

INTENDED DINNER TO JUDGE CLAYTON, AT ATHENS.

The citizens of Athens, and its vicinity, had prepared to greet the arrival of their distinguished and highly valued compatriot, Judge Clayton, with a public dinner, on the 5d of August last; and their committee had, besides those of our own State, extended their invitations to several eminent men of South Carolina, to participate in the intended tribute of applause to that gentleman, for his able, faithful, and untiring services, in opposition to the "American System" and the "Bank monopoly."

The people of Oglethorpe county having fixed on the same day, for a general meeting and dinner, "to take into consideration what mode and measure of redress they would determine upon, in order to relieve themselves and their children from the unjust and burthensome operation of the tariff," to which Judge Clayton and many of our expected guests, and others of Athens and its vicinity, were also invited, "to aid and animate, by their councils and example, in the choice and execution of the means agreed on," it became necessary that the great object of the Lexington (a name of ominous import,) meeting should not be marred, by the abstraction from it of so many persons as would have been detained in Athens by the contemplated dinner.

It was therefore mutually arranged by the Lexington and Athens committees, that Judge Clayton and his friends should unite with the people of Oglethorpe, in giving force, by unity of action, to the intended movement there, in the great cause of constitutional liberty; and accordingly the dinner at Athens was postponed to considerations equally gratifying to Judge Clayton and his friends.

The following letters addressed to the Committee, upon the occasion, are too interesting to be pretermitted, as they convey to the people of Georgia, the sentiments and opinions of several enlightened patriots of a sister State, which cannot, in these times of political tribulation, be disseminated too far or wide among those who have determined to free themselves from an act of legislative usurpation, as inexpedient as it is unjust, and not more unjust than unconstitutional.

ONE OF THE ATHENS COMMITTEE.

COLUMBIA, (S. C.) July 29, 1832.

Gentlemen: I have just received the honor of your invitation to a public dinner, in approval of the conduct of your truly deserving and highly talented fellow citizen, Judge Clayton. I would most gladly have attended on such an occasion; but an engagement in the middle of the week, puts it out of my power. But I sincerely hope, that a common feeling, arising from common interest and common injuries, will prove a bond of brotherly union between Georgia and South Carolina.

Differences in speculative opinion ought not to divide men whose views for the public good, and the purity of our Constitution, are substantially the same. I hope both States will prosper in their struggle against the exercise of undelegated authority. Success to their efforts, is the ardent wish of,

Gentlemen, your obliged friend and fellow citizen,
THOMAS COOPER.

To Edward Harden, Esq. and the Committee of Arrangement, Athens, Georgia.

CHARLESTON, 31st July, 1832.

Gentlemen: I regret that the season of the year, and the great distance between us, will deprive me of the pleasure of being present at the dinner to be given by the citizens of Athens and its vicinity, in honor of the Hon. A. S. Clayton. I regard the name of this gentleman as identified with constitutional liberty.

We are here much gratified to observe the progress of State Right principles in Georgia. They are already so firmly established in South Carolina, that there is little doubt that our next Legislature will be almost unanimous for nullification. You may be assured, gentlemen, of this solemn truth, that there is one characteristic which distinguishes our State Rights and Free Trade Party, from all the parties which have existed since the foundation of this Government. This characteristic is, our strict adherence to principle from the beginning, and our utter regardlessness of men.—We are neither Jackson nor Clay, nor Van Buren nor Barbour men. Emphatically, we are "NO MAN'S MEN." We go for constitutional freedom, and the freedom of conscience; and these blessings we are resolved to have, at any and every hazard.

Nothing has gratified our party more, than to observe Georgia sustaining the great cause, precisely upon the same pure and lofty principles of patriotism. Your public meetings indicate that you are about to redeem that most solemn pledge, which your Legislature ordered to be carefully preserved among the archives of the Senate of the United States, "*in justification of her character, to the present generation, and to posterity,*" that if the tariff system be not abandoned, Georgia "will take MEASURES of a DECISIVE CHARACTER for the PROTECTION of her people, and the VINDICATION of the Constitution."

Permit me, gentlemen, to enclose you a toast:—*Georgia and South Carolina—Sister States—United in interest and in feeling—Both solemnly pledged to separate State action, in the present crisis—To which State shall the imperishable honor belong, of first redeeming the pledge?*—and to subscribe myself, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

ROBERT T. TURNBULL.

Messrs. Edward Harden, and others,

Committee, Athens, Georgia.

CHARLESTON, 31st July, 1852.

GENTLEMEN: I had yesterday the honor to receive, at this place, your letter of the 23d instant, inviting me to a public dinner, to be given to the Hon. A. S. Clayton, by the citizens of Athens and its vicinity, on Friday, the 3d of August. Appreciating, as I do, most highly, the sound republican principles, eminent talents, and important services of Judge Clayton; and entertaining the highest respect for the citizens of Georgia, a State second to none in her devotion to liberty and the Constitution, it would have afforded me the greatest satisfaction to have accepted the polite invitation extended to me on this occasion. It being, however, altogether out of my power to do so, I have only to return you, gentlemen, my sincere thanks for your kindness; and with my best wishes for the final triumph of the great principles to which we are all devoted, and for your individual health and happiness, permit me to assure you of my personal consideration and esteem.

ROBERT Y. HAYNE.

E. Harden, Esq. &c. &c. Committee.

GREENVILLE, (S. C.) Aug. 1, 1832.

