

JOHN C. CALHOUN.

"This gentleman paid us a visit during the commencement, and was received by his adherents and faithful followers as became the liege subjects of so potent a pontiff as the high priest of nullification. We had the pleasure of witnessing the grand entree of His Grace upon the stage of the College Chapel. Just after the first speaker had closed his address on Tuesday, and as the President was about to call upon the next, the loud clattering of some half a dozen feet attracted our attention, and looking towards the stage we saw one of Waddy Thompson's "commanding figures" slowly mounting the steps. The clattering ceased for a moment was then renewed in another quarter by a few additional feet. His Grace bowed, not low, but most benignly, and smiled upon the applauding few—this gave a new impulse, and as he took his seat a few more from the gallery joined in; but the effort at applause was no go; it failed for the best of reasons—his admirers among that intelligent auditory were too "few and far between." We did feel for the gentleman, but when we reflected upon his uniform opposition to Georgia, and particularly upon his recent attempt to continue the Indians upon our soil in defiance of the obligations of the General Government to remove them, we could not but wonder that there should be even one so lost to all respect for his own rights and character as to do him reverence."

The above article appeared in the Banner of last week. We have inserted it that all our readers may see it, and we trust that it may be re-published throughout the State in order to show the gratuitous and bitter malice of the press in which it appeared. Among the old Clark party there is some honor and principle, and they will not go the lengths of certain editors who are deserters from the Troup ranks. There is nothing too malevolent for them. It is now a subject of universal remark that the Troup Union Press sticks at nothing, feels nothing, fears nothing unless it be the truth, and have wholly given themselves up to the passion of falsehood merely to screen themselves from the

olium of that treachery so indelibly branded upon their foreheads.

Now the fact is there is but one single truth in all the above statements, and that is that Mr. Calhoun visited the Chapel and went on the stage. All the rest, false as it is possible to conceive, is uttered in the face of a thousand witnesses, and shows the hardihood to which falsehood may be carried. Upon its being ascertained that Mr. Calhoun was in the house, a considerable number of the trustees of both parties held a hasty consultation as to the propriety of inviting him on the stage, in compliment to a distinguished stranger who had held the second office of the Federal Government, and was then a Senator of the United States, a respect frequently paid to other meritorious strangers. Among those consulted there was not a dissenting voice, and Governor Lumpkin and Doct. Fort were despatched to invite and conduct him up. He complied, and was cheered in the house by one universal plaudit from the time he arose till he ascended the stage, and then it became almost deafening, and to the great credit of the crowd in which doubtless he had many political enemies, the applause was perfectly unbroken by an occurrence indicative of an opposite feeling to that which was so loudly testifying its respect for this honorable, but much calumniated personage. The statement we give is amply confirmed by letters which are appearing in different papers throughout the State, written from this place immediately after the facts. It is a notorious fact that Mr. Calhoun was greeted with unusual respect from all parties, and no stranger has ever visited Athens who has received such attentions. It was due to him, and what he had a right to expect from the well known hospitality of the place and the courtesy of the citizens of Georgia assembled on such an occasion. But if strangers are to be thus grossly insulted, nay belied, the future commencements of Franklin College will be visited only by those whose humble walk in life is not likely to provoke the contemptible spleen of malignant scribblers. The article is an insult to the citizens generally and particularly to the inhabitants of this place, and we rejoice to say it has been received with universal indignation. No honorable man of any party upholds it, and to the great credit of very many of Mr. Calhoun's political opponents we have heard from them expressions of deep mortification.—Southern Whig.

ATHENS, 3rd August, 1836.

HON. JOHN C. CALHOUN—

Sir—As the organ of the citizens of Athens and its vicinity, it has been made our pleasing duty to assure you that your visit among them, is a source of high gratification, and besides the wish to offer you the civilities due to a stranger, they are anxious to afford you a testimony of the very great regard in which your distinguished public services, especially as relates to the question of abolition and the distribution of the surplus revenue, are held by them and to this end beg to tender you a public dinner at such time as will best suit your convenience. We earnestly request that you will not refuse this so favorable an opportunity of gratifying the wishes of a portion of your fellow citizens, who have not only greatly admired your political course, but who entertain for you personally the highest consideration.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servants,

- A. S. CLAYTON,
- C. DOUGHERTY,
- S. J. MAYS,
- GEO. H. YOUNG,
- ASBURY HULL,
- GEO. R. CLAYTON,
- HINES HOLT.

ATHENS, 5th August, 1836.

