

JUDGE CLAYTON'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 12th, 1833.

DEAR SIR— I have received your esteemed favor of the 8th ult. and take great pleasure in answering it without delay, so that you and the rest of my fellow citizens may know what is passing at this eventful crisis. I only wish I had it in my power to write to every man in Georgia, and I would endeavor to wake him up to the danger that threatens every thing he holds most dear. The affairs at this place present this moment wonderful and unexampled aspects that has never occurred since the world began, and I will venture to say, never will occur again as long as it lasts, and so the Government, in which it should prosper, falls into the hands of a horde of rascals. And what is this singular circumstance? It is this. In a republican representative government, professing to be regulated by just and equal laws, asserting and boasting of the principle to the world, that TAXES just up to the necessities of the government are levied, and no more, and to last as long as wanted, and no longer; and yet, now, when the President of the United States, backed by the

Secretary of the Treasury, who ought to know better than any one else, declares they have more money than they know what to do with, and that the taxes of the people may be lightened at least six millions, behold, Congress is about to say it shall not be done! The representatives of the people dare to say their burthens shall continue, not because the government wants the money, but because it is necessary to keep up the Factories of a few privileged orders of men! But this is not the worst of this peculiar state of things. Eight Southern and two Northern States, as States, and a very large minority of the people in all the other States, have petitioned, remonstrated, clamored and protested against this injustice. One State has declared that she will no longer submit to it, and that if it is enforced, she will leave the Union, and this declaration is shaking the confederacy down to its deepest foundations, and will finally, if the unwise and violent threats of the President are carried into effect, drench this fair country in blood, and fill it with widows and orphans; and yet our talk masters are willing to see all this, rather than give up six millions of dollars of their profits from manufacturing—

six millions too, which the government says it does not want, and which it also says is most cruelly and oppressively wrung from the Southern Planters, and ought to be taken off! Now, who is it calculates the value of the Union? Who is it thinks most of the Union? The man who had rather see it dissolve and go to pieces than give up six millions of dollars; or he who has fought for the Union, bled for the Union, paid enormous taxes for the Union till it was out of debt, and is yet willing to stick to the Union if you will only put him upon equal terms with the rich man of the North? Is it not abominable to tax us with disaffection for the Union, lecture us upon the blessings of Union, quote GENERAL WASHINGTON'S farewell address to us upon the value of the Union, when they themselves value it at six millions of dollars and would rather give it up than lose that sum? Wonder at Union men! Well may they school and lecture and discipline us upon the immense advantages of the Union when they

make that very Union a stock jobbing machine by which they draw all those immense advantages to themselves. — And is it possible the Southern people will not see this? Besides being leeches of wood and drawers of water to Northern taskmasters, will they suffer such an imputation upon

that while they are picking their pockets before their faces, they are guiled with the soft cry of Union whispered in their ears.

"Union, my dear fellow, Union," (they cry,) while they are boring and twisting the very entrails of our people out of their carcasses. For shame—let us rouse up and shake off this most infamous oppression, as becomes men of sense, possessing a proper respect for themselves as well as for the rights and the future prosperity of their children. The Federalists are extremely anxious to make Jackson execute the threats of his Proclamation, and they have two objects in making him do it. First, to whip us into the Protective System, and second if that fails, to disgrace old Jackson. The former promotes their avarice, the latter gratifies their revenge, two most powerful passions, in the gratification of which, it is difficult to say, which affords the most satisfaction. The inconsistency of Gen. Jackson passeth all understanding. His best friends cannot unravel the mystery. That his *Message* and *Proclamation* should have come from the same mind in the short space of six days, beggars all speculation. There is no accounting for it; but the latter has blasted all our hopes, it strikes at our very existence, and will defeat all relief from Congress, as I now verily believe, and may involve our beloved country in all the horrors of civil war—this, at least, is what the manufacturers will

bring about, if they possibly can, under the strong hope that it will revolutionize the government, and restore it to the principles of old John Adams, when the majority of Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Law, and maintained they had a right to do as they please. Old Jackson will have the consolation of being the author of all this unspeakable mischief. He will fall under the curse of Tom Paine's malediction, when he told Gen. Howe, "that the King, his master, would receive the execration of all posterity for his unholy war upon the Colonies," and concluded by saying that "he who is the author of a warless, loose the whole contagion of hell, and opens a vein that bleeds a nation to death." May this sink deep into Gen. Jackson's bosom. There is another expression of this same writer to the same person, that I wish Gen. Jackson could read, or those at least who wrote his proclamation. Paine said to Howe, before you let loose your Myrmidons upon the Colonies, it would be well for you to remember, that "death is not the monarch of the dead, but of the dying; at every conquest he loses a subject, and, like the British King you serve, will in the end war himself out of all dominion." The General Government undertakes a dangerous experiment when it attempts to force a state to be free and united.

Union is not to be voluntary not forced - In
trying this project it may "war itself out
of dominion?" *Peace by three-United States*
and one subjected State will sound very
bad, under our Constitution, professing to
be a free and voluntary compact, intended
"to form a more perfect union establish jus-
tice, and insure domestic tranquility." If
one State can be forced to remain in the U-
nion, two can, and so on, as long as there
is power in the West to compel obedience.

Now I can point out seven States, (but to make the thing plain to every capacity, I will say ten) That can make the other 14th in any Union they may choose to remain direct. For instance, there is New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio, all in a circle, having 8 millions out of the twelve United States population, that can compel all the other states to live with them in just such a loving Union as they might impose. These are the inevitable consequences of the Proclamation, and yet there are men, who for the sake of worshipping Gen. Jackson will approve these doctrines and send the fate of their own and their children's liberties to the end of time. Cannot the brave and intelligent Georgians, who have heretofore so nobly distinguished themselves in the vindication of State Rights, be brought to make one more effort to save the Constitution of their beloved country, and keep us from passing into the chains of bondage? I hope they can.

In answer to the inquiry about Governor Troup, I have the satisfaction to inform you that he has written a long letter to _____, Esq. of _____, in which he fully sustains his former doctrines and essentially our doctrines, the right of resistance and finally of secession.—If it is published it will clearly go to establish free trade and State interposition to protect our reserved rights. You will be satisfied with it. With regard to Webster, he goes fully with the Proclamation, intends to use it as an instrument to fix down upon us the Protective System, if he can, and therefore goes strongly against all reduction.—Clay has been heard to say he is under no obligation to the manufacturers, for he considers that they deserted him in the

considers that they deserted him in the late election, and therefore, it is thought, he is keeping back with his friends to come in as a mediator, in the way he settled the Missouri question. Strong expectations are entertained that he will, at a proper time, throw in a project that will harmonize the conflicts of times. All this however is mere conjecture, for he keeps himself very much reserved indeed. Upon the whole great uncertainty prevails as to the issue of all the difficulties now hanging over the country; let us hope for the best and put our trust in that Great Ruler whose councils never deceive because they never err.

I am very sincerely your friend.

A. S. CLAYTON.