

the case with thoughtless young men, has mistaken the date of McCarty's letter, and that instead of the 1st of June it ought to appear to be dated the 1st of October. I wish to take no advantage of his thoughtlessness; but yet, in some unguarded moment, he might blunder upon a worse vote in Congress, (should he be elected,) than he pretends to think; I gave, in the case of Penelope Denny. However, to be serious, (if this matter deserves seriousness,) it does appear that I must have written General Noble's letter of recommendation, at least several days after I had written for McCarty; yet Mr. Smith boldly ventures to say, in defiance of truth and his own evidence, "that I pretended to be recommending McCarty *specially*, while at the same time, I had previously recommended Gen. Noble in much stronger terms." So much for his candor in this respect. He is equally uncandid in saying that Gen. Noble was understood to be a candidate for Congress, and that I recommended him thus highly to get him out of my way; and the letter to Judge Mount will give the lie to his assertions, unless he will contend that I wanted to get him out of my way likewise.

The following is a copy of my letter to Judge Mount.

"Brookville, October 8, 1825.

"Sir.—You have no doubt been informed of the death of Mr. Lazarus Noble, the receiver of the land office at this place.—My friend David Mount, is an applicant to fill the place rendered vacant by his death. Judge Mount has long been a resident of this country, and has filled during the time, some very important public stations, is a gentleman of unassisted character, well acquainted with business, and every way qualified, to discharge the duties of the office to which he aspires; and should the appointment be conferred upon him, I am persuaded, it would meet the universal approbation of the people in this quarter. I can further say that if good moral character, strict integrity, and honesty in public and private life, give claim to public favor, no man has higher claim than the Judge."

It will be seen, I think, that the above letter, is in as strong terms, as Genl. Noble's. I likewise gave one to Mr. Ross Smily of Union county, in pretty much the same terms; a copy of which, I have not.

Mr. Smith says he had publicly made the above charge on me, in several places through the district; now I can assure Mr. Smith, I never made a charge against him since he became my competitor for the seat in Congress, except, such as were involved in, and absolutely connected with my defence of his numberless little filthy charges against me. I never was guilty of such meanness; and I can assure Mr. Smith, that such a course, would so injure a man's character and standing in the councils of the nation, as to render him almost useless to his constituents; for such things are generally as well known at the capital of the Union as at home, where they transpired. Again, Mr. Smith pays the people of Brookville, a very poor compliment unless he can make it appear, they are all unfriendly to me; for he says, my bad conduct was no secret in the town; now, if Mr. Smith tells the truth, every man in Brookville must have known that I had acted basely towards McCarty; and yet, strange as it may appear, I believe I can safely say, almost every citizen in the town (the McCarty's excepted) is my friend; and can further say to Mr. Smith that the citizens of Brookville have a high claim to respectability as he, or any of the firm; and who would not wink at baseness sooner than they. Mr. Smith has produced a strange kind of paradox, wherein by proving too little, he proves too much; because he affirms, that my conduct towards the McCarty's was no secret in Brookville to any one; yet, in fact, the people of the town are friendly to me; it follows of course, that where my conduct is best known, it is most approved, and, therefore, must have been correct. Again: Mr. Smith proves that the people of this district, generally, believe him not entitled to credit when he speaks; for he says, he had made his charge against me through the district; and, that the people had thought it false and intended to injure me. Now if the fact exists, the case stands thus, Mr. Smith voluntarily trumps a tale, which every body thinks false, and then turns about to scalp me, because the people will not believe him. So much for Mr. Smith's candor in this respect.

Let us now examine the course the Company have thought proper to take. It will be found, that here is not only the "intriguer" and the "intelliger" but the "operator" and the "operative." Abner McCarty operates upon Enoch, and Enoch upon Smith, who becomes their Don Quixote, (not to operate upon a windmill) but upon me. I am to fall a victim to their joint operations: I was not disposed to join their *holy alliance*; I must therefore, be immolated. Here let me observe, that as the whole company have embarked in the same ship, they will be carried quietly along with the same breeze, or driven furiously by the same storm, & engulfed in the same vortex: they cannot be separated. As they have all of them, (Smith not excepted,) by a combination and joint effort, endeavored to injure me, I shall feel myself at liberty to use the act of any one of them in my defense. If, therefore, I can make it appear, that any of them has asserted a falsehood, I shall consider it as applying to the whole company. Let us then examine E. McCarty's statement first, and if he does not place himself in the predicament of the two Thieves who stole the meat, I think I shall convict him of a falsehood; and if I convict him of one falsehood, I shall claim to have his evidence set aside altogether. He holds out the idea in his statement to Smith, that he did not know I had recommended Gen. Noble until after I had left this place for Washington. Yet Gen. Noble declares that after obtaining my letter of recommendation, he informed Abner McCarty

