

The Author of the "Voice."

We understand the friends of Judge Clayton disclaim for him the authorship of that incendiary production, "A Voice from the West." If they are sincere in their disclaimer, we can only say that we, with nearly the whole of this community, have been deceived in the matter. Several circumstances conspired to satisfy us, at least, that it emanated from his pen; which we will briefly notice, in order that that gentleman may understand that we did not wantonly, but for the best of reasons, attribute it to him. In the first place; then, the signature of the article, "a voice from the West," when taken in connexion with the editorial notice of it in the "Whig," was well calculated to fix the authorship on Judge Clayton. The notice is as follows:

"We call, in an especial manner, the attention of our readers to "A Voice from the West," published in this day's paper—It is the production of no common pen, and from a native Georgian, full of years and of wisdom, drawn from a life of long and laborious public service. Its length should deter no reader from its perusal, for long as it is, we venture to say no candid mind will pronounce that a line of it could be spared."

Now, we ask, is there a nullifier (and none other could have written the piece) in the west of Georgia but Judge Clayton, who answers the above description of the "Whig"—one "who is a native Georgian, full of years and wisdom, drawn from a life of long and laborious public service"—who wields "a common pen," &c. &c. We know of none other who could have sat for the picture—caricatured as it is, it reflects the image of but one who would and could have sounded such a "voice" from the "West." And if he is not the author, that gentleman must not blame us and the public for drawing such a conclusion, but the real author, who must have practised deception in calling his "voice" a western one, and the editor of the Whig for puffing it the way he did as such.

Again, will Judge Clayton or his friends deny that the "voice" was published under his supervision, at least so far as regarded corrections, &c. of the proof sheet? And if it was, does not this fact prove a strong link in the chain of circumstantial evidence that he is the author?

And again, at a regimental muster at Watkinsville a few days after the "Voice" appeared, a meeting was called by the nullifiers, for the express purpose of sounding it in the ears of the people; when with all due pomp and parade, it was read by George R. Clayton, Esq. After he had finished the "Voice," William L. Mitchell, Esq., offered a few remarks, in the course of which he bore strongly upon the parity of the motives of the author, &c. This called up Mr. G. R. Clayton, who with much zeal, vindicated the author in such a way as to leave the impression on the minds of every body that he knew the author, and that that author was his father.

These things all conspired to satisfy us with regard to the writer of "A voice from the West;" and although we may have been mistaken, yet we apprehend the Judge is too much of a lawyer not to acknowledge himself the strength of the chain of circumstantial evidence which induced us to fix it upon him. Yet may we not hope that we have been mistaken—that we shall have the pleasure of seeing in the next Whig not only a full disclaimer from the Judge, but a denial of his having had any kind of agency in sounding abroad that fire brand of discord?

But if Judge Clayton is not, the next inquiry is, who is the author of "A Voice from the West?" Some of the judge's intimate and confidential friends here attribute it, we understand, to John McPherson Berrien! If such be the fact, and we presume they ought to know, we apprehend the history of the production is as follows: Judge Berrien wrote the article in Savannah; and sent it to Judge Clayton to have published and disseminated in the up country, as "a voice from the West," for party effect. Now if this be the true history of the affair, the explanations of Judge C.'s friends have mended the matter most wonderfully, both as regards himself and the true author! For what will the people of Western Georgia say to this outrageous attempt of a low-country federalist and a nullifier to deceive them through the agency of a Western one? John McPherson Berrien is a citizen of the extreme south of Georgia, yet he has dared to assume the garb of a Western man, (as the wolf did the sheep's clothing) to disguise his low country lingo, as a Western "Voice"—in order to influence our local elections, and the better to lead us into the meshes of nullification! We say, will the stern republicans of the up country allow themselves to be the dupes of such a base imposter? No, never! And will not the people of Clark county rise indignant on Monday next, and show to the world their abhorrence of the paltry trick played off on them at the regimental muster, by attempting to palm upon them the ravings of a disappointed office hunter in Savannah, for the cool argument and dispassionate reasonings of a Western patriot? If they are men and patriots they will!