

The Washington Globe re-publishes from the Milledgeville Journal, a correspondence between Col. J. W. Webb, of the New York Courier & Enquirer, and Judge Clayton, of Georgia. The correspondence on the part of Col. Webb, was intended to be confidential, but Judge Clayton has thought proper to violate the trust reposed in him, and has published it to the world. The Judge attempts to apologize for this betrayal, by stating that he has been attacked by Col. Webb through the columns of his newspaper. A brief history of the whole matter, with which we happen to be acquainted, will not be uninteresting to our readers.

While the Bank Committee of investigation, appointed by Congress, was sitting in this city, Col. Webb addressed the Chairman of that committee a letter, in which he desired to be called before it in order to explain the transactions of himself and partner with the Bank, which had been so shamefully misrepresented in some of the public prints. His request was complied with. He came on to Philadelphia, and was examined by the committee, and, as he confidently believed, and so assured many friends here, to the entire vindication of himself and partner. Under this impression, he called upon us the day after his examination closed—stated to us that it had resulted in his entire acquittal; and now that the affair was over—that he had passed through the fiery ordeal unscathed—he requested us to accompany him while paying his respects personally to several members of the committee. We promptly complied with the request, and called first upon Judge Clayton. The entire conversation that took place during that visit, which lasted more than half an hour, tended to confirm the statement previously made to us by Col. Webb, viz: that the charge of corruption, as directed against his paper, had been fully refuted during his examination before the Bank Committee, and that the report of that committee would embrace such refutation. Indeed, if we remember aright, Judge Clayton said in so many words that he was perfectly satisfied there was nothing culpable in the transactions between the Bank and the Courier & Enquirer, and he would take pleasure in saying so in his statement to Congress. He appeared much gratified with our visit, and remarked several times during the interview, that he was heartily glad that a transaction which at first had presented to him so unfavourable an aspect, had been so fully and satisfactorily explained. After this visit, we called upon Col. Johnson; when, in the course of the frank and familiar conversation that ensued, Col. Webb alluded jestingly to the result of his examination. Col. Johnson rather hesitated upon the subject—was not so open, candid, and satisfied as Judge Clayton had assumed to be—said he considered the matter pretty much a New York fight—and advised Col. W. as a measure of prudence, to see Mr. Cambreleng before he left the city.

Before Col. Webb visited Mr. Cambreleng, we parted. He subsequently informed us that from his conversation with the Commercial Representative, he believed that individual would, despite his (Col. W.'s) vindication before the Committee, endeavour, in the report to Congress, to give an aspect to the transactions between the Courier & Enquirer and the Bank, calculated to do injury to both. He expressed his opinion that Cambreleng had entered into a league with the money changers at Albany, and with the Kitchen Cabinet at Washington, with the object of prostrating the Courier & Enquirer, and at the same time aiming a blow at the Bank. Of Judge Clayton's honourable course, however, neither of us at that time entertained a doubt. He appeared to be frank, manly, highminded, and perfectly satisfied that in the affair with the New York paper at least, the Bank had been unjustly slandered, as well as the editors. Under this impression, after Col. Webb had returned to New York, he addressed the Judge a letter in confidence, from which we make the following extracts:—

Copy of a letter received and returned by request.

CONFIDENTIAL.

NEW YORK, April 9th, 1832.

Dear Sir: The high opinion I have ever entertained of your character, confirmed as it was, by your frankness at our late interview, when you declared that whatever may be your opinion of the Bank, you were satisfied this paper and its editors had not merited censure, induces me to address you at this time. I do so with confidence, and do not hesitate to assure you, that whatever may be your reply, or whatever the course a sense of duty may induce you to pursue, I feel a perfect conviction that you will act from those motives which have always guided your conduct.—Whether we suffer or not by that course, rest satisfied, that we will do justice to your intentions.

After conversing with you, I saw Col. Johnson, and he very frankly informed me that he was prepared to exonerate the Courier and Enquirer from all blame; "but," says he, "I look upon this somewhat as a New York fight—it is New York against New York, and you had better see Mr. Cambreleng." I said I deemed that unnecessary, as Mr. Cambreleng was personally and politically our friend, and would cheerfully do us justice. The Colonel replied—"very probable; but Mr. Cambreleng is also the friend of those with whom you are at variance in your State; take my advice and see him, and be sure you understand each other;" this advice, coupled with a direct charge which had previously been made, that Cambreleng was making an effort to destroy the Courier and Enquirer, induced me to seek an interview with Mr. Cambreleng, and I told him at once my object in calling. I said it was due to frankness to say that he had been directly charged with an intention to injure us to benefit the Albany Argus, and that I wished to know in what light to consider him, whether as an enemy or a friend. He replied that he had stated to the committee that Mr. Van Buren, myself and himself were "intimate and confidential political and personal friends," and that he had done nothing nor knew of nothing, calculated to place either of us on a different footing. I then inquired into the character of the report which would be made of the transactions between us and the Bank, to which he replied—"Judge Clayton wishes to have the report filled with private transactions of the Bank, but Col. Johnson and myself have agreed to prevent such a procedure." "I suppose then you will not of course touch our discounts, as they were fair mercantile transactions, and are in the shape of private accounts." To this he replied, "Judge Clayton has charged that large and improper loans have been made to Editors, and we will be compelled to allow him to go into a full history of any thing relating to the Bank and yourselves." "Very well then, in doing so, you will of course say to the public what you have now said to me—that you are perfectly satisfied there was nothing wrong in our loans." He replied we do not intend to permit any opinion to be expressed in the report for or against the Bank, nor for or against you. If we once commence with opinions, Judge Clayton, to sustain his speech, will insist upon making so many inferences, that it will draw forth two reports from the committee."

