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From the Palladium.

REMARKS,

On Mr Wolcott's Address to the People of the United States.

NO. VI.

In our last we presented to the public the charges made by the Committee against Col. Pickering and Mr. Wolcott's defence, in as compendious a point of view as the importance of the subject would permit. The result must be grateful to all good citizens. Such men must rejoice to see how brittle an instrument slander is, when truth and talent condescend to encounter it. Instead of "millions unaccounted for" with the conversion of which to his private use, he has been publicly accused, a Committee composed of his most bitter political enemies, have been obliged to acknowledge that only a balance of 78,583 dollars and 11 cents, is not yet adjusted;—they have been necessitated to confess, that this balance has been expended by him on objects of a public nature, and have been reduced to the miserable alternative of either leaving the calumnies of their partizans altogether unsupported, or of attempting to mislead public opinion into a belief of his misconduct in the "misapplication" of part of the above balance to objects different from those to which it had been appropriated. In noticing the choice between these difficulties, which the Committee have made, it is impossible for the mind not to compare their conduct with that, which it would have been, had men of real principle and honor, constituted the majority of that body, if it had consisted of men who scorned to be instruments of a party; who felt what was due to justice and their station. It is easy to represent the language which such men would have used. "The character," they would have said, "of a great and useful man, is involved in the result of our investigations; a man, who has stood jolly high in the confidence of his fellow citizens, whose public services have been long and meritorious. He has been charged with corrupt delapidations of the revenue. His reputation has received a wound, which it has become our official duty to justify or to heal. Our examination has been faithful; the charge that he has diverted public monies to private uses is proved groundless. We have the official declaration of one of our own party, who is at the head of the Treasury, that "the whole of the public monies received by him have been applied to public purposes." It becomes therefore, our first duty, paramount to all that we owe to any party, or class of men, to declare—that the suspicions raised against him are without foundation—that the balance, which stands unadjusted, on the books of the Treasury, is no ground of just accusation, as it is the necessary consequence of the extent of the concerns of the Department over which he presided, arising from the distance of the countries to which monies were remitted, and the necessity of time to procure vouchers; that it is a sufficient justification of Mr. Pickering that no other Secretary has ever been able to account in any other manner. From these charges, therefore, we feel a delight in which every good man in the community must participate in being able to acquit him fully and honorably." "It is true," such men might have added, "that he has sometimes applied public monies in his hands to national objects, different from those to which they were appropriated; but in all these instances his conduct was the result of his anxiety to preserve the public faith, in cases where it was

enviously pledged; or to promote public advantage in unexpected emergencies, for which Congress had not had opportunity to appropriate, and which admitted of no delay. In all, the earliest notice was given to Congress of the fact, and all have been explicitly sanctioned by subsequent appropriations. — Instead of censure in these respects, the conduct of Mr. Pickering is entitled to high approbation, as it resulted from a respectful confidence in Congress, and an anxious regard for the public welfare."

This is the language of truth and of evidence. Such language would have conferred substantial honour upon the characters of the majority of the committee, and done real credit to the cause they espouse. But liberal and honest language, such as this, is not to be expected from the blind instruments of party vengeance. Col. Pickering was a victim destined for the altar of its wrath, and, if he is not sacrificed, it is because he has better resources than the integrity and justice of the majority of the investigating Committee. Instead of such an honorable proceeding, they condescend to resort to the hackneyed topic of "misapplication of appropriations;" yet so ignorant were these men of facts, or so wilfully blind to the evidence before them, that they undertake to state general circumstances, under which they give it as their opinion, that appropriations may, with propriety in the language of the Committee be "misapplied." Circumstances, every one of which, it is shown by Mr. Wolcott, is minutely applicable to the case of Col. Pickering, whom they thus take occasion to hold up to public odium for conduct, upon their own avowed principles, strictly justifiable. To such shameful absurdities and detection, they never fail, sooner or later, to be reduced, who, forsaking the high road of political honor and official duty, seek place, profit or popularity, by yielding themselves willing instruments to profligate and ambitious leaders.

Another circumstance, indicative of the little public principle, and of how much party projects were at the bottom of this report, results from the ensuing facts. The letter of Mr. Gallatin, which is connected with the report and its basis, has the following clause. "The accounts of Mr. Randolph have been adjusted, and a suit instituted ever since the year 1797, for a balance of about 51,000 dollars, which, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the Comptroller, to bring it to issue, has not yet been decided. The difficulty to recover balances, due to the United States, being one of the great impediments to the public service, extracts of the correspondence of the District Attorney of Virginia, on that subject marked (B.) are annexed. Yet the document marked (B.) which would alone expose the deficiencies of Mr. Randolph, is not made public! At the same time every document, which can cast a colour of crime upon any individual not united with the sect in power is studiously divulged. Upon this circumstance Mr. Wolcott remarks:

"There is one fact, relative to the report of the committee on the accounts of Mr. Pickering, which ought to be stated that the censure, if any is due, may attach where it belongs, and there only. The letter of Mr. Gallatin, to the committee, certainly conveys an opinion, that there exists a delinquency, on the part of Mr. Randolph, while Secretary of State, amounting to about 51,000 dollars; and he refers to extracts of a correspondence with the District Attorney of Virginia, marked B,) as being annexed to his letter. In the

official publication of Mr. Gallatin's letter, the statements marked (A) & (C,) the latter being relative to the accounts of Mr. Pickering, were printed, but the intermediate documents, marked (B,) relating to the accounts of Mr. Randolph, were suppressed. Surely, on questions of such moment, an exact impartiality ought to be observed: surely, the fame of Mr. Pickering is, and ought to be as dear to the public, as that of Mr. Randolph."

