

## Political.

*Mr. Clay.*—In our last paper we presented to our readers what we conceived to be the grounds of defence, on which Mr. Clay rests his hope to cast off the imputations on his political character and conduct, to which the last Presidential election gave birth. Mr. Clay's defence apparently rests on the following points: 1st, that he believed Gen. Jackson to be "incompetent;" 2d, that he had made up his mind to support Mr. Adams for months previous to voting; 3d, that he never authorised any propositions to be made to either of the candidates; and 4th, that from the differences existing between himself and Gen. Jackson, no person could reasonably have supposed that he would vote for him. The first and last of these points are mere matters of opinion, and Mr. Clay's opinion is certainly entitled to as much weight as that of any other individual, and no more—granting that the other two are fully established, still they do not materially affect the testimony of the individuals named below, which must be invalidated, or they must be shown to be unworthy of belief, before the negative testimony of Mr. Clay's friends can possibly establish his innocence. In his pamphlet, Mr. Clay says:

"It forms no part of my purpose to comment on the statements which have been published of Messrs. Buchanan, Eaton, Isaacs, and Markley, all of them the friends of Gen. Jackson on the occasion of the late election."

Mr. Clay passes the testimony of these gentlemen off by wholesale, but he cannot so easily dispose of the unguarded declarations of some of his friends as well as those of Mr. Adams, which so strongly corroborate the statements of their opponents. At the close of the session previous to the election, Mr. Clay's friends in Congress issued a Circular, under his immediate inspection, which contained the following singular declaration:

"If, contrary to all probability, Mr. Clay should not be returned to the House, his friends having done their duty, will be able by concentration to control the event—they will hold in their hands the balance—they will determine between the opposing and conflicting interests."

The election was held—in the electoral colleges Gen. Jackson received 99 votes, Mr. Adams 84, Mr. Crawford 41, and Mr. Clay but 37; consequently, Mr. Clay was "not returned to the House," and the representatives of the people were called upon to decide the contest between the three first named individuals, voting by States. In the electoral colleges Gen. Jackson had received a majority in eleven States, Mr. Adams seven, and Mr. Crawford three—the three States that gave a majority of votes in the electoral colleges for Mr. Clay, had also given decided indications that Gen. Jackson was their second choice, (the Presidential votes in Ohio, the only one considered doubtful, stood for Mr. Clay 19,265, for Gen. Jackson 18,489, for Mr. Adams 12,280.) the votes of these three States added to those that Gen. Jackson received, would have given him a constitutional majority either in the electoral colleges, or in voting by States. But "conflicting interests" interposed, and the candidate of the people was defeated—under whose "control," and for whose benefit, may perhaps be gathered from what follows:—in his pamphlet, Mr. Clay says that he "remained most mysteriously silent," for the space of six or seven weeks after the meeting of the Congress which was to decide the election; in the interim, however, Mr. Frank Johnson, one of the Kentucky delegation, declared that "Kentucky will come out strong for Jackson;" Mr. Scott of Missouri, and Mr. Cook of Illinois, individuals holding the votes of these two States, had also expressed their determination to vote

for Gen. Jackson in preference to Mr. Adams, agreeable to the wishes of their constituents. Fifteen or twenty days, however, previous to the election, three days before the date of Mr. Kremer's letter to the editor of the *Columbian Observer*, and seven days before the date of Mr. Clay's letter to Judge Brooke, the following paragraph appeared in the *Georgetown Metropolitan*, an *Adams paper*, printed in the immediate vicinity of Congress:

"Last evening the report was, that Mr. Clay had gone over to Mr. Adams, and taken with him all his influence; and so general has the rumor become, and so generally believed, that it is understood in this district that Mr. Adams is to be the man. While we rejoice at his prospects of elevation, we are pained to learn, that rumor attributes his success to *bargain and sale*, and that Mr. Clay is to receive the appointment of Secretary of State, by which, in a coming election, he will add to the western interest, the six New-England States, and probably New-York."

These *prophetic rumors* were immediately followed by Mr. Kremer's letter, stating that Mr. Clay was to receive the appointment of Secretary of State for his vote for Mr. Adams; and Mr. Clay's letter to Judge Brooke avowing his determination to vote for Mr. Adams—simultaneously Messrs. Johnson, Scott and Cook, together with all Mr. Clay's friends, who like him had "remained most mysteriously silent," now publicly proclaimed that they would vote for Mr. Adams. It was also immediately announced, that Mr. Adams would be elected on the first ballot, and the individuals were designated who intended to vote for him—they did so—Mr. Adams was elected on the first ballot, and Mr. Clay immediately thereafter received the appointment of Secretary of State. Then it was that the charge of *corruption* fastened to the transaction, and the repeated attempts of Mr. Clay to cast off this stigma on his character and conduct still prove unavailing, for the testimony of his opponents is much strengthened by some of the unguarded statements of his friends, which directly militate against him—a few of these are subjoined. Immediately after the election, Mr. Trimble, one of the Kentucky delegation, then and now the devoted friend of Mr. Clay, addressed a printed Circular to his constituents, in which he said:

"In taking him (Mr. Adams) Kentucky has secured the friendship and good will of the Eastern States. Her friendship with Ohio and the other Western States is unimpaired. No jealousies have been created, nor heart-burnings or ill-will. Had she gone for Jackson, she would have failed, and lost her only chance of obtaining equal weight and influence in the Cabinet and Presidential Councils."

