

Political.

Mr. Clay—A press of other matter, which we considered more immediately interesting to our readers, has prevented us until now from giving them an idea of the contents of Mr. Clay's pamphlet. As expressed in the title, the first object of Mr. Clay appears to be to make it a *personal* concern between himself and Gen. Jackson; whom he not only endeavors to bring forward as his public, but also as his private accuser—to effect this, Mr. Clay introduces the Fayetteville letter, and the testimony of three or four individuals who heard Gen. J. make similar declarations at different periods and in different places—Mr. Clay also insinuates that Gen. J. or Mr. Eaton must have been the author of Mr. Kremer's letter to the Editor of the *Columbian Observer*. 2dly, To disprove the charge of any propositions having been made to Gen. J. by the authority of Mr. Clay or any of his political friends, letters from nearly all the western representatives who voted with Mr. Clay for Mr. Adams, are bro't forward denying any knowledge of such propositions. 3dly, Mr. Clay attempts to show that he never could have authorized any such propositions, because he had to several persons, at intervals, commencing as early as the beginning of October preceding the presidential election, expressed his fixed determination to vote for Mr. Adams in preference to Gen. Jackson—to substantiate this assertion, letters from several of his friends and also one from Gen. Lafayette are produced. Lastly, Mr. Clay attempts to prove that from the existing relations between himself and Gen. Jackson, and their previous conduct towards each other, no hopes could reasonably have been entertained that Mr. Clay would under any circumstances aid in elevating Gen. Jackson to the Presidency.

In the first instance, we do not conceive that the issue is fairly closed—it is not a *private* dispute between Gen. Jackson and Mr. Clay; but it is a difference between Mr. Clay and a large portion of the people of the Union, believed to be a considerable majority, who through the instrumentality of Mr. Clay had an individual thrust upon them as their Chief Magistrate, after they had given decided and unequivocal demonstrations that they preferred another—Gen. Jackson does not appear as the accuser of Mr. Clay, nor does he summon the witnesses against him; Gen. J. merely stated the substance of a conversation held with a *personal* friend of Mr. Clay, which he conceived amounted to a proposition, and supposed that it was authorized by Mr. C. as it was for his particular benefit; the name of the individual was given up and the conversation substantiated, but the supposition not confirmed—consequently, Mr. Clay and his political friends are fully exonerated from having authorized that conversation—Mr. Clay's insinuation that Gen. Jackson conspired with Messrs. Eaton and Kremer to *intimidate* Mr. C. from voting as he thought proper, will be viewed as it ought, by an intelligent community. 2dly, We have never believed for a moment, that either Mr. Adams or Mr. Clay would make, or authorize, any direct and formal propositions on this subject, to each other or to any other person; this would imply that they were equally destitute of integrity and common sense—but it is generally conceded that there were "frequent unreserved conversations" held by the members of the different parties in Congress, during the space of six or eight weeks preceding the presidential election, all of which time, as he himself says in this pamphlet, Mr. Clay "remained most mysteriously silent"—now, was the language used in these conversations sufficiently explicit to satisfy Mr. Clay and his friends that in voting for Mr. Adams there was a greater certainty of Mr. Clay obtaining his present office, than in voting for Gen. Jackson? from the statements of Messrs. Buchanan and Markley, there can be no doubt but that it was distinctly ascertained that Gen. Jackson would not authorize any committal on the subject of cabinet appoint-

ments—whether Mr. Adams was equally scrupulous, is doubtful, from the concurrent testimony of several of his friends, as well as those of Mr. Clay; passing entirely over the statements of their opponents. 3dly, That the declarations of Mr. Clay as to his fixed determination in regard to voting were wholly *confidential*, we have the express declaration of Gen. Lafayette, who says in his letter to Mr. Clay:

"In the latter end of December, either before or after my visit to Annapolis, you being out of the Presidential candidature, and after having expressed my above-mentioned motives of forbearance, I, by way of confidential exception, allowed myself to put a simple unqualified question, respecting your electioneering guess, and your intended vote. Your answer was that in your opinion, the actual state of health of Mr. Crawford had limited the contest to a choice between Mr. Adams and Gen. Jackson, that a claim founded on military achievements did not meet your preference, and that you had concluded to vote for Mr. Adams."

