

MR. SENATOR EATON'S ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC. No 1.

Of the various demonstrations in behalf of General Jackson occasioned by the vanity and stupidity of Carter Beverley, that now made by Mr. Eaton is not the least remarkable. The long interval which passed after Mr. Clay's speech near Lexington, before Mr. Eaton thought proper to "come out over his own name," (more than two months) afforded full time for deliberation and concert; and Mr. Eaton is too cautious a politician not to have availed himself of it to the best advantage. And yet, he seems, after all, to have marched on the stage at this time rather because he was expected to do so, than because he had any thing to say. He begins by promising to "speak the things that I know," but alas! like General Jackson's whispers at the Hermitage of things which he "had heard and knew to be true," the worthy Senator tells *literally* nonsense. But as his publication, like Mr. Branch's wonderfully remembered speech, and Mr. Isaac's letter, is a link in the chain of attack on a prominent citizen, I shall examine it with a degree of minuteness of which it is intrinsically unworthy. A leading Combination paper (the Richmond Enquirer) has admitted that the "rumors" against Mr. Clay, coined at the Jackson mings, and bearing the Jackson stamp, taken "singly, might not essentially injure him;" the same print asserts that, "combined, they acquire a weight and importance which Mr. Clay cannot disregard."—The morality thus avowed, which combines a dozen falsehoods, and then tells the people that they are equivalent to one truth, is akin to the policy which, ever since Mr. Clay's Lexington speech, has been doling out by the small measure, the stock of surmises, inferences, gratuitous assertions, &c. &c. in possession of the Opposition, in the hope of persuading the people that, in such a mass of matter, there must be some truth. This mass, they call "testimony," and Mr. Eaton is the witness now under examination.

"First," he says, "to an adjustment on my own account with Mr. Clay; who, in his speech delivered at Lexington, used towards me this language:"

"Before the election, an attempt was made, by an abusive letter, published in the Columbian Observer at Philadelphia, a paper which, as has since transpired, was sustained by Mr. Senator Eaton, the colleague, the friend and the biographer of General Jackson, to assail my motives, and to deter me in the exercise of my duty."

On this quotation the Senator makes the following singular commentary, viz:

"The language employed in this sentence is arranged with so great art and caution, as to make it susceptible of doubtful intention. The meaning which the speaker intended should attach, and which, with nine readers out of ten, will obtain, is that the Columbian Observer was sustained by Mr. Senator Eaton, the colleague, the friend, & the biographer of General Jackson, to assail his [Mr. Clay's] motives, and to deter him in the exercise of his duty. With this construction, I take leave to say, it is misrepresentation—it is untrue. This paper was assisted, though not sustained by me for any purpose; and far less with a view to *assail motives*, or to deter any one in the exercise of his duty."

The construction thus placed on Mr. Clay's language may be, according to the philological rules of some modern seminaries, such as the "Samuel Houston Academy," or the "Kremer College," said to have been lately established in Tennessee, but it is surely not warranted by the principles of English grammar. It is, I believe, admitted that Mr. Clay is as little in the habit of murdering the English language, as he is of countenancing any other species of murder. His style is always clear and simple. But the first part of his sentence is, as Mr. Eaton chooses to read it, nonsensical. "Before the election," says Mr. Clay, "an attempt was made by an abusive letter"—to do what? Mr. Eaton says to *do nothing*, for he connects the words "to assail my motives," which, in grammatical phrase, are the *object* in the sentence, with the verb "was sustained," and thus leaves the words "an attempt was made" without any *object* at all! But Mr. Clay evidently meant, and expresses his meaning as plainly as language can convey it, that "an attempt was made" by an abusive letter, published in the Columbian Observer, at Philadelphia, the connexion of which with Mr. Eaton, he then mentions, "to assail" his "motives, and to deter" him "in the exercise of" his "duty." If Mr. Clay could have perceived it possible for any mind to misconceive his very intelligible language, he might, by the simple expedient of a parenthesis, have prevented such a possibility, and the world would have thus been without the evidence of critical acumen now displayed by Mr. Eaton. "Before the election, an attempt was made by an abusive letter, published in the Columbian Observer, at Philadelphia, (a paper which, as has since transpired, was sustained by Mr. Senator Eaton, the colleague, the friend and the biographer of Gen. Jackson,) to assail my motives, and to deter me in the exercise of my duty."