Mr. A. Bourne, of Ohio, son-in-law of Gen. McArthur, one of the Ohio delegation who voted for Mr. Adams, is said to have stated as follows in a large company at Cincinnati:

"At this period, Mr. Bourne, who had hitherto been silent, rose from the sofa; and, after joining our circle, observed that it was unnecessary to discuss the circumstantial evidence on this subject, for that he knew the fact that there was a previous understanding between the friends of Mr. Clay and Mr. Adams, that in the event of the election of the latter, Mr. Clay should be Secretary of State. He proceeded to say that he had received a letter from a friend and relative of his in Congress, who was also a warm or

confidential friend of Mr. Clay, dated two or three weeks before the election of President by the House, stating that Mr. Adams would be President, and Mr. Clay Secretary of State; that it was a bitter pill, but that Mr. Clay's friends were reconciled to it by the circumstance that Mr. Clay would be Secretary of State; and would, in all probability, succeed Mr. Adams as President. Mr. Bourne then remarked, that he knew that Mr. Adams was the last choice of the writer of this letter; and that nothing could have induced him to vote for Mr. Adams but his warm attachment to Mr. Clay."

Mr. John C. Wright, also one of the Ohio delegation who voted for Mr. Adams, said in a letter to Ed. King, of Ohio, last winter:

"It has probably been determined that Old Hickory shall not be withdrawn." "We, of Ohio, I believe had better stand aloof, and let them poll. We have little interest in the game. With Adams we never can be affiliated—we are antipodes to him. Our Kentucky friends seem to be willing to have us with them, if we will fight their battles, and secure them all the sweetmeats, under the pretence of keeping old Kentucky in the shafts. In truth the folks can't keep up without Ohio, and they do not feel disposed to give Ohio any thing."

But there is one individual whom Mr. Clay has not deigned to notice—that is, the Hon. T. P. Moore, one of the Kentucky delegation: this gentleman was the warm personal and political friend of Mr. Clay in the Presidential canvas, and continued so until he avowed his determination to vote for Mr. Adams. If any person could possibly have known the motives which prompted Mr. Clay and his friends to control the election, Mr. Moore was that person—and what is his testimony—in a public speech to his constituents last summer he said:

"What argument could be presented me, authorizing a deviation from your known will? There was but one—it was the will of Mr. Clay. I had supported Mr. Clay for President; but I could not prefer his will to the will of the people; and I was astonished, after his open denunciation of Mr. Adams, and after the course that his friends, with his own encouragement and approbation, had pursued towards that gentleman, to learn that a sudden reconciliation had taken place, and that it was Mr. Clay's intention to vote for him as President! I was more astonished to find that he was carrying with him the votes of Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio, although the people in all those States notoriously preferred Gen. Jackson to Mr. Adams!" "I had not then, and I have not now, a single doubt, that the votes of all the States which I have named, were given in opposition to the will of the people of the States at that time, and with a perfect understanding on the part of those who gave them, (with few exceptions,) that Mr. Adams, so elected by western votes, would make Mr. Clay Secretary of State. They believed that Mr. Adams once elected, the power and patronage of the General Government would mould public opinion in accordance with their wishes. The people for their in-

terest wished us to vote one way, and Mr. Clay for his interest, wished us to vote another. The will and the interest of Mr. Clay were preferred to the will and the interest of the people; and Mr. Clay was accordingly made Secretary of State."

These are the declarations of the friends of Mr. Clay and Mr. Adams "on the occasion of the late election"—and these declarations partially confirm the testimony of their political opponents—it is not asserted that there were any propositions made by the parties, but can any person doubt, if these facts and statements remain unexplained, but that *self-aggrandizement* was the principal motive which induced Mr. Clay to control the election, and defeat the will of a majority of the people in his own State, and of the Union—we would with regret record the verdict, that selfish considerations prompted Mr. Clay to act so diametrically opposite to the duty of a representative, as avowed by himself in Congress, at a time when his banner shone conspicuous in the Republican ranks—then he said:

"I care not how I ascertain the will of my constituents, nor what are the evidences of it: it is sufficient for me that I know it. While I have a seat on this floor, I shall always hold myself bound by the will of my constituents, whether express or implied."

In the last Presidential election Mr. Clay evidently considered himself placed in the double attitude of a representative of Kentucky and an elector for the people of the Union; for in an address to his constituents he said: "I found myself transformed from a candidate before the people, to an elector for the people"—in both of these characters, whether as an elector for his own State, or for the people at large. Mr. Clay violated his duty as expressed by himself—he must appeal to Congress, confront the witnesses that have appeared against him, make them retract what they have said or impeach their credibility, or his political reputation will be forever blasted. This must be done during the present session of Congress, or it will be too late—a majority of the people of his own State, and a majority of the people of the Union have already decided against him; and he deceives himself, or is deceived by his friends, if he expects that their decision will be reversed by the negative testimony of those implicated with himself. No—unless the above plan is adopted, their decision will be ratified at the next Presidential election, and it will seal his political fate forever. The first opportunity afforded them, the constituents of Messrs. Johnson, Trimble, Scott, Cook, and McArthur, passed sentence of condemnation against them, by dismissing from their service men who permitted personal predilections to sway them in the performance of a public duty—in their fate Mr. Clay may read his own, unless his innocence is made more apparent before the next Presidential election.

*Mr. Clay's Appeal.*—It was said the other day in Congress, in the debate on Mr. Chilton's resolutions on retrenchment, that a large number of Mr. Clay's pamphlets, and the Virginia Adams Address had been circulated by the Administration and were probably paid for out of the contingent fund. Whether this is true or not, we do not know—we do know, however, that a number of copies of Mr. Clay's appeal have been sent into this district, by mail, by a member of Congress, friendly to the Administration, and we hazard little in expressing the belief, that they cost him nothing!

On the subject of the appeal itself, it is unnecessary to say much. Mr. Clay has too much good sense