

THE ABOLITION MEMORIALS— JUDGE CLAYTON, &c.

It must be obvious to all who pay the least attention to the movements of the various factions North, East, South, and West, opposed to the republican party, that their last hope of defeating Mr. Van Buren before the people, is based upon the success of their scheme of wresting the southern portion of that party from his support, by addressing their fears and prejudices on the subject of slavery.— This is evidently the last stake in the desperate game they are playing, and hence it is easy to account for the desperate efforts they are making to turn it to their advantage—this lost and all is lost to them.

The fact of Mr. Van Buren's being a northern man, they think will prostrate him, if they can succeed in imposing upon the people of the south the idea, that the great body of the northern people are opposed to their peculiar institution of slavery; and this they are endeavoring to do in despite of facts as they exist to the contrary, and in violation of all the rules of common sense and common

honesty. But a desperate cause is always upheld by desperate means. The noble conduct of the north last summer with regard to the proceedings of a few restless fanatics in that quarter—its determination to put them down at all hazards, and the almost unanimous vote lately obtained in Congress against the petitions on the subject of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, they say all amount to nothing—and why? simply because some of the northern anti-abolition members of Congress, entertaining conscientious scruples with regard to the right of petition, are more disposed to get rid of those petitions “by laying them on the table” and refusing to print, than by rejecting them altogether! Because of this difference of opinion with regard to the best mode of *killing abolitionism*, the impression is sought to be made, that all those who chose to use their own weapons of warfare, and reject those attempted to be thrust in their hands, are no better than abolitionists themselves—or, in other words, that those members from the north who are desirous of preserving inviolate what they esteem a sacred and constitutional right—the right of petition—and at the same time to protect the constitutional rights of the south, by contemptuously refusing to consider, or even to print the abolition petitions when received, are themselves abolitionists at heart. This was the great object sought to be effected by the movement of the nullifiers in Congress, substituting the rejection of those petitions for the customary usage of laying them on the table, with other obnoxious petitions, and refusing to have them printed. They concluded, that if they could get up a difference of opinion between *themselves* and the northern representatives on some point relating to, but foreign to the true merits of the subject, it would be an easy matter to impose such a difference of opinion upon the sensitive people of the south, as an evidence of their want of sincerity, although openly and avowedly acting with us, in opposition to the abolitionists! and it remains to be seen how far the intelligence of the south is to be duped by this shallow device of nullification.

We discover that Judge Clayton, over his proper signature, in the columns of the newspapers, has contributed his *mite* towards the furtherance of this weak, we may say silly scheme, for arousing the prejudices of the south against the north; the whole object of which, is to divide the southern democracy from their friends at the north—prevent an election of President by the people, and throw it into Congress, where it is expected by the coalition, that bribery and corruption will prevail over honesty and virtue, and Mr. Van Buren, like Gen. Jackson, when contending against Clay and Adams, and their tools on the same theatre of rascality, be compelled to give place to a minority President, in the person of Harrison, Clay or Webster.

The letters of Judge Clayton to the *State Rights Sentinel*, seconding the views of the nullifiers in Congress on this subject, like every public display of his, for the last three or four years, serve only to thrust him deeper and deeper into the bog of inconsistency.—They are obviously intended to fix the charge of abolitionism upon those members of Congress from the north, friendly to Mr. Van Buren, who have, during the present session, voted to lay the abolition petitions on the table. Now, if this makes them abolitionists, what ground does the Judge himself occupy? for it will be seen, by reference to the communication of “Hancock” in another column of our paper this week, that *he too* voted, whilst in Congress, to *lay them on the table!* But we will not anticipate the arguments of our correspondents, Hancock and Newton. They use the Hon. ex-Congressman so completely up, that in mercy we will forbear—we would not if we could, add a feather’s weight to the awful load they have placed upon his back.