The parenthesis here supplied is palpably superfluous, because the sense of the passage is, as a school boy of the lowest form would tell Mr. Eaton, evident without it. Yet the learned Senator affects to think that "the language employed" by Mr. Clay "is arranged with so great art and caution, as to make it susceptible of doubtful intention." (A neat phrase for a professed critic!) "The meaning," he says, "which the speaker intended should *attach* (another beauty of style!) and which, with *nine readers out of ten*, will obtain, is, that the Columbian Observer was sustained by Mr. senator Eaton, the colleague, the friend and the biographer of Gen. Jackson, to assail his (Mr. Clay's) motives, and to deter him in the exercise of his duty."

Mr. Eaton seems to think, if the language here used by him is a candid expression of his sentiments, that nine tenths of the American people are prepared to believe that Mr. Clay is unacquainted with the hornbook of the English language; but that he would use "great art and caution" in convincing his countrymen that he is thus ignorant. Could any man, or boy, who had seen the shortest abridgment

even of an English grammar, have set down to write with "great art and caution," and yet to have "arranged" his composition as to leave "nine readers out of ten" to suppose that he was ignorant of that elementary rule of grammar which requires an *object* for every *act*?

Having thought fit to ascribe to Mr. Clay words a meaning which he knew that Mr. Clay could never admit without admitting at the same time, that he knew as little as Gen. Jackson himself of the language spoken by his countrymen, Mr. Eaton proceeds to take the boxing attitude. "It is," says he "misrepresentation—it is untrue." That is, he places on Mr. Clay's words a construction which they do not authorise, and which is grammatically absurd, and then says if Mr. Clay chooses to defend this construction, he is guilty of a "misrepresentation"—an untruth. This is not exactly the language of a *preux chevalier*; but is quite appropriate to a knight of the order of St. Andrew.

After the flourish in philology which has been noticed, Mr. Eaton proceeds to comment on Mr. Clay's allusion to the now *ascertained fact* that "the colleague, the friend and the biographer of Gen. Jackson" had advanced a considerable sum of money to a press which, until the establishment of the Telegraph, was universally allowed to be more unprincipled and shameless than any of the prints which have been brought into being by the *fifty thousand dollar fund*. Mr. Eaton does not deny this fact (*N B the fact is among the judicial records of Pennsylvania*.) but confesses it in the bravado style which the General's advocates often find it convenient to employ. "To the editors of that paper, and at their request, I DID LEND A SUM OF MONEY: at that time, before, nor after, was there an agreement, or understanding, expressed or otherwise, as to any political course which they should pursue. More than a year preceding this circumstance, and before I ever knew Messrs. Simpson & Conrad, the editors, had that paper been warmly and zealously in the cause of Gen. Jackson. It was MY OWN MONEY, not the public's," &c.

The schedule of Simpson, had long ago satisfied the public that Mr. Eaton was his creditor to the amount of \$1,500, and had excited strong suspicions, which other considerations made almost irresistible, that this debt of Simpson's had some connexion with Jackson's pretensions to the Presidency. The Senator has now kindly removed all possible doubt on this subject: "More than a year preceding this circumstance," (i. e. the *loan*) "and before I ever knew Messrs. Simpson & Conrad, the Editors had that paper been warmly and zealously in the cause of Gen. Jackson." No pretence of friendship, or any other personal motive, is here urged as the inducement to this loan. But, on the contrary, Mr. Eaton thinks proper in his vindication to state the fact, that, for a considerable time before, (at the close of the paragraph he says eighteen months,) the Editors had been "warmly and zealously in the cause of Gen. Jackson." The state of the case then is shortly this. A man is accused in the newspapers, and a judicial record is referred to, in support of the accusation, of having advanced a sum of money to a designated print, notorious for the virulence and falsehood of its charges against certain individuals. The advance is proved; the party making it then confesses the fact; but urges in his justification that the print, thus assisted by him, had, for eighteen months before, been in the habit of making these virulent and false charges. And as an excuse for bribing or rewarding these slanderers, he exclaims—"IT WAS MY OWN MONEY!"

ATTICUS.