But what will the reader think of the following *confession* of Mr. Clay, in the same production in which he attempts to prove that his mind was "unalterably fixed" for months previous to depositing his vote in the ballot box?

"It was the policy with which the political campaign was conducted in the winter of 1824-25, by the forces of the General, in the first instance to practice stratagem with my friends and me. Accordingly the arts of persuasion and flattery were employed. But as I did not hasten to give in my adhesion, and remained most mysteriously silent, in other words had not converted myself into a boisterous and zealous partizan of Gen. Jackson, it became necessary to change that policy and to substitute intimidation for blandishment. Mr. Kremer presented himself as a fit agent in this new work," &c.

This passage certainly does not imply that Mr. Clay's mind was "unalterably fixed" at the period specified, that he considered it so, or that the "forces of the General" were satisfied of the fact—Mr. Clay admits that *persuasion* and *flattery* were used to influence his determination, but does not state whether their efforts were directed against his ambition or his duty as a representative, or whether the "forces of the General" were the only persons he had to contend with—the *diplomatic* corps, who are generally allowed to excel in these all-important political qualifications, assuredly could not have been idle when the golden prize to which they considered themselves peculiarly entitled, was still suspended; to judge from the final result, it might reasonably be supposed that they were not totally inactive—had the *blandishments* of the friends of Gen. Jackson been met by the frank and manly declaration ascribed to Mr. Clay by Dr. Drake, that "no state of things could arise that would justify him in preferring Gen. Jackson to Mr. Adams, or induce him to support the former," it would have been sufficient of itself to substantiate Mr. Clay's assertion in this pamphlet, that "having my mind unalterably fixed in its resolution not to vote for him, (Gen. J.) I wished to inspire him with no hopes from me;" and there would have been no necessity for the labored attempts so often repeated by Mr. Clay to justify his mysterious silence and still more mysterious conduct—but what becomes of Mr. Clay's previous declarations why he "remained most mysteriously silent;" in his letter to Judge Brooke, dated 28th Jan. 1825, which first *publicly* announced his fixed determination, Mr. Clay said, "I inter-

rogated my conscience as to what I ought to do, and that faithful guide tells me I ought to vote for Mr. Adams"—in a subsequent public address, when remarking on the resolutions of the Kentucky Legislature requesting him to vote for Gen. Jackson, Mr. Clay observed, that "after a full and anxious consideration" he could not comply with their request—again, Mr. Clay said, "I found myself transformed from a candidate before the people to an elector for the people; I *deliberately* examined the duties incident to this new attitude, and weighed all the facts before me upon which my judgment was to be formed or reviewed"—the only deduction that can fairly be drawn from his letter to Judge Brooke, is that Mr. Clay's *conscience* had only just then returned a decisive answer to his interrogatory; the Kentucky resolutions were not received by Mr. Clay until after his arrival at Washington; and Mr. Clay says in this pamphlet, that he did not know he was transformed from a candidate to an elector, until the 20th December, 1824—in the face of these *public* declarations, which evidently imply that Mr. Clay had not determined what course to pursue until about the 28th Jan. 1825, he now endeavors to prove by *private* statements to his friends, that as early as the first of October preceding, his mind was "unalterably fixed;" how Mr. Clay or his advocates can reconcile these apparent contradictions in his public and private declarations is beyond our comprehension. Lastly, had Mr. Clay been called upon to decide between a political friend and a foe, his last plea might have carried some weight with it; but the speeches, recently published, of Lieut. Gov. Barry, the Hon. T. P. Moore, J. Pope, Esq. and several other distinguished citizens of Kentucky, all formerly the warm political and personal friends of Mr. Clay, establish beyond contradiction, that whatever may have been his *private* opinion of Gen. Jackson, Mr. Clay's *public* efforts were wholly directed against Mr. Adams—if we wanted any further evidence of this fact, the recent elections in Kentucky prove it most conclusively. Mr. Clay's mysterious silence pending the election—the rumors that accompanied his public declaration—the sudden change of purpose of some of his most efficient friends, and his immediate appointment as Secretary of State, are circumstances casting a shade of suspicion over the purity of his conduct, which all his special pleading, though *seven* times repeated, has not yet satisfactorily accounted for; but which has received a deeper tinge from the unguarded declarations of some of his most confidential friends.

