

# JUDGE CLAYTON & THE BRANCH BANK.

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FROM THE GEORGIA JOURNAL.

*Messrs. Editors.*—Will you have the kindness to publish the following correspondence, the object of which is to render an act of justice to an institution which seems, in the person of some one of its directors, to have been grossly calumniated. Relying on the pledge, to be found in the last letter, of the falsity of a statement published in the "*Georgia Courier*," I take pleasure in withdrawing any imputation which my letter, first inserted in your paper, is calculated to cast upon any of the officers or directors of the Branch Bank of Washington.

I am well aware of the very delicate situation in which I placed myself, in noticing any thing found in the *Georgia Courier*, and what a miserable cause that must be, having no other support upon which to rely, than the testimony of such a paper. An Editor who never tells the truth if he knows it, and knows just enough of that virtue always to avoid it. An Editor irresponsible from want of principle, and unprincipled from choice; indecent from design, and malicious from inclination; who has nothing to lose, and gains every thing he wants, when he can provoke contempt; being fully as much noticed as he covets, and more than he deserves; presents a fearful character from whom to make quotations. But as this dirty vehicle is not generally known out of its own State, and has drawn its authority from another paper of somewhat more respectable standing, this must be my apology for having referred to any thing in the "*Georgia Courier*."

A. S. CLAYTON.

OFFICE BANK UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, August 6, 1833.*

SIR—The public prints contain a letter under your signature, representing that a report injurious to your reputation, had gone forth by reason of a letter, addressed to some individual in Philadelphia, through the agency of one of the Directors of this office, by giving information of a transaction in it relative to you.

Having brought this letter under the notice of the Board of Directors of this office, I am instructed by them, respectfully to enquire of you the grounds and source of this allegation, including the names of the informant, and the Director referred to.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. H. SMITH, *President.*

*(Copy of a letter in answer to the foregoing.)*

ATHENS, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1833.

*S. H. Smith, Esq.* President

Branch Bank U. S. at Washington.

SIR—Your favor of the 6th inst. has been duly received, and I hasten to comply with your request as far as it is in my power. The enclosed printed extract was cut from a paper in this State, called the "Georgia Courier," and went the rounds in all the papers here, politically opposed to me. It was upon this publication, my remarks, relative to the agency of a Director's giving information of my transaction with your Bank, were founded. I had laid the extract aside, and wrote from memory, but upon hunting it up to answer the object of your enquiries, I find I substituted some one in Philadelphia, for the New York Standard, to whom the information had been conveyed. The mistake, however, is immaterial, and affects in no degree, the substantial merits of the statement. It is easily accounted for in the part the Pennsylvania Enquirer took in giving currency to the report.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. S. CLAYTON.

*(Copy of the Extract.)*

The Washington Correspondent of the New York Standard, gives the following as authentic information :

“ The number of *accommodated* members of Congress has been increased. Would you think it? A Director of the United States Branch Bank in this city, has been heard exultingly to say, that A. S. Clayton, of Georgia, had obtained a loan here of \$3000; and about the same time, the Pennsylvania Enquirer stated that it was understood, the said Clayton had been mollified, or had given up his opposition to the Bank ! ! ”

OFFICE BANK UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, Sept. 3, 1833 .*

SIR—I have received your favor of the 14th ultimo, in reply to mine of the 6th, in which you state that your publication, charging a Director of this Office, with having divulged the alleged fact of your having obtained a loan from it, was made on the authority of a newspaper paragraph, in the Georgia Courier, purporting to be extracted from the New York Standard.

As this charge has been made under the sanction of your name, and may affect the character of this office, and of my associates in its direction, I have considered it my duty to make the requisite enquiry of every member of the Board, by whom I am authorized to pronounce it totally destitute of truth.

Averse in this, or indeed, any other case, to go into the newspapers, I have to request that you will, in the same public manner in which you have preferred the charge, cause it to be disavowed.

Be pleased to send me a copy of the newspaper containing the disavowal.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
S. H. SMITH, President.

HON. A. S. CLAYTON.