

To those who know this gentleman, any attempt to repel the malicious charges which have been made against him, must be considered superfluous. The integrity and consistency of his character are too firmly established on their conviction, to need at this day the aid of an advocate to exemplify them. But, as reports have studiously been circulated to his prejudice, sometimes colored by the hand of malignity, at others distorted by the vision of envy, it is perhaps not injudicious to check, by a simple exposition of facts, a further circulation of calumny.

The affair of the "*mutilated documents*," that systematic and mature attack, has been met, and triumphantly repelled. It is unnecessary to enlarge upon a subject which has already been so fully exposed to the public. Let it then suffice, that the committee of investigation, wholly exonerated Mr. Crawford from any act, or agency connected with the transaction. It is well however to observe that an impression, highly unfavorable to the motives of those who moved this accusation, strongly existed in the house of Representatives "Let the galled jade wince, his withers are unwrung." Of late, there has been a singular accusation made against Mr. Crawford,—that, of his having been a Federalist in 1798. This charge appeared to us, to be so preposterous, that we could scarcely think of it but with levity, and it would never have claimed our serious attention, had we not observed that its pertinacious propagation, has acquired for it a character, which nothing but infatuation could else have bestowed upon it. Mr. Abbott's letter, was calculated to remove the doubts of the most prejudiced, but we still find the same engines employed, to perpetuate the calumny. Neither reason, nor truth can shed light upon the wilfully blind. That there may not however remain the least pretext, for a continuance of error, that the true motives which urged the circulation of this unfounded report may be exposed, and that even scepticism may believe, we submit the following documents derived from an individual who was conspicuously engaged in the meeting, and who is politically and personally opposed to Mr. Crawford—is now and has always been an avowed Federalist. The conduct of Mr. George Watkins in making this candid statement, connected with the disingenuousness of many of his party, might be considered magnanimous, had not the uniform tenor of his character evinced him incapable of resorting to any artifices inconsistent with the principles of a gentleman. The language of the address, coupled with the manner of the reply to it, would alone characterise the feelings that urged it. Mr. Watkins' explanations however leave no room for doubt.

THE AUGUSTA ADDRESS &c.

It seems to be fate of Mr. Crawford's assailants to suffer defeat and mortification on whatever point they attack him.—The insinuations of mismanagement of the Treasury, and of suppression of documents called for by Congress, have been triumphantly repelled. The charge of *federalism*, to which no one who knew Mr. C. gave the slightest credence, is now demolished. On what ground will they next assail him? The Washington Republican and National Gazette will, we have no doubt, republish the following documents, inasmuch as they have given to their readers the most sacred pledges, that they will in all cases be governed by a most rigid adherence to facts.

Milledgeville Journal 25th ult.

ATHENS, March 17. 1823.

Messrs. Editors.—A regard for the character of a much injured individual, who at least deserves a very different treatment from the People of Georgia, has induced me to forward to you, for publication, the following papers:

Mr. Secretary *Crawford*, has been charged with being a Federalist in the year '98, and to prove it, an Address to President Adams has been published, first in his own state, and re-published in many of the others. That Address with its answer, together with the very satisfactory explanation of the Chairman of the meeting, in relation to the transaction, is now submitted to the candor of an enlightened community, under an honest confidence, that it will be received as it was meant, not as the effusion of party spirit for the support of federalism, but as evincive of that heroic and high-minded sense of honor which then animated those patriotic young men, having for its object something more noble than the bickering of faction, and which kindred feeling, under similar circumstances, has since characterized the Youth of every part of the Union, whenever the pride of the nation or the rights of the government have either been insulted or assailed. If the political history of those times had been faithfully recollected, if the ardent feelings of the "*Young Men*" who composed that meeting had been properly regarded, if the spirit and temper of the production had been rightly considered, there was and is no room to charge any one of that meritorious assemblage with any thing hostile to Republican institutions of the government, or to stamp upon him any peculiar cast of political character. But the letter of Major Watkins, who, though differing in politics with Mr. Crawford, has always been open and candid in his principles, and whose moral and religious character is so universally known and so consistently sustained, will doubtless place the whole affair in such a strong point of view, as that it can now be neither perverted or misunderstood.

Independent of the individual testimony of Major Watkins, which I affirm can be supported by a thousand living witnesses, our sister states, who, under existing circumstances, have a right to be informed on this interesting subject, will we hope, do

the justice to receive the evidence of the State of Georgia in its political character. It is a fact never doubted that this state has always been decidedly republican, so that even in '98, the commencement of the distinction of parties, and address to President Adams, by his own confession "was the more precious as it was unexpected," and unexpected because the character of the state was known to be republican. Now, this state, has in no instance returned a federal Member to Congress, never for a moment distrusted or even suspected the politics of Mr. Crawford, and gave him a seat in the Senate of the U. States upon his first application, without the usual probation in the other House, and that too over a worthy republican member then holding the station under an executive appointment of Governor Milledge, who every one knows was a *democratic Republican*—And this appointment was made in 1807, a crisis, when the political parties had reached their wildest point of separation, and whose operations for eight successive years, occupied the councils of the government in a warfare, as bitter as it was calculated to distract the harmony and repose of the nation. Through this dark period of our history, Mr. Crawford afforded proof, at least to his own state, that their confidence was not misplaced—and if his integrity, abilities, and inflexible republicanism, are such as to satisfy our sister states, that his pretensions for the Chief Magistracy, are not unworthy of that high station, and have not improperly been obtruded upon the public notice, they may depend upon it, the clamors of a few to the contrary, that his success will produce, with becoming modesty let it be spoken, a pride and a gratification that will be sensibly, and I trust not unreasonably, felt by nine-tenths of the citizens of Georgia.

