Metcalfe, with his characteristic firmness and frankness, says: "I have to state that I never heard or thought of such a proposition until the letter of the highly respectable Virginian appeared in the public prints." He proceeds: "As one of the friends of Mr. Clay, I enter the most solemn protest against the right of the General, through his organ, the highly respectable Virginian, or otherwise, to say that I would have assisted in making him President on the condition stated. On the contrary, if I could have been made to believe that Gen. Jackson would not have offered to Mr. Adams the place which he had filled with so much ability under Mr. Monroe, that belief would have constituted in my mind a strong additional objection to the General's success." "If it is intended to import the belief

that Mr. Clay's friends were desirous of obtaining the appointment for him to the exclusion of Mr. Adams or otherwise under Gen. Jackson, as one of his friends, I pronounce it a base and infamous assault upon the motives and honor, so far as I am concerned or believe, of those who did not choose to support him for the Presidency." "In reply to your second enquiry, I have to say that if conditions of any sort were ever made by the friends of Mr. Clay to any person, on a compliance with which their vote was made to depend, I know nothing of it."

Judge Letcher, the only member of Congress who boarded in the same house with me during the session at which the Presidential election was made, testifies: "I know of no such proposition or intimation, nor have I a knowledge of any fact or circumstance which would induce me to believe Mr. Clay's friends, or any one of them, ever made such a proposition to the friends of Gen. Jackson."

Mr. Thompson says: "I know of no proposition made by the friends of Mr. Clay, to the friends of General Jackson, to make him President, if he would not select Mr. Adams to the seat of Secretary; and I do not believe a proposition of any kind was made, and I expect if the friend of the General should ever speak on the subject, he will be a second Krenner."

Mr. Buckner testifies: "In answer to your enquiries on this subject, I will remark that I have no reason to believe that any such proposition was made. Indeed, no proposition of any description relating to the election of President was made, so far as I know or believe, by Mr. Clay's friends to those of Gen. Jackson, or of any other person."

Mr. Scott, the member from Missouri, states that "neither Mr. Adams nor his friends ever made any promises or overtures to me, nor did they hold out to me any inducements of any sort, kind or character whatever, to procure me to vote for Mr. Adams. Nor did Mr. Adams or any of his friends ever say or insinuate who would be placed at the head of the Department of State, or any other department, in the event that Mr. Adams should be elected. Nor do I believe any propositions were made to Mr. Clay or his friends, by Mr. Adams or his friends. If there were, I know it not." "I never made to Gen. Jackson or to any of his friends any proposition, in reference to the Presidential election, either as regarded the appointment of Mr. Clay or any other person to office, or the exclusion of Mr. Adams or any other person from office. I was neither spoken to by Mr. Clay, or any of his friends, about making any proposition to Gen. Jackson or his friends of any kind whatever, nor did I ever hear it insinuated or hinted, that any proposition was made or intended to be made, by Mr. Clay or his friends to Gen. Jackson or his friends, or to any one or candidate or their friends for or relating to the Presidency. And I do believe, had any proposition been made or intended to have been made by Mr. Clay or his friends, from my intimacy and constant intercourse with them, I should have known or heard thereof."

Messrs. Gurley and Brent were the two members who gave the vote of Louisiana to Mr. Adams. Mr. Gurley declares "that I have no knowledge of any proposition having been made by the friends of Mr. Clay or any of them to the friends of Gen. Jackson or to any other person, in relation to the election of President, or the proposition of conditions of any sort, on a compliance with which their vote was made to depend. I believe the charge wholly destitute of truth."