on the same day that he got it. Enoch says, I promised to do as much for Abner as Mr. Jennings did. I presume he means by that, I promised to recommend him only; because if they had insisted upon me doing the same thing that Mr. Jennings did, I must have written a second letter to defeat the first; for it is evident, by Mr. Jennings' letter, written to Mr. Rush, that Enoch, or Abner, or both of them, asserted an unqualified falsehood, or that Mr. Jennings has, and I am not willing to believe that Mr. Jennings would do so under any circumstances, and more especially, when writing to one of the departments of Government. Let us see how the two statements stand. Enoch McCarty says, I promised to do as much for Abner as Mr. Jennings would; of course I could not tell what to do for him, unless I saw what Mr. Jennings would do; and yet, Mr. Jennings in his letter to Mr. Rush, dated "Oct. 5th, 1825," says, representations have been made to him, that Judge Test, a Representative from this state, had written a very pressing letter to the department over which Mr. Rush presided, or to the president of the United States, in favor of Mr. Abner McCarty for the office of Receiver in the Brookville land district, and the Hon. William Hendricks, Senator from Indiana, would also write in favor of Mr. McCarty. If such representations be incorrect, or shall be found incorrect from the letters received by the government, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of authorising Robert Hanna, Esq. (of Indianapolis, to which place the land office has lately been removed) who is the Register, to employ some person to transact the business of Receiver until time be afforded to enable a more satisfactory appointment, than perhaps can be made under such circumstances as will be arising, if the representations alluded to, shall be found incorrect. In this letter, Mr. Jennings tells Mr. Rush the secretary of the treasury, "that representations had been made to him, that I had written (not that I would write) a very pressing letter in favor of Mr. McCarty." Now it will appear evident from Mr. McCarty's statement to Smith, that whoever made these representations to Mr. Jennings, told a down right falsehood—for I declare, I have written no letter in favor of Abner; and Enoch admits the fact, by saying, "I was to do as much for Abner as Mr. Jennings would"—of course I must see what Mr. Jennings would do, before I could know how much I had to do, or what I had to write for Abner. The next question is, who made these false representations to Mr. Jennings? (for they are false): It is evident, it must have been Enoch or Abner, or both of them, because, it seems they were made at the time he wrote the letter for Abner, and were the cause of his writing that letter; he says, it was represented *I had written*, and Mr. Hendricks *was to write*, hence it was before Mr. Hendricks wrote; and if I mistake not, Mr. Hendricks' letter in favor of Abner is dated the same day, or the day following Mr. Jennings'. Now, it is not likely, Mr. McCarty took a stranger with him to tell me of his letter to Mr. Jennings, and if not, he must have made these false representations himself; and as is not unlikely, carried a letter from his brother Enoch to Mr. Jennings, which likewise contained them. That Mr. Jennings intends to fix it upon Enoch or Abner, is very evident; for he tells Mr. Rush, "if those representations should turn out to be incorrect, he wished him to authorise General Hanna, to employ some one to do the business of Receiver until a more satisfactory appointment could be made"; thereby, clearly intending to impress upon the mind of the Secretary of the Treasury, that Abner, or some of the family, had made these representations; that he was fearful, they were false; and if so, he had better wait until a more satisfactory appointment could be made than Abner's—saying in substance, that he suspected him for telling a falsehood; that if it were so in fact, the appointment of such a man would be very unsatisfactory to the government. As to the falsehood of the representations alluded to by Mr. Jennings, a solitary doubt cannot for a moment be now entertained, for I never had written such a letter, as he speaks of, either pressing or otherwise; and E. 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