

## TO THE NULLIFIERS.

I speak as fearless as a sunbeam shines,  
To purify our country and her shrines.

To His Grace, the Duke of Pendleton :

MY LORD,—That Dukeship, which your advocacy of Royal Nullification against the freest sublunary government, (excepting Switzerland,) gives to you, beyond doubt, must be very glad to see the people fat and drowsy, rolling in their feather beds of an afternoon, under the august protection of the idea of the great Prestor John of America. Beshrew me, your Grace ! I mean no harm—as all “leige men to the Dane” love to speak of the *Dukes* of their country, so speak I of your honor.—Your grace, however, writes such bad and unconnected Literary essays, of which your studied effort in declension of dinner of fat meats and piping pies, “in this here village,” gives alarming prognosis. Beshrew me my Leige Lord—Cuitiff ! I say nullification is of the D——! Now let me—your grace—correct your defalcation from Lindley Murray, or orthodox grammar. Your whole letter as a literary effusion—and a *laboured, hourly* one, it must have been—falls short of standard elegance, as a Belles-Letted production : and, is, even somewhat deficient in Grammar. I shall point out—your grace—two of your ungrammatical errors, and ask you to write more classically, “next time,” and elevate our country’s literature by more faultless Letters :

In the third paragraph of your letter of August 5th, 7th line—you grace said, “than the Aborigines whom we *have drove* out !” Now your grace, by turning to Syntax and Prosody, in any regular book of Gammar, would be admonished, that “*have drove*,” is a bad vulgarism in the English dialect, and we all must rather say *have driven* ! Again, Lord Duke, seventh paragraph—seventh line, you said, “incalculable advantages both to them and us” ! Whew—“grammercy good dunce”—you should have said “incalculable advantages to *themselves* and to us.” Beshrew me, sir, Beshrew me ! “Leige man to the Dane !”—grammercy !

Having finished my humble office of setting the “King’s English right,” I acknowledge to his majesty, that I have no malapert invidious design against his titular prerogatives.—But as Northern men of letters, say we of the South are lamentably and shamefully deficient in correct Rhetoric and elegance of grammar, and do most unmercifully dissect to pieces our Literary effusions, whenever

they appear in our sometime periodicals;—I thought I would overlook your person and the fervid respect of your adherents, and do my countrymen a good, in spite of high names and ignorance under the garb of erudition! I instruct my countrymen to learn better Rhetoric; and study, *like me*, more at home in literature; and let politics and high sounding Nullification alone:—For in peaceful retirement, and tranquil literary research, our countrymen will more do themselves honor, than by following your grace, or any other politician; so deficient in a proper graphic and systematic comprehension of the language of our country! J. J. FLOURNOY.

P. S. An apology to the Nullifiers: I do not mean to insult you, gentlemen: But rebuke, I do, your zeal to do "Calhoun reverence."—When whatever good he has done, he has soured and embittered that good, by his dismemberment schemes of 1832, which are fresh and vivid in your recollection. As a small band in Carolina withstood the insidious approach of nullification tyranny, and as I was one of this glorious Union Spartan Band, there determined to preserve the ark of our Union from an unhallowed desecration—I cannot forget the imminent danger into which Calhoun's rhapsodies threw me—nor be ungrateful to Henry Clay, for that rescue which he made in his compromise, which, while it saved me, saved also thousands of Carolinians—and prevented Calhoun and Cooper from making Carolina an Armageddon, and her people a Hecatompylean! Can he that would for a cause of doubtful interest, shed blood like water, be a man good and true? The Union party is yet compact and firm! Although individuals of that party will not support particular men or particular nominations, they will unite in one band when the question is between Nullification and Union, and a signal overthrow of warlike dissentients again awaits our opponents. That I have rightly criticised Mr. Calhoun's literature, the most fastidious Nullifier and most zealous Calhounist, at all conversant with the elegant style of an Addison—a Johnson—a Goldsmith—an Aiken—a Porteus—a Channing—an Everett and a Cushing—cannot well deny! As he stands high, as not only a rhetorical master, but as a political guide, to thousands of the South, so I cannot allow him to teach *bad grammar* in his effusions, when I want the people better intelligent. That there is a deplorable deficiency in that man's style of writing—a too obvious disconnection in his sentences, here is another sample: at the last paragraph, 47 or 8th line, he holds so palpable a disjunction, that I must needs quote part of the whole sentence and give the corrections. "That there may be a generous rivalry and a hearty disposition between them to co-operate to the full extent, where their joint efforts may be of mutual advantage *is my ardent desire, let us both bear in mind,*" &c. The proper wording now of the above would be to say, "where their joint efforts may be of mutual advantage *is my ardent desire, and let us,*" &c. Or "is my ardent desire: Let us," &c. Either a conjunction or a Colon was wanting:—a comma without the *and*, was outlandish barbarism, to speak literarily. I know that the pedantic Nullifiers of Carolina have often made fun at Gen. Jackson's writings: and here is a piece to help their future humour: their own paragon is caught at the dirty offence—and if they have consistency—they will excuse old Hickory's illiteracy, fifty times after, than before they have perused this criticism.

N. B. Neither John C. Calhoun, nor George M. Troup, both of whom I have seen, have good Phrenological developements.

J. J. F.

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