Col. Brent says, "In allusion to the Fayetteville letter, I cannot express the indignation feelings it excited. It is the fabrication of a desperate man, who, to obtain his object, dares to assert what he knows to be false. You ask me to say, whether I know or believe that such a proposition was ever made, or whether conditions of any sort were proposed by the friends of Mr. Clay to any one, on the compliance with which their vote was made to depend. No honorable man can believe for a moment that such a proposition was ever made, or such a condition stipulated. I was a friend of Mr. Clay's throughout the contest, I was in the confidence of all his friends, and I declare to God that I never heard of such a thing until it was assailed by the disappointed adherents of Gen. Jackson. I am not only ignorant of any such arrangements, but do not believe they ever existed."

Thus there is now before the public, the united evidence of the delegation from every Western State whose vote was conferred upon Mr. Adams, except that of Mr. Cook, the Representative

from Illinois. A long and lingering illness, terminating in the death of that gentleman, prevents the submission of his. But it is well known Mr. Adams was his choice, throughout the whole Presidential canvass. Although there existed between him and myself good will and respectful intercourse, he never was politically nor personally my friend.

Including Mr. White, the public has the evidence of twenty different members of Congress, embracing all my friends, from the Western States, who voted for Mr. Adams. Their attention was chiefly directed, in the preparation of their respective statements, to the Fayetteville letter, and it is to them that their testimony principally applies. On that point, they all concur, in pronouncing the most unqualified negative, and, on the other points, several of them are not less explicit. Is it credible, is it consistent with the ordinary operations of human nature, that these gentlemen, without any personal interest or motive whatever, should have first basely given their concurrence to dishonorable overtures, for my sole benefit, and then should unanimously agree in falsifying themselves?

In the published circular which, in March, 1825, I addressed to my constituents, I remarked, "at that early period" (early in Nov. 1824) "I stated to Dr. Drake, one of the professors in the medical school of Transylvania University, and to John J. Crittenden, Esq. of Frankfort, my determination to support Mr. Adams in preference to Gen. Jackson." I did not, at that time, recollect, nor do I probably now, all the occasions on which I expressed, in conversation, my opinion of the unfitness of Gen. Jackson for the Presidency, and my preference of either of the other candidates. I remembered distinctly the conversation I had held with Dr. Drake and John J. Crittenden, Esq., and therefore referred to them. In several instances, similar conversations have been since brought to my recollection by gentlemen with whom, or in whose presence they occurred; and it is from a voluntary and friendly communication of the purport of them, that I am now enabled to lay before the Public a considerable portion of the mass of testimony, (including that of Dr. Drake) on that particular topic which is now presented, (See Appendix B.)

This testimony establishes that, on various occasions and times, beginning in Kentucky as early as about the 1st of October 1824, and continued in the City of Washington, down to the period when my determination to vote for Mr. Adams was generally known in this city, I uniformly expressed my conviction of Gen. Jackson's want of qualification, and my fixed resolution not to vote for him, if I were called upon to give a vote. These sentiments, long cherished, were delicately expressed, to Gentlemen of the highest respectability, most of them my personal and particular friends, in all of whose estimation I must have stood dishonored, if I had voted for Gen. Jackson contrary to my declared purpose. This purpose was avowed immediately preceding my departure from Kentucky to attend Congress, and immediately on my arrival here after the termination of the journey. David Trimble, esq. states that, about the 1st of October 1824, he had held a conversation with me at Frankfort, in Kentucky, on the subject and prospects of the pending election, which he details minutely, and that in the course of it I said "that I could not consistently with my principles vote for Gen. Jackson, under any possible circumstances." I urged to him all the objections which weighed on my mind, and which have been so often stated, and especially that which is founded upon Gen. Jackson's possession of military pretension only. And, in reference to an objection which Mr. Trimble understood me as entering against Mr. Adams, growing out of the negotiations at Ghent, Mr. Trimble states that I remarked that it had been "greatly magnified by the friends of his competitors" "for electioneering purposes," "that it ought to have no influence in the vote which he might be called upon to give; that, if he was weak enough to allow his personal feelings to influence his public conduct, there would be no change in his mind on that account, because he was then on much worse terms with Gen. Jackson about the Seminoles war, than he could ever be with Mr. Adams about the treaty of Ghent; that in the selection of a chief Magistrate for the Union, he would endeavor to disregard all private feelings, and look entirely to the interests of the Country and the safety of its institutions."