GENTLEMEN: If I could be induced to depart from a rule which I adopted several years since, on the approach of a memorable crisis of our affairs, to decline all public demonstrations in approbation of my political course, I would with great pleasure accept the very kind and pressing invitation to a public dinner, which you have tendered me, in the name of the citizens of Athens and its vicinity. But the reasons which induced me originally to adopt the rule have not yet ceased to operate. Foreseeing, that the course, which a sense of duty impelled me to take on the occasion to which I have referred, would give the ignorant and artful an opportunity to impute to me base and unworthy motives, I determined to forego (in order to repel, as far as possible such imputations,) all public honors, and to seek my reward in the difficult path which I purposed to tread, in the approbation of my conscience, and the approval of after times.

That my conduct in the difficult scenes through which I have passed, has met the approbation of yourselves and those you represent, is to me a source of much gratification. The two subjects, abolition and the regulation of the public deposits, in reference to which you have in particular approved my conduct, are of primary importance, and you could have selected none on which your approbation would have been more acceptable.

Of all questions which have been agitated under our government, abolition is that in which we of the South have the deepest concern. It strikes directly and fatally, not only at our prosperity, but our existence, as a people. Should it succeed, our fate would be worse than the aborigines whom we have driven out, or the slaves whom we command. It is a question that admits of neither concession nor compromise. The door must be closed against all interference on the part of the General Government in any form, whether in the District of Columbia, or in the States or territories. The highest grounds are the safest.

There is one point, in connection with this important subject, on which the South ought to be fully informed. From all that I saw and heard during the session, I am perfectly satisfied that we must look to ourselves and ourselves only for safety. It is perfectly idle to look to the non slaveholding States to arrest the attacks of the fanatics. I readily admit that the great body of the enlightened citizens of all parties in these States are opposed to their wicked and dangerous schemes, but so intent are the two parties which divide and distract all the non slave holding States on getting or retaining power that neither will directly oppose the abolitionists on our account, from the fear that by incurring their displeasure they might lose their ascendancy in their respective States, or defeat their prospect of rising to power. As strong as may be their sympathy for us, their regard for their party at home is still stronger. Of this we may be perfectly assured. Nor would it be less vain to look to Congress. The same cause that prevents the non slaveholding States from interference in our favor at home, will equally prevent Congress. We must not forget that a majority of Congress in both Houses are the Representatives of those States, and of course actuated by all the feelings and calculations which govern their respective States. But, if true to ourselves, we need neither their sympathy nor aid. The constitution has placed in our power ample means, short of secession, or disunion, to protect ourselves. All we want are harmony and concert among ourselves to call them into effectual action when the necessity comes.

As to the act regulating the public deposits, I consider it by far the most fortunate measure of the session. And here let me say, which is due to truth and justice, that for the success of this great and beneficent measure, the country is greatly indebted to the steady and firm cooperation of a majority of the friends of the administration in both Houses, who prove by their acts that they preferred their country and its institutions to party attachment.

If I mistake not, the passage of the measure is the commencement of a new political era. It will be regarded in history as marking the termination of that long vibration of our system

towards consolidation, which lately threatened the overthrow of our institutions and the loss of our liberty, and the commencement of its return to its true confederative character, as it came from the hands of its framers.

There is one view of this important subject highly interesting to the Southern Atlantic States, and especially to this, which deserves notice. It will afford the means, if properly applied, of opening our connection with the vast and fertile regions of the West, to the incalculable advantage of both them and us.— We are far in the rear of the other sections in reference to internal improvement. Nature seemed to place an inseparable barrier between the Southern Atlantic ports and the West; but a better knowledge of the geography of the country, and the great advance of the means of communication between distant parts, by rail roads, have, in the last year or two, opened new views of prosperity for our section. Instead of being cut off from the vast commerce of the West, as had been supposed, we find to our surprise that it is in our power with proper exertions to turn its copious stream to our own ports. Just at this important moment, when this new and brilliant prospect is unfolding to our view, the deposit bill is about to place under the control of the States interested ample means of accomplishing, on the most extended and durable scale, a system of rail road communication that, if effected, must change the social, political and commercial relations of the whole country, vastly to our benefit, but without injuring other sections. No State has a deeper interest in seeing the system executed than Georgia. Her position gives her great and commanding advantages in reference to rail roads; more so, in my opinion, than any other State in the Union, and all that she wants to raise her prosperity to the highest point and place it on the most durable foundation is a wise and judicious application of her means. Though possessed of less advantages, I feel confident I speak the sentiments of Carolina in saying, that she feels no envy at the superior advantages of Georgia, and that she will rejoice to see them developed to the fullest extent. 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, that though each still may have its separate interest to a certain extent, yet as it regards other sections, they both have a common interest, and that interest is to unite the Southern Atlantic by *the nearest, cheapest and best routes with the great bosom of the Mississippi and its vast tributaries.*

With great respect, I am &c. &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

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