We repeat our regret that Mr. Clay thought it advisable to publish a pamphlet instead of appealing to Congress—Congressional committees have of late years been occupied days and weeks investigating subjects of comparative insignificance, when contrasted with charges implicating the Chief Magistrate of the Union, his first officer, and some twenty or thirty of the representatives of the people. In the statements presented to the people, men whose simple declaration ought to be received as "proof strong as holy writ," have flatly contradicted each other in plain statements of facts—have charged each other with misrepresentation, with falsehood, with *the lie direct*—with this contradictory testimony before him, how can the diligent enquirer after truth, who will "nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice," decide upon the guilt or innocence of the parties? Had this degrading, complicated and mysterious subject been investigated by a competent tribunal, before whom the witnesses could have been personally interrogated, all doubts might have been removed—but now there is no prospect of terminating the discussion until the close of the ensuing presidential election, and the mysterious circumstances attending the issue of the last election, must continue to be a subject of mere speculation, moulded by different persons agreeable to their interests, feelings, or wishes.

It is said, that a *Brief* is preparing by some of the citizens of

Kentucky, and will shortly make its appearance, stating the points which they mean to prove, in relation to the understanding between Messrs. Adams and Clay—that measures are taking to collect the testimony on which these points are supported, and that it will be published as soon as possible.—*Richmond Enq.*

TO THE PUBLIC.

Washington City, Jan. 8, 1828.
The Central Committee of Correspondence heretofore appointed, in pursuance to a resolution adopted by a meeting composed of the friends of Gen. And. Jackson, in the District of Columbia, have seen and considered a pamphlet issued and signed by Mr. Clay, touching the late Presidential election:

In this pamphlet Mr. Clay has undertaken to show, that General Jackson and his friends have practised seductive arts to prevail upon him, Mr. Clay, to favor the views of Gen. Jackson in the election to the Presidency; and that when their efforts failed, he, Gen. Jackson, conspired with Mr. Eaton and Mr. Kremer to intimidate Mr. Clay and to deter him from voting for Mr. Adams; that Gen. Jackson, in speaking of the events of the late presidential election, has been guilty of misrepresentation, with a view to impress on the public mind prejudice against Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay; and, lastly that he, Mr. Clay, previous to the election, had no understanding whatever, that he would be appointed Secretary of State, in the event that Mr. Adams would be elected.

The Committee, acting in regard both to feeling and duty, believing it incumbent on them to protect Gen. Jackson from unjust aspersion, and to develop, as far as may be in their power, the truth in relation to the transactions adverted to in Mr. Clay's appeal, have set on foot an enquiry for that purpose.

The attempt of Mr. Clay to distort the most trivial incidents into evidence of political design; to present the negative statements of his immediate partisans in exculpation of himself; to impute remarks to Gen. Jackson in stages and steamboats, to inculcate Mr. Clay and his friends; and that this was the result of a conspiracy and agreement between the General and his friends, is a course so very disingenuous and illiberal, as tends, in the judgment of the Committee, at once to absolve every individual, who respects truth and honor, from every imaginable obligation, longer to conceal any fact within his knowledge relative to this subject. The Committee, relying upon the evidence already in their possession, with that which they have a confidence of speedily obtaining, assure the public, that in a short time they will present a series of facts and circumstances, calculated incontestably to show, that the late appeal of Mr. Clay and the charges made by him against Gen. Jackson, are untenable and unfounded. Moreover, they will establish to the satisfaction of every dispassionate mind, that there must have been, previous to the election, an under-