

MR. CLAY'S "TALK."

After an interval of three weeks, the "valued guest" of the "Mechanics' collation," in this city, has issued, from his place of "unqualified retirement," and sent forth to the world the "long talk," delivered on the third inst. It is a specimen of that classical composition, and chaste diction, which obtains in the "good society" community, of which Henry Clay is a conspicuous member. In its style we perceive some small resemblance to the oratorical flourishes of *Red Jacket*.—The appeal to the "people of Ohio here assembled—mothers—daughters—sons and sires"—forcibly reminds us of some of the genuine sentiments of that great aboriginal chief; and when we take into consideration Mr. Clay's devotedness to Indian interests, and his zeal to promote their "general welfare," we think that it would be very uncharitable in us to rob him of what new lights of oratory he might acquire, from either their speeches, their "talks," or their maxims.

To treat the subject more seriously, although it is undeserving that attention which is due to ordinary papers emanating from great men, I will notice a few paragraphs in this document, to show how silly a man can make himself appear in public estimation, at a time when he labours most incessantly to convince that public that he is a rational and consistent politician.

After the "great father of the American system," expresses his gratitude for the hospitable reception he met with in Ohio—and after he repeats and reiterates his expressions of gratitude, until he manages to fill a space of more than half a column—Mr. Clay gently, and as if it were by stealth, feels his way to the subject of the re-chartering of the United States' Bank. I will here introduce his own language on this subject, that my readers may know how far this "fearless champion," dare proceed in giving his opinions in advance on any measure not fully before the public; or how far he can be termed the leader of any policy, which he follows in the wake of, after brighter talents, and more comprehensive views of public good, have been exerted to investigate that policy. The extract follows:—

"Whether the charter, [of the United States' Bank] ought to be renewed or not, near six years hence, in my judgment, is a question of expediency to be decided by the then state of the country. It will be necessary at that time to look carefully at the condition both of the Bank and the Union. To ascertain, if the public debt shall in the mean time be paid off, what effect that will produce; what will be then financial condition, what that of our local banks, the state of our commerce, foreign and domestic, as well as the concerns of our currency generally. I am, therefore, not now prepared to say whether the charter ought or ought not to be renewed on the expiration of its present term. The Bank may become insolvent, and may thereafter forfeit all pretensions to a renewal. The question is premature. I may not be alive to form any opinion upon it. It belongs to posterity and if they would have the good sense to decide for us some of the perplexing and practical questions of the present day, we might be disposed to decide that remote question for them. As it is, it ought to be indefinitely postponed."

This quotation means any thing or nothing; and is something similar to Lorenz Dow's "I can and I can't," "I will and I won't," &c. "It belongs to posterity," says the "valued guest," yet this question of re-chartering the United States' Bank, according to his own showing, is to be decided six years hence. Posterity, according to the dictionaries that were in vogue when I was a school-boy, was defined as "succeeding generations"—how many generations six years will produce, is a problem that some of Mr. Clay's calculating friends, who were present at the collation, are requested to solve: I confess it to be beyond my computative ideas. The orator cannot forget his vocation: he must always be endeavoring to make good bargains. He now offers to make a bargain with this six year old posterity. Think you not gentle reader, that this would be a childish bargain? Be this as it may, it is thought by many quite as rational a one, as some of its predecessors. These "succeeding generations" of six year old politicians, are offred this condition in the bargain: "If they will have the goodness to decide for us [the friends and supporters of Henry Clay assembled in the Apollonian garden] some of the perplexing and practical questions of the present day, [such questions, for instance, as whether we in Kentucky have a right to vote money belonging to Uncle Sam, to improve roads fronting our farms; or whether my friends, and your late political brethren, shoul' be reformed out of office, for borrowing some of the loose change of the Treasury department.] we might," in the event of your answering these queries, condescend "to decide that remote question for them." Whether this bargain will be made between the two high contracting parties, Mr. Clay and six year old posterity, is