On this I left him somewhat abruptly, perfectly satisfied in my own mind, that the intimation from Col. Johnson was well-timed, and that the charge of Cambreleng's hostility to us was true. It is evident to me, that, knowing we can defeat his election next fall, he is still anxious of appearing our friend, and disposed to make you the scape-goat of the committee. I have repeated our conversation to Col. Twigg and Mr. Noah, and they both agree in advising that I should lay the whole matter before you, confidentially, in order that you may take such course as you think proper in your report. I tell you again that any report you may think proper to make, will receive from us the credit of being founded upon your ideas of justice; but do not, I beg of you, permit Mr. Cambreleng to protect himself under your known and constitutional hostility to the Bank. Of the propriety and fairness of our loan I know you have no doubt. Where then is the necessity, the justice, or the propriety, of dragging us before the public, more than you would any merchant in the country? I am conscious we have done nothing wrong—nothing that should cast a suspicion upon our motives, and surely we have a right to expect justice at the hands of the committee. If we are to be sacrificed to aim a blow at the Bank, you, at least, cannot and will not loan your name to give sanction to such a measure. Do not misunderstand me; God knows I would not in the slightest manner influence your judgment through your feelings; but after the frank declaration of your sentiments a few days since, and knowing that these sentiments must be confirmed by the deposition of Noah, forwarded to-day, I do look to you as one ready and willing to do us justice. We want nothing more, and we are entitled to an expression of your committee either for or against us. Silence would engender suspicion, and I would rather meet a direct charge than an insinuation of misconduct. Cambreleng is playing a deep game, and you will find, that in connexion with leading money men here, his object is to get up a new institution, on different principles, the location of which will be New York. With this

view he will endeavour to obtain information on the best system of banking from all parts of the world. He will use the opponents of the Bank to destroy the present institution, and then he will wish to raise up another Bank for speculating objects. This is conjecture, but it will not vary far from the truth. Look at the subject in all its bearings, and do us justice; we ask for nothing else.

Excuse this scrawl, as the mail is about closing, and I have not time to look it over. Sincerely your friend,  
JAS. WATSON WEBB.

Hon. A. S. CLAYTON.

To this letter Judge Clayton immediately replied—pledged himself "strictly to regard the confidence voluntarily reposed" in him, and added—"I must beg leave to correct you in one statement which you have made in relation to the interview you had with me. You called with Mr. Morris to see me, Mrs. Clayton and Mrs. Meigs being present. We, as is usual on such occasions, entered into full and free conversation on the subject of your examination before the committee. I stated that I was glad you had called to see me, as it afforded an opportunity of explaining the reason of a question I had asked you, at which your feelings appeared to be hurt, and which you thought was purposely intended to reflect upon you. I did explain the matter to you, and observed I was incapable of intentionally hurting the feelings of any one. I farther observed, that your testimony had thrown much of the suspicion of the charge against your press upon Biddle and Burrows, or rather the Bank, but I did not say that I was "satisfied your paper and its Editors had not merited censure;" on this subject I spent no opinion. With every wish for your success in business, and with not the slightest desire to injure either your own standing or that of your press, I remain respectfully."

All this is equivocation and quibble, and was written, no doubt, at the instance of Cambreleng, and after Judge Clayton had shown that individual the confidential letter of Webb.

On receiving Clayton's letter, Col. Webb immediately perceived that he had been deceived by him—that he had either played the part of a hypocrite during the interview referred to above, or had been "played upon" subsequently by the Commercial Representative, and induced to change his course, and come out against the Courier and the Bank, right or wrong. Finding, therefore, that he had mistaken his man—that Clayton had professed one thing on one occasion, and another on another, Col. W. immediately wrote for the return of the letter of his, from which we have given extracts, at the same time expressing a regret that he had ever written it. The letter was returned, but the honourable Georgian was careful to take a copy of it, and has now, under a foolish impression that its publication will be productive of injury to the Courier & Enquirer and the Bank, submitted it to the world! We think he will find himself utterly mistaken in his view. The letter can do no one harm but the dishonourable man who has violated a confidence frankly reposed in him, and which he pledged himself to hold sacred.

We have only alluded to the matter here in order to sustain the impressions of Col. Webb, so freely confessed in his letter, and as deduced from the conversation with Clayton. We remember the whole scene perfectly, and were never more disappointed than when, on the appearance of the Bank report, we discovered that Clayton, its reputed author, instead of vindicating the Courier & Enquirer from the slanders that had been heaped upon it, as he professed it was his intention to do, had only attempted to confirm and add to those slanders. Indeed so astonished and indignant were we at the time, and so confident that Clayton had falsified his conversational statement, that we immediately addressed a hasty letter to Col. Webb, expressing our regret and indignation at the course of Clayton, and repeating, as well as we were able to remember, the conversation that took place at his lodgings. We have not a copy of this letter, but the following reply to it from our friend in New York, will sufficiently convince the reader that Clayton has acted in this transaction throughout in any other capacity than that of an honest and honourable man.

New York, May 9th, 1832.

Dear Morris,—The mail is about closing, and I have only time to thank you for your repeated evidences of friendship when most required. You are perfectly right about the declaration by Judge Clayton, and I hope have not forgotten what Johnson said about the "New York fight." Do write me on this subject. In a correspondence with Clayton after I left Philadelphia, he denied having said that my testimony exonerated the Courier & Enquirer, but you know that he did so. However, this is of but little consequence, except that it is calculated to alter our opinion of the man. In haste, Your friend,

JAS. WATSON WEBB.