

1810 August 11 *Foreign Correspondent and Georgia Express* (Athens, Georgia), p2, "For the Georgia Express."

"Whose mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker; and be that is glad at calamities shall not go unpunished."

As Mr. Clayton has come forward and given a better opportunity to those who hold different principles from himself, of arraigning at the bar of public opinion, his pretensions to a seat in the Legislature. I shall, with due deference to his *Superior talents*, enter on an investigation of his merits & claims to public confidence – and I trust, that before I have done with him, I shall not only shew that Mr. Clayton is an improper character, at his eventful period, to clothe with a legislative appointment – but one wholly undeserving the suffrages of independent Electors of either political cast, or of those of professors of Religion of any persuasion whatever. In doing this; I shall not descend to the pool of defamation and slander in which Mr. C evidently *waded* until he was almost *swimming*. I with pleasure inform this would-be *legislative blackguard*, that I am proud to call my *personal* and intimate friends *men*, whose respectability, commanding influence, and firm Republicanism, have raised them to the first office in the gift of discerning and patriotic people – where I am known his envenomed calumny can naught avail; and while I am here, my conduct will be the test of my character – but this toothless viper is yet to be informed, (if he does not already know) that I have, for twelve years past had a very honorable and liberal share of the abouse of Tories; an that when I began with him, which was after a residence of more than five month, I of course expected that he participate with his brethren in arms, by calling in his mite to the wallet of tory slander.

As this subject may partially occupy my attention for some weeks, it may not be improper to constitute the present number a kind of *preface*, in which to give the *curious* reader some idea of the *political chameleon*, whose *consistency* and *uniformity* will embrace the principal subjects in the further progress of this enquiry. A person, by only having a superficial acquaintance with this self-sufficient *Proteus*, and paying a slight attention to his loquacity in different political or religious companies, would readily pronounce, that he was encumbered with "various views," and possessed a happy facility of adapting his dogmas to the feelings of the 'gaping crowd;' who are generally astonished with his *verbosity*, or *lost* in the incantations of his cutting satires, which leave such poignant feelings in the breast of this antagonist, "as art can never cicatirze or time affoage." In addition, after a little further acquaintance, you will perceive that he has acquired an *hypocritical grin*, and endearing squeeze of the hand, has got by [with?] a few cant phrases of "how do you do my old friend, how does your wife and family do?" is blessed with a good stock of impudence, & backed by a few deluded sycophants – with these accomplishments, he will certainly be allowed, for an *inexperienced youth*, the reputation of a great electioneerer, and of course a [fit?] person to send to the Legislature.

It may be matter of surprise to some, that I should have the confidence to attack one who evidently possesses such fearful odds – but, be it remembered, that I rest secure from the chagrin of a defeat, or the mortification of being worsted in the combat, by the dignified silence which this gigantic Lilliput has judiciously iposed upon himself.

Voter