a question too remote for me to decide. I find nothing in the paragraph quoted, that exhibits *farmer* Clay as a man of that clear, practical foresight, that his idolizers and enthusiastic admirers, would make us believe. If this were the case, he would not exclaim, "I am not now prepared to say whether the charter ought or ought not to be renewed on the expiration of its present term." Has Mr. Clay no opinion on the subject? His friends boast of his always taking an advanced position in all subjects that interest the nation at large. The question of re-chartering the United States' Bank, is certainly one of national importance; its discussion cannot be commenced too early; nor can that be called premature which enters into the business of every man, and affects him either to his advantage or injury. In my opinion, the secret consists in this: Mr. Clay has not sufficient political foreknowledge, at this time, to ascertain the popular sentiment on the question of the Bank charter, and like a political friend of his at Chillicothe, "he is determined to wait until he finds which side is the majority," for or against. It will then be an easy matter for him, having his "cue," to play "cuckoo" for awhile; then change his manner of address, recommend, by way of amendment, some trifling items for public consideration; and finally, as in the case of his "American System," after matured by others, cause his friends to proclaim him as the father of the opposition to or the support of, (as the case may be) the great Banking question.

The Bank question being settled by one of the orator's finest political equivoques, he launches at once into his broad, undefined and indefinite, "American System." Here, through five columns of molasses and cotton—iron and distilled spirits—nullification and the revolution—patriotism and whigs and tories—cotton planters and the federal courts—siding against Heaven and fatted calves,—and many other strange connexions of ideas, he leads us safely through, without giving us time to breathe, that he may arrive at the more desirable object of his care, the veto message of the President.

In prefacing his abuse of the measures of Gen. Jackson, the "great champion" introduces a sentence of doubtful import. As it stands in his speech, so I give it to my readers, presuming that the friends of Mr. Clay will not dare to charge me with perversions of words when I quote literally. He says:—

"If I could believe that the executive message, which was communicated to Congress, upon the application of the Veto to the Maysville Road, really expressed the opinion of the President of the United States, in consequence of the unfortunate relations which have existed between us. I would forbear to make any observation upon it."

Will my readers attempt to analyse the sentence quoted, and ascertain its true import. My view of its reading is this: that if Mr. Clay thought this message of General Jackson's expressed his opinions unfavorable to the Maysville Road, by way of retaliation, or because of the "unfortunate relations" existing between him and Andrew Jackson, then he "would forbear to make any comment upon it." Ego, because it does not descend, to avenge private grievances, at the expense of the public good, I will make some observations upon it. Is not this a strange association of ideas? and does it not prove to a mathematical demonstration, that language "avails not whilst Mardocai the Jew," is permitted to kill the King's English?

I am aware that Mr. Clay did not intend to convey to the public the ideas which my interpretation of the quoted sentence gives. This is not my fault—it is his own, inasmuch as the connected language bears me out in the reading I have given it. I would not have noticed it, but for the dark insinuation of the speaker, which follows. Remarking on this message, he says, "It has his, Andrew Jackson's, name affixed to it; but it is not every paper which bears the name of a distinguished personage, that is his, or expresses his opinion." Henry Clay is now before the public, a candidate for the Presidency—in order to diminish the talents of his competitor, and place him before the American people as an unlearned man, he echoes the assertions of many of his principal editors, that Andrew Jackson is incompetent to write his own messages; and that his secretaries are employed to do this work for him. Call you this modesty of impudence? But he carries his malevolence still further, and continues his assertions in the following language:—

"I cannot, therefore, consider the message as conveying the sentiments and views of the President. It is impossible. It is the work of his Cabinet, and if unfortunately they were not practically irresponsible to the people of the United States, they would deserve severe animadversions for having prevailed upon the President in the precipitation of business, and perhaps without his spectacles, to put his name to such a paper, and send it forth to the Congress and to the nation."

