

GREENSBORO', GA. March 14th, 1823.

The Hon. Augustin S. Clayton ;

SIR—Having been already referred to in relation to an address to President Adams, by the young men of Augusta in 1798, in which Mr. Secretary Crawford and myself were concerned, I feel it my duty, not only in compliance with your request, but to prevent misconstruction, to state briefly the facts concerning it, so far as it involves political principles.

The general policy of the then French government towards the United States, had been mainly intended to involve us in a war with its enemies. And after various and fruitless attempts to accomplish this object, other plans and most disgraceful schemes were devised which now seemed as if war was inevitable. In this situation of things, President Adams, by a wise and energetic course, preserved our neutrality, and was a measure rendering

almost universal satisfaction. And it is well known that addresses from every section of our country, uniting the feelings of both the political parties, were pouring in to the President, loudly applauding the firmness and decision of the administration, in relation to *the belligerent powers of Europe*.

The young men who composed the meeting of Augusta were composed of different political sentiments; and the committee selected by the chairman to prepare the address in question, were also so considered, and consisted of Messrs Wm. H. Crawford, Nathaniel Cocke, Samuel Barnett, Isham Malone and John McKinnie—the three first of whom were known as republicans. In making this choice the chairman was influenced by a desire that the address should manifest the feelings of *Americans*, without regard to the distinction of political parties then existing. The draft reported by the committee underwent some trivial and merely verbal alterations in general committee. The transaction in relation to this address, was previous to those acts of administration which seemed not to be acceptable to the great body of the American people.

Viewing things as I then and now do, I must in candor say, that I cannot conceive how any part of the address can be alleged as ground for charge of fickleness in Mr. Crawford's political sentiments. For my part I have no recollection, nor has any thing come to my knowledge to induce a belief that any change has since taken place. On the contrary, that it has always been considered he never belonged to what is termed the federal party, and such has been my opinion.

The original report of the address by the committee, together with the President's answer, having been preserved among my papers, I do myself the pleasure to furnish a copy of each for your perusal, or for publication as you may deem expedient.

Dr. Abbot has been pleased to refer to me as a federalist of 1798, and still remaining so. Be this as it may: To use the language of President Jefferson, it would seem as if we were now "all federalists, all republicans."

Feeling now and at all times, a deep and permanent interest in the welfare of my beloved country, I have the honor to be, with sentiments of esteem, your most obedient serv't. GEO. WATKINS.

*Messrs. Editors.*—In a letter of Dr. Abbot's to the editors of the National Intelligencer, published in their paper of the 25th February last, I have been appealed to, among others, to testify concerning the political opinions of Mr. Crawford, the Secretary of the Treasury. The absurdity of the charge of federalism, as against him at one time, determined me to be silent on the subject—But reflecting, that its absurdity might not be as apparent in all parts of the Union, as in this state, I have thought it better to say what I know upon the subject.

I removed to the County of Oglethorpe, in the autumn of the year 1789—Mr. Crawford settled in the county about the same time, and our acquaintance commenced at that period, soon ripened into an intimacy, which received no check until he went into public life as a Senator in Congress. Mr. Crawford was an open republican when I first knew him; he has remained so ever since, for aught that ever came to my knowledge. It will be recollected by men as old as myself, that from 1799, to the election of Mr. Jefferson, in 1801, the spirit of party was excited to a most fearful degree. Throughout the contest, which terminated in the election of Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Crawford's sentiments, as far as I had opportunities of witnessing their expression, (and these were frequent, for he made no secret of of them) were openly declared in opposition to the principles and policy of Mr. Adams' administration, and in favor of Mr. Jefferson's election. He resided in the same county in which I did, from that time until his election to the Senate. Had his republicanism been suspected, I must have heard it; for within that period, he was involved in disputes both of a political and private nature, in the course of which, the circumstance of a *change* in his political opinions, had there ever been one, would not have been passed in silence. I have no recollection of ever hearing a suggestion of the kind, until since his name has been before the people as a candidate for the Presidency.—Respectfully, yours,

GEORGE MOORE.