But Mr. Randolph is a Virginian, the bosom friend of Mr. Jefferson; as able as he, and as virtuous as most of the president's Sectarists. It was in character, therefore, to throw a veil over his gross and enormous defalcations. But Mr. Pickering, who had retired from the labours and responsibility of his station as poor as he entered into it, who stood really indebted to the public not a farthing, because he neither reverences, nor stoops to the men in power, must be held up to public detestation as a delinquent: and nominal balances bro't in array against his reputation, accompanied with all the mockery of legislative investigation, and all the insidious, though false, opprobrium which, in popular estimation, "misapplication of public monies," throws upon his character. Under such an administration of public affairs the people have just reason to mourn, for in what country was virtue ever more openly deprected, by the sanction of their rulers, in what was vice ever more public y encouraged or more unblushingly patronized? C.

From the New York Evening Post.

A full exposition of the CLINTONIAN FACTION and the Society of the COLOMBIAN ILLUMINATI, &c. by JOHN WOOD.

(Concluded.)

The most inflamed zealots of the Romish Church fell short of this pious society in eagerness for persecution on one hand, and for proselytism on the other. They have spared neither expence nor pains to circulate books of infidelity and Jacobinism, and for their zeal the public are indebted for all the edifications communicated by the Temple of Reason, under the guidance of Driscoll, the apostatized popish priest. The first difficulty, the want of money, was surmounted by Cheetham himself, who in the impetuosity of his zeal, is said not only to have become security for the types, but in a fit of generous indiscretion to have betrayed his real character and principles to some of his subscribers.—Wood, who knows the man, says, "In place of the vulgar stupidity which unveils the projects of Demmlon's brain, Cheetham possesses all the cunning of an artful prostitute that under a placid countenance masks deep designs, and plotting vengeance;" yet, in this cause so ardent was this same Cheetham for the public good, so did his bowels yearn with compassion for the blindness of mankind that he became blind himself, and inclosed Driscoll's hand-bills in every one of his papers intended for his deistical customers, but unfortunately the carrier, not being so deeply versed in modern philosophy as to know a true infidel from a christian by the sound of his name or the front of his house, distributed the papers indiscriminately. The christian subscribers were surprized and displeas'd, and the mischief it is suppoled was not quite healed by a very humble apology. When Driscoll began to succeed, our precious society wanted to finger some of the profits;—but it was soon found that remonstrance, intreaty, argument, nay Billinggate, had no effect upon the flinty nerves of the cold-blooded in-

fidel, who, with all the fang-froid of an old pedlar, and the sagacity of a Jesuit resisted their solicitations, retained the pence, and left them all to grumble among themselves, exclaiming with Falstaff, "A plague upon it when rogues can't be true to each other." So, packing up his press and types, he moved to Philadelphia, and taking post under Duane, endeavored by making fresh proselytes, to repair the injury he had done the society.—He was not unsuccessful; a subordinate society was soon established under his auspices in that city, and another at Baltimore, but both under constitutional patents from the mother society here.

They now began to aspire to an extension of their principles. They feared that none but those who had been already converted from christianity would read their Temple of Reason. To steal a march with it upon believers would, they conceived, be a meritorious fraud, and they had recourse to the following, a curious and clever expedient for the purpose. Having laid their plan, a committee was appointed, who waited on Mr. Daniel Frazer, a pious christian teacher, who has justly gained some credit by answering Paine's Age of Reason, and him they prevailed upon to take up the defence of christianity, and set up a paper called the Temple of Christ, against the Temple of Truth. This, they judged, would occasion both to be read, and they had vanity enough to think that they should make quick work of the arguments of Mr. Frazer. However, their pious and benevolent plan was frustrated by one of Mr. Frazer's friends, who having some hints of the intentions of the Illuminati, communicated the information to him.

Mr. Wood states the number of the society to be very considerable.

"The number of members in the list of the theistical society of New-York, which I have amounts to 95; I would give their names, but this would serve no purpose, and only expose their families, perhaps to misery; every one of them, however, is in politics a Clintonian, and several of them have been promoted to offices by the Clinton interest. This love for Mr. De Witt Clinton, proceeds in a great measure from an idea that he is a devil; whether he is so or not, it is impossible for me to decide, it is enough that they think so, and on that supposition they will almost hazard their lives in his behalf. One thing, however is certain, that Mr. Clinton has afforded his patronage to several who were avowed deists, and he has even been the means of displacing christians to make room for deists. The present agent for the Temple of Reason, in New-York is well known to be indebted to Mr. Clinton for the lucrative situation in the mercantile line, which he at present enjoys. One of the members of the legislature of that state, who was foisted in by the Clinton interest, is an avowed supporter and hearer of the president Palmer, and for ought I know also a member of the highest grade among the Illuminati; for there were several, Mr. Baron tells me, who belonged to the highest grade, that never met in the general convention.

"The oath taken by the directors in the highest grade, was nearly the same with the oath administered to the minerval among the Illuminati, when he became an Illuminatus miner, and must without doubt, have been copied from it. It was reported to me in these words—

"I, a member of the Theistical Society, protest before you, the worthy president of our order, that I acknowledge my natural weakness and inability, and that I with all my possessions, rank, honours, and titles