Here is another very illiberal and unjustifiable attempt to injure the Pre-

sident. By the phrase "without his spectacles," an impression is intended to be conveyed, that old age has impaired the faculties of Gen. Jackson, and that he will be unqualified for another presidential term; ergo, by this parity of reasoning, I am the man whom you ought to select, as I am not so old yet, as to be thus entrapped for want of spectacles. The remainder of this paragraph has too much of the long-repeated slang of Mr. Clay and his followers, to deserve farther notice at this time; and like many of its kindred brethren will be taken at its full value, which will be estimated best by those who know how to distinguish between vindictive feeling and true patriotism.

POLITICUS.

COMMUNICATIONS.

To the friends of Mr. Clay.

GENTLEMEN: How amusing to the friends of the Administration, to every republican, have been your boastings & calculations for the last three months; how cheering to the patriot, who looks with an eye single to the prosperity of the country, who desires, above all things, that the *union*, our free and liberal institutions, shall rise triumphant from the storm of war, brighten and appear the more lovely and interesting amidst the rage of party strife, and end but with eternity;—that all your calculations and all your hopes for the elevation of your "star" to the presidency, are but visions—baseless fictions. You are not only catching at straws and grasping at shadows, but waited to the seventh political heaven, at not only the rattle, but the sound thereof. Pause for a moment, gentlemen; lay aside your lying political vanities, let reason resume its umpire, and then reflect, and you will be able to see your "star" of the west "as he really is; and to determine how illusive are all your hopes for his success. In 1824, Mr. Clay was a competitor for the presidency, against the present incumbent, Adams and Crawford. Then he filled the Speaker's chair—then he waived the sceptre of debate in congress hall—then did Mr. Clay's political colours float in the air, without spot & without blemish, over the heads of a chosen set of personal and political friends, attached to their country—then no foul stain had been impressed upon the escutcheon of his private or political honor—yet was this "star of the West" distanced by them all! By the hero and patriot Jackson, as 39 to 37; and by Adams, whom Clay had charged with an attempt to exchange the dearest rights of the west, (the navigation of the Mississippi for the paupery fisheries of the east,) was he beaten, as 84 to the same number; and was even outrun by the virtuous but almost blind and bedridden Crawford. If such was the fate of Mr. Clay, before the American people, in the fulness of time, in the meridian and splendor of his day, what has he or his friends now to expect? When he has fallen—when that escutcheon and those colours lie prostrate in the dust before an indignant and injured people, stained with the foul name of "corruption, bargain and sale," "war, pestilence, and famine." Where are those virtuous and patriotic friends, tho' few, who then sustained him? Some have mingled with the Jackson ranks; the balance have gone over, with their fallen leader to the ancient Feser-lists and Hartford Convention band; these, with the disappointed and unworthy, public defaulters, with many deluded, honest and well disposed citizens, (for the purpose of regaining office and power,) are attempting to rally round the standard of Mr. Clay, tho' a prostrate, ambitious, and desperate political chief. Junius.

TO GENERAL GREGG,

Half Editor of the Statesman.

Sir: you charge Junius with having profaned the name of that illustrious and unknown author, because he possesses neither his character nor talent. Of the character of each you are alike ignorant, yet take upon yourself to determine. To judge of the character of an unknown author, is like judging of things not seen or heard. But this is a specimen of yourself. As to the sentiment and style of Junius, they are each his own; and tho' he shall fall short of the author, whose name he has taken, in point of talent, he considers it no reason why he should not use what he has. Yes, Junius will use his own style, and not follow the example of a petty editor, who has attempted to establish a character for writing, by vending other men's goods. It is then the style of Junius which seems to have given you offence. The great art of writing is to adapt the style to the subject, and not use the same in the description of an eloquent orator, a gallant soldier, and a midnight assassin—in the description of an honest benevolent man, full of charity and wisdom, and the base contemptible and pitiful half editor of a prostituted press. This being the opinion of Junius, you will excuse him for the style employed, when addressing an individual who seems so pleased

