

To-day we publish the speech of Mr. Clayton in reply to Mr. McDuffie, who by a novel departure from parliamentary courtesy, & an entire disregard of fair & honorable argument, assailed the Report of the former gentleman, and with an absurdity & effrontery unequalled in the annals of legislation, entered into an analysis of its details, *before it was read to the House!* What did Mr. McDuffie mean by this movement? Was it a political ruse, to anticipate the startling facts and damning evidences which that Report unfolded, and thereby afford to himself a premature opportunity to sophisticate its exposition, and soften down the powerful effect which they were so justly and eminently calculated to produce? We must answer, *Yes!*—for we have the results of the investigation convinced Mr. McDuffie, that if some such management like that was not put in requisition, the Report would prove instantaneously fatal to the Bank. Such manoeuvring is derogatory to the high character of Mr. McDuffie—it looks too much like the conduct of those mercenary Censors of the English Drama, who write for hire, and criticise plays and players, which they have neither read nor seen exhibited.

In the course of Mr. McDuffie's *prospective* criticisms on the Report, he admitted that the Bank had made large donations towards promoting internal improvements—and yet notwithstanding, (throughgoing Nullifier as he is,) he attempts to justify the measure! It is here that Mr. Clayton comments upon him with caustic & merited severity. He is reminded that he is reprobating a measure which he has all along & still continues ardently to advocate; and he is reminded too, of his Hotspur-like opposition to the tariff and internal improvement, both of which systems involve the same policy that has been pursued by the Bank, and which Mr. McDuffie has heretofore ably and manfully resisted. Is he then prepared to say, that the misnomered Bank of the United States, is of higher authority and entitled to a wider sphere of operations, than the General Government, whose name she has abused, and whose interest she has sacrificed? Yes, he is prepared to say so for he has already indirectly said it,—and placed himself in a dilemma from which he will find it difficult to retreat, without doing violence to his feelings and sullying his political reputation.—When, under these peculiar circumstances, Mr. Clayton, in his place, charged upon Mr. McDuffie this dereliction from the great national principles for which the South is struggling, it was enough we think to have blanched the cheek and paralyzed the tongue of that distinguished champion of the Bank.

The ability which Mr. Clayton has displayed, and the fearless and independent stand which he has assumed, places him before the people of the United States as one of their most profound and patriotic Statesmen. Unawed by the powerful influence of a gigantic monied monopoly, and indifferent to the formidable array of talent and genius which surrounds its glittering vaults, he rushed to the encounter, and tore from the false Prophet the "silver well" which was cast over its revolting features. We do not thus eulogise Mr. Clayton because he is a Georgian—we should have awarded him the same panegyric had he hailed from the North, the East, or the West.—Whatever may be said to the contrary, we are fully convinced that he has succeeded in exhibiting to the people such a statement of facts as will convince them that the Bank of the United States, so called, is an establishment unconstitutional in its existence, oppressive in its operations, and destructive in its tendencies.