GENTLEMEN: I have this moment received your very kind invitation to a dinner to be given at Athens, on the 3d instant, to the Hon. A. S. Clayton. You will perceive by the date of this, that I have not time, if other circumstances permitted, to enable me to travel to Athens, by the time appointed for the dinner. If I had received your note in time, I would have made almost any sacrifice to have testified to you the high value which I place upon the honor done me, by the invitation. It would have afforded me peculiar pleasure, to have had an opportunity of personal intercourse with the gallant spirits of Georgia, who will be assembled there—men with whom the patriots of South Carolina expect “shoulder to shoulder, and side by side,” to wage the great contest for constitutional liberty in which they are engaged. And surely there should be no more appropriate occasion for such a meeting, than that of paying a well

merited tribute to a public servant, who, raising himself high above all personal considerations, contemning as they deserve, all party influences, has with a recklessness of consequences, and an honesty and patriotism worthy of all praise, devoted himself, for weal or for woe, to the great and sacred cause for which we are struggling. Believe me, gentlemen, that I hail with peculiar pleasure, the hourly increasing signs of a return of those kindly feelings between our two States, which never should have been disturbed, and which I declare to you, in the utmost sincerity, never have been disturbed, so far as the great mass of our population is concerned. Our present feelings of kindness and respect for you are not new—we have never known any other. I trust that all our future rivalries may be, which shall be the first to begin, and the last to abandon an efficient resistance to a tyranny as oppressive, as odious, and as debasing, as ever was inflicted upon man.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

W. THOMPSON, Jr.

To Edward Harden, and others, Committee.

PENDLETON, (S. C.) August 3d, 1832.

GENTLEMEN: By last evening's mail I had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 23d July, (which, by a misdirection to Columbia, did not previously come to hand,) inviting me to a public dinner to be given to the Hon. A. S. Clayton, at Athens, on this day.

Even if your polite communication had reached me in time, I regret that imperative circumstances and engagements would have prevented the acceptance of the polite invitation with which you have honored me. I beg leave, however, to assure you, that nothing could have afforded me higher gratification, than to have been present at your festival, and to have united in those testimonials of public confidence and esteem which you have so justly paid to your distinguished Representative, whose able and patriotic services in the last session of the Congress of the United States have placed him in the front rank of the champions of the south; and whose generous and manly support of S. Carolina and her cause, when *some* politicians find it *more profitable* to revile her, has given him the highest claims on our gratitude and regard. To have united in a tribute of honor to this gentleman, I should have felt myself highly honored.

Permit me, in conclusion, to congratulate you on the bright auspices that are beaming on the common cause of our two States; auspices that find their cheering light in the signs of the fast approaching union of our people, which assures us of the ultimate triumph of the State sovereignty and constitutional liberty, and as its natural consequence, of the preservation of the Union on the only terms on which it ought to be perpetuated—justice and equal rights.

Accept the assurances of the consideration and esteem, with which I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. HAMILTON, Jr.

Edward Harden, Robert B. Houghton, James C. Edwards, James A. Wright, Junius Hill-
yer, Esqrs., Committee.

CHERRA HILL, 16th August, 1832.

GENTLEMEN: On my arrival at home, a few days ago, I found your letter inviting me to be present at a dinner to be given to the Hon. A. S. Clayton, by the citizens of Athens and its vicinity. It would have gratified me very much to have witnessed the hearty and approving welcome with which an enlightened and high spirited, but injured and oppressed people received their faithful, zealous, and uncompromising Representative, after a long and arduous campaign in the fields of federal legislation, in which his best exertions were employed in attempting to arrest the career of injustice and oppression. But as I did not reach home until some time after your meeting, I need offer no further explanation of my absence, or of my delay in answering your kind invitation.

Permit me, gentlemen, to congratulate you on the noble and patriotic spirit manifested by the people of Athens and its vicinity, as well as by other citizens of Georgia there assembled, during the college exercises of the commencement. I hail this manifestation as an augury of the spirit that will soon be awakened throughout your State; and I confidently look forward to the day—not far distant—when Georgia and South Carolina will stand side by side, animated by one soul, vindicating their sacred rights. I anticipate with equal confidence, a glorious, and I will add, a bloodless victory over their oppressors.

I tender you, gentlemen, and those you represent, the assurance of my sincere respect.

GEO. McDTFFIE.

To Gen. Edward Harden, and others, Committee, &c. Athens, Geo.

FAIRFIELD, August 2d, 1832.

GENTLEMEN: I regret that a late change of residence, occasioned your polite note of invitation to be forwarded to me from Columbia, too late to allow me, had circumstances otherwise permitted, to attend the public dinner to be given by the citizens of Athens and its vicinity, to the Hon A. S. Clayton, on the 3d instant. It would have given me peculiar pleasure to attend a public meeting, on such an occasion, of the citizens of your patriotic State, which has afforded to the confederacy an example how the rights of a State ought to be maintained.

It would have afforded still more gratification to join in paying a tribute of respect to one of the most able, zealous, and distinguished advocates of southern interests and southern principles, and further to cultivate an acquaintance which has afforded me so much pleasure.

I have the honor to be, with the utmost respect, your obedient servant,

WM. HARPER.

Messrs. Edward Harden, J. C. Edwards, Robert B Houghton, Jas. A. Wright, and Junius Hillyer, Committee.