with the title of "Captain General of all infamy." An individual who alike applies the terms, "infamy," "ignominious," to men & saints. You have given Junius a name which excites no other feelings than that of pity and contempt for yourself. Judas Iscariot was not only the chosen but favorite disciple of his Lord, whom he betrayed it is true; but it was one of those events necessary to fill the grand scheme of salvation. As essential to the redemption of a wicked world was the betraying as the birth, the crucifixion, burial, and ascension of Jesus Christ. As well might Peter be condemned for denying, as Judas for betraying. Junius has no doubt but each are bright saints in heaven; and that the day is not far distant, when the General will lift up his eyes in hell, and behold Judas Iscariot aloft in heaven; yet is he pronounced "ignominious." Aside from all the balance of your life, of your lean, lank, long-face, upon stilts, and your guilty down-cast looks, and this single act would brand you with infamy, and in a most eminent degree entitle you to your new name. This circumstance alone would render you unworthy the further notice of Junius, other than as the worthless toy, by kicking you occasionally, by way of amusement. And how can you expect the grave notice of any man, much less Junius, who aims at higher game, when the terms of "nameless—unapproachable infamy—ignominious—fanfarade—castigation—contempt—indignation—noon day pestilence—foul breath of ignominy—and vile," are as familiar to you as the particles of light, and by your depraved heart and "vile" pen, are alike applied to man, the disciples of a God, and to the saints of heaven. As it regards Junius these epithets fall harmless at his feet. He has nothing to fear from a press, however prostituted, while in the hands of Gen. Gregg. Junius fears neither your person nor pen, however much you may pilfer epithets and figures from the labors of others; nor will he fear you more or less, should you avail yourself of your high privilege, and draw large ly on your Irish fund.

Junius, however, feels more inclined to pity than condemn or censure you. You act not only a borrowed, but a hired part. And when he considers the heads and the hearts of those, in whose bands you are but the "vile" instrument, a mere cat's-paw, for purposes the most "ignominious," is surprised you have not ere this found it necessary, for the safety of "society," to have left its precincts and performed a quarantine of not only forty, but an hundred days. Again—when Junius looks at the man under whose immediate direction you are placed, in the absence of your more Testy master.—Yes, when Junius looks at that individual, your friend, companion, and master for years past, his only astonishment is that you, General, have not long since been consumed in a bursting flame of "ignominious and unapproachable infamy," kindled from the funeral pile of your familiar and favorite epithets, filched from the ware house of billingsgate.

You say it is the virtue that surrounds the individual to whom you apply your epithets of "infamy," &c. and not his own, that "prompts you to hold him nameless."—In the next sentence, that "the allusion in your last is so plain, that he who runs may read it." This is blowing hot and cold with the same breath. Whether this inconsistency and folly is to be attributed to a natural disposition for misrepresentation and lying from a depraved heart, or a totally deranged intellect, and a perfect state of insanity, is a question which Junius refers to the friends of the General, by suggesting the propriety of a speedy appointment of trustees, to settle his estate and take charge of his amiable family. Junius would however, assign the withholding the name to a very different cause: a consciousness of having applied "infamy" to virtue, or from a fear of merited punishment. From that source Junius will pledge himself you shall have nothing to apprehend; but name the individual and Junius is done with you, and so with his friend. Junius pledges himself further, that if you will but name that individual, he will undertake to prove that individual to possess more talent, equal virtue, morality, honesty, honor, and integrity, than the proudest and best of your private or political friends. If Junius fails in doing this, he will then join you in his condemnation. You say you have so described the individual, whose name is sought for, as that all know him, and point the finger of scorn at him; if so, what reluctance to write that name. Should you still hold him nameless, in the absence of all reason, Junius will attribute it, and so will the world, to one, of all others, the most wicked; and will not hesitate to pronounce you what he will now hold nameless.

Junius.

Louisville and Portland Canal. The excavation of the rock in this canal is going on with great energy, and if no unforeseen accident should occur, it is confidently expected that the work will be completed during the present season. Western Tiller.