It appears from the letter of Mr. Robert Trimble, (one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States,) which accompanies that

of Mr. D. Trimble, that the latter had avowed to the former, as early as February or March, 1824, his preference of Mr. Adams to either of the three candidates who were actually returned to the House of Representatives.

Col. Davidson (the Treasurer of the State of Kentucky, and a man of unblemished honour and unquestionable veracity) states, that during a visit which I made to Frankfort in the fall of 1824, and he thinks only a few days prior to my departure from Kentucky, to attend Congress, (it must therefore have been early in November, as I left home before or about the tenth of that month,) he had then a conversation with me about the then pending Presidential election, in the course of which he remarked, that I would have some difficulty to encounter in making a selection amongst the candidates, if I should be excluded from the House. To which I replied—"I suppose not much; in that event I will endeavour to do my duty faithfully." He adds that I stated in the course of conversation—"I cannot conceive of any event that can possibly happen which could induce me to support the election of Gen. Jackson to the Presidency. For if I had no other objection, his want of the necessary qualification would be sufficient." These remarks made a strong and lasting impression on Col. Davidson's mind; and when the resolutions were before the Legislature, requesting the delegation to vote for Gen. Jackson, Col. Davidson informed several of his friends of the conversation with me, and that he was convinced I would not support Gen. Jackson. He communicated the substance of this conversation to George Robinson, Esq. the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Kentucky, who concurred with him, that I could not consistently, under any circumstances, vote for Gen. Jackson. When the same resolutions were before the Senate, (of which Col. Davidson was then a member,) he rose in his place and opposed them; and among the views which he presented to that body, he stated, that all the resolutions which they could pass during the whole session would not induce me to abandon what I conceived to be my duty, and that he knew I could not concur with the majority of the Legislature on that subject.

John J. Crittenden, Esq. (who is referred to in the circular to my constituents, but whose statement has never before been exhibited to the public,) testifies that, "some time in the fall of 1824, conversing upon the subject of the then pending Presidential election, and speaking in reference to your exclusion from the contest, and to your being called upon to decide and vote between the other candidates who might be returned to the House of Representatives, you declared that you could not, or that it was impossible for you to vote for Gen. Jackson in any event." My impression is, that this conversation took place at Capt. Weisiger's tavern, in this town, [Frankfort, Ky.] not very long before you went on to Congress in the fall preceding the last Presidential election; and that the declaration made by you as above stated, was elicited by some intimation that fell from me of my preference for Gen. Jackson over all the other candidates except yourself."

So unalterably fixed was my resolution prior to my departure from Kentucky, I have no doubt, that in my promiscuous and unreserved intercourse among my acquaintances in that State, others not recollected by me could bear testimony to the undeviating and settled determination of my mind. It will be now seen that after and immediately on my arrival in the City of Washington, I adhered to this purpose, and persevered in it until it was executed by the actual deposit of my vote in the ballot box.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Courage.—Constituted as society now is, with its false notions of honor and respectability, there is more real courage necessary for the refusal than for the acceptance of a challenge. The veriest poltroon may risk his life in a duel, as he will his fortune at the gaming table, or his neck in the chase; but it requires no small portion of Christian heroism, to make a man submit to be called a coward for the Gospel's sake. King George II. whose personal bravery is well known, was of the same opinion. Having been informed that a Captain in the British army, whose courage was undoubted, had refused a challenge upon Gospel principles, he hesitated not to pronounce him the bravest man in his service, and rewarded his Christian consistency by giving him a regiment.

