

To the Hon. Augustin S. Clayton, Judge
of the Superior Courts of the Western
Circuit.

Although I have appeared before the public only as an anonymous writer, it is neither my interest, nor my inclination wantonly to inflict an injury upon the feelings of any man. In my last address to the "moral and religious part" of the community of this state, I expressed an opinion concerning the Judicial department, the terms of which may be construed to extend to yourself, as well as any other Judge. It is not my design to deny that you were intended to be included, although I might well excuse myself by a declaration which I could make with perfect truth, that at the time of writing that address, I had not the most distant idea that the question of Abner Hammond's removal from office would, or indeed *could* be bro't before you. Another excuse could also be made, to-wit: that I knew less of the manner in which you were wont to discharge your judicial functions, than of that of any other Judge of this state whom I had ever seen. - But I admit that both these excuses may be suspected of a want of candor. The truth is the opinion which I expressed, was formed from observations, made for a series of years, upon the administration of justice in this state. I appeal to your candor, Sir, now to say whether, upon the whole, that opinion is incorrect.

Your late decision, published in the papers of Millidgeville, has convinced me that you have an independence of principles well suited to the office you fill, and "talents" which would adorn any to which you may be called. I will not diminish the compliment which the promptitude of your conduct has thus impelled me to bestow, by the suggestion of a suspicion, that you believed you were following on in the current of public opinion. On the contrary, I have scarcely a doubt but that public opinion was different from yours; and if it hereafter should appear to correspond with yours, you ought to be said rather to have led, than followed it.

With a republican boldness not less deserving the imitation, than the gratitude of "good men," you have dared to obstruct the course of "mad ambition" in its desolating march over the constitution. In doing so, you have assumed a fearful post, if your office should be either desirable or necessary

to you. If you should retain it, you may assure yourself of having "fought a good fight," and succeeded in arousing the dormant faculties of a too credulous community to a sense of the dangers which surrounded the institutions of the state. If it should be taken from you, I persuade myself you will find ample consolation in the pleasing reflection of having done your duty, in times when an infatuated people, had become tired of the liberties they enjoyed, and blindly rushed forward to prostrate themselves* at the feet of a MOKANNA, whose deformities are not even concealed by the flimsy texture of "a silver veil."

SOCRATES.

*This disposition among the people of this state brings to my recollection the following observation of a celebrated German writer :

Tiger leben mit Tigern, Baren mit Baren, Lowen mit Lowen, unter einander im Freiden: allein Menschen thun dergeichen nicht. Sie erfanden Wordegewehre, um sich einander zu toeten.