64—The Opposition ask, "what has been gained by the election of Gen. Jackson?" Without stopping to examine a question so easy of solution, we would hasten to show what has been lost by the election of Mr. Adams. One item is given now; others will follow in due time.

Among the thousand and one evidences which have been given to the public of the loose manner (to use the mildest term) of doing the public business which had obtained under the last administration, and of the necessity that existed for that work of reform which has so stirred the bile of some of the leaders of the Clay faction, there has been one mentioned in a late report of the Secretary of the Navy, which perhaps, deserves a little attention at our hands. It seems that in 1815, two persons, named Allen and Leonard, entered into a contract with the government to deliver forty thousand gallons of whiskey at Sackett's Harbor, at ninety cents and the original cost of casks. At their own request, some two or three months after this contract was entered into, they were permitted to change the place of delivery for the quantity of whiskey yet remaining due (33,000 gallons) from Sackett's Harbor to New York. The whiskey was accordingly delivered, their accounts rendered, and payment in full, according to the stipulations of the agreement, was made to them. This all took place in the year 1815. Four years after, in 1819, a claim was set up by Messrs. Allen and Leonard for an extra allowance on the ground of the change of the place of delivery—a change, be it remembered which was granted by the Department at their own solicitation, and because they complained that they would incur heavy loss by being obliged to fulfil the original terms. The amount of the extra allowance for which they asked was \$3,500, for cost of transportation. This claim was promptly and properly rejected by the secretary of the Navy.

Three years after, in 1822, they re-visited their claim, but for an augmented amount—this time asking on the same pretence, the cost of transportation, \$4,322,69, together with two additional items, one to the amount of \$232 28 to cover loss by leakage, and the other \$750, for extra expenses of delivery, making the total of their claim in 1822 \$5,415 95. For this sum they did not apply to the Navy Department, but petitioned Congress. The Committee of claims, to whom the matter was referred, did not take up the subject that session but in the following one brought in a report against it, and concluded their report with an allusion to documents from the Navy Department, which proved the invalidity of the demand.

The next year, 1824, the indefatigable Messrs. Allen & Leonard, as if determined to weary Congress "with an agony of prayers," renewed their petition, which was again rejected. Four years now passed away, and during that time nothing was heard of this unfounded claim for extra allowance, when at last—Mr. Southard having in the meanwhile been appointed to the office of Secretary of the Navy—Monsieur Tesson came again. During the period of his repose he had become still more plethoric, his whole bill now amounting to \$11,531 50! This increase was made up of an entire new claim, on the ground of a difference in proof, amounting to \$5,448 61. Mr. Southard received the gentleman with a gracious smile, paid him his five thousand four hundred dollars at once, and referred him once more to Congress for the balance.

The committee requested to be discharged from the consideration of the claim, believing "that no legislation was necessary," and that "if the petitioners had any claim, it could be adjusted at the proper Department." Forthwith to the proper Department the petitioners go, and were no doubt well pleased to hear Mr. Southard declare to the Fourth Auditor that he considered the resolution of the Committee, thus unequivocally rejecting the claim, "as authorizing and directing a settlement of it." It was accordingly settled to the full amount asked. At first, in 1819, according to their own showing, Messrs. Allen & Leonard were entitled to \$3,500, and asked for no more. At every successive application their demand was increased, till at last, in 1828, they claimed and were paid upwards of eleven thousand dollars. The sibyl when she first presented herself before Tarpin, required him to buy her nine books; the next time she came with but six; and the third with but three. The Messrs. Allen & Leonard seem not to have felt much respect for the historic example.

But the most curious part of this story remains to be told. Allen & Leonard became insolvent, and their affairs were investigated before a Jury in 1829. In the course of that investigation it came out that one thousand dollars of the eleven thousand were lent to Tobias Watkins, the Fourth Auditor, at the very time the claim was allowed! Comment on this is unnecessary. No