March of Intellect.—A gentleman of landed property in the county of S. being lately on the out-side of a stage-

coach, had sworn several oaths within a few minutes after he had taken his seat. Addressing a dissenting minister, a stranger to him, he remarked, "We hear, Sir, a great deal said about the march of Intellect? are you, Sir, a believer in the march of Intellect? I believe, Sir, these S— clodhoppers know nothing of the march of Intellect." The minister replied, "I have observed, Sir, that there is not so much profane swearing among the peasantry as there used to be. I consider that one decisive proof of their intellectual improvement." The gentleman appeared as if he felt the reproof, but had too much good sense to manifest any displeasure. In his subsequent conversation, which proved him to be an intellectual person of high order, he showed himself capable of going forward in the march of improvement, as he swore no more during the 50 miles' journey.

From the Harrisburg Watchtower.

Anecdote.—A Mr. Henry Clay, a Virginia dancing master, happened to alight at a public house for refreshment in a neighbouring town a few days since, and it was immediately rumoured that Mr. Henry Clay, the Secretary of State had arrived; the rumour of course spread, and all went to the tavern to see the Secretary, and among the rest an honest countryman, who observed to the dancing master "that he had been taken to be the Secretary of State," who promptly replied, "No, my dear fellow, I am not the man; although we have the same name, and are about the same height, yet, there is about six feet difference in our talents—his talents are in his head, and mine are in my heels."

A number of travellers and tourists, when they alight at an inn, are in the habit of scratching their names, and the date of their visit, on the window glass. Among a multitude of names written on the window of a certain inn in the Highlands, is the following *jeu d'esprit*, which should go far to abolish that mode of commemoration. One of a party of four, it would appear, had written his own name, and the names of his three comrades, with the month and year in which they had made their visit. Immediately under the names, and in a quite different hand (evidently by some wag) is inscribed—"Nota Bene. The whole of the above were hanged for sheep-stealing!"

The Price of Ignorance.—The celebrated Adoo Yusuph, who was chief judge of Bagdad in the reign of the Caliph Hadee, was a very remarkable instance of that humility which distinguishes true wisdom. His sense of his own deficiencies often led him to entertain doubts, where men of less knowledge and more presumption were decided. "It is related of by this judge," dShaik-hool-Islam, "that on one occasion, after a very patient investigation of facts, he declared that his knowledge was not competent to decide upon the case before him." "Pray, do you expect," said a pert courtier, who heard this declaration, "that the Caliph is to pay for your ignorance?" "I do not," was the mild reply; the Caliph pays me, and, well, for what I do know; if he were to attempt to pay me for what I do not know, the treasures of his empire would not suffice." Sketches of Persia.

Receipt for destroying Rats.—Among the various poisons and other means of destroying these obnoxious animals, I have always found the following to be a most effective, but simple and harmless plan, of ridding my premises of these vermin:—Take a few fresh corks; grind them down into small particles; fry them in the common way, with a little butter, or fat; place it, while warm, at the places where the rats are plenty, and if possible, when they may eat the dose undisturbed by any noise; leave no water within their reach, and in a few days, not a vestige of the creatures is to be seen.

The prince and great men of Shiraz, on our approaching that city (says sir John Malcolm, the British envoy to Persia) so loaded us with presents of ice-cream, sweetmeats, preserves, and delicious fruits, that all in camp down to the keepers of the dogs, were busied in devouring the luxuries. A lion's share was always allotted to a party of 17th dragons which forms part of the escort. I heard these fine fellows, who were all (with the exception of one from Ireland) discussing, as they were eating their preserves, their grapes, and nectarines, the merits of Persia. "It is a jewel of a country," says one. "It would be," said a second, "if there were more Christians in it." "I don't so much mind the Christians," observed his companion, "if I could see a bog now and then, instead of these eternal rocks and valleys, as they call them." "Fine though it be," continued Corporal Corragan, "I would not give a little potato garden in Ireland for a dozen of it, and all that it contains to boot." This patriotic sentiment, which appeared to meet with general concurrence, closed the discussion.