A. S. CLAYTON.

GREENSBORO, March 11, 1823.

Maj. George Watkins:

SIR—Understanding that you are fully conversant with the facts relative to the address made to President Adams in the year '98, in which you, as Chairman of the meeting, and the Secretary of the Treasury, are said to have taken a part, and which has recently been published, to charge the latter gentleman with being at that time a Federalist; and knowing that your regard for sincerity, will induce you readily to do an act of justice even to a political opponent, I have taken the liberty to request the favor of you, to state all the circumstances connected with that transaction, its executive object, and what were Mr. Crawford's political principles then and at all times—either prior or subsequent to that period—and if you have the President's answer to that address, will you furnish a copy for publication.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. S. CLAYTON.

GREENSBORO, Ga. March 14, 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 has 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 at that time 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 at Augusta, were 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 McKennie—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 alteration in general committee. The transaction in relation to this address was previous to those acts of that 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 ever 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. Abbott 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
servant,

GEO. WATKINS.

Augusta, July 2d, 1798.

To JOHN ADAMS,

President of the United States:

SIR—Whilst clouds darken our political horizon; whilst the ferocious frenzy of the "Terrible Republic" threatens the United States with bloodshed; massacres and desolation, We, the young men of the city of Augusta, deem it a duty, in common with our fellow citizens, to assure the Chief Executive Magistrate, of our unalterable attachment to our country and its government.

At the commencement of their revolution, we regarded the French nation as engaged in a glorious and just cause; the support of that political liberty, which, unless the soul is debased by oppression, or corrupted by avarice, neither nations or individuals will resign, but with their lives.

Viewing them in this light, we were proud of calling France a sister republic; we gloried in calling Frenchmen by the endearing appellation of brothers. Unwilling to form a hasty conclusion against a nation in whose favor we were thus prepossessed, we long wished to view the injuries and insults offered by them to the United States; their contempt of our government, through the medium of their ambassadors; their unrighteous and piratical attacks upon our commerce as the usurped and nefarious acts of individuals, unsanctioned by their government.

But by the absolute rejection of all conciliatory measures, the French government has avowed the flagrant violations of our rights as a neutral nation and total disregard of their most solemn compacts, to have been authorised by them; that indiscriminate rapine and universal empire, instead of peace and justice are their objects: and that no nation can secure their friendship, without sacrificing its national independence.

Although we are attached to the blessings of peace, and deprecate the horrors of war, yet we are sensible, that self preservation now points out a firm and energetic conduct to our government; we view with the highest degree of approbation, those measures which have been pursued by the executive, for the preservation of our national honor.

As we enjoy the supreme felicity of being citizens, of, perhaps, the only genuine and well balanced republic, now existing in the world, we feel a just contempt for a nation who can brand us with the imputation of being a divided people, and who presuming on our disunion, have left us the awful alternative, disgraceful peace, or war.

With the most unlimited confidence in the firmness, justice and wisdom of your administration, we pledge ourselves to you and our fellow citizens, that we will be ready at the call of our country to defend what is dearer to us than our lives—her liberty and laws.

By order of the meeting.

GEO. WATKINS, Chairman.

To the young Men of the city of Augusta in the State of Georgia.

Gentlemen—An address from the Youth of Augusta, so remote from the seat of government, and where I am personally wholly unknown, is a very high gratification to my feelings.

Threats of bloodshed, massacres and desolation, from the frenzy of any nation, however great, or any republic however terrible at the distance of a thousand marine leagues need not intimidate the American people, if they really feel like you an unalterable attachment to their country and government. It has been my destiny to differ from my fellow citizens in general, in opinions concerning the French revolution—as a dispensation of Providence, I have ever beheld it with reverence, unable however to comprehend any good principles sufficient to produce it, to see its tendency, or in what it would terminate—but the warm zeal, the violent attachment to it manifested by Americans, I have ever believed to be an error of the public opinion—it was none of our business—we had or ought to have had nothing to do with it, and I always believed we were making work for severe repentance. To me little time remains to live, and less I hope to have any thing to do with public affairs, but I could neither die or retire in peace, if at such a time as this, and in the station I now hold, I should conceal my sentiments from my fellow citizens.

Self preservation now points out a firm conduct to government, and your satisfaction in those measures, which have been pursued for the preservation of our national honor is much esteemed. May you long live to rejoice in them, and enjoy their happy effects.

It is a gratification to my pride to see you boast of a well balanced republic; the essence of a free republic is in this balance—the security of liberty, property, character and life depends every moment on its preservation, and France and America will be scourged by the rods of vengeance if they will not study and preserve that balance, as the only ark of safety.

The expression of your confidence in my administration, is the more precious as it was unexpected.

JOHN ADAMS.

Philadelphia, July 20th, 1798.

The testimony of Mr. Moore which follows, is strictly corroborative of the uniformity of Mr. Crawford's political principles. This gentleman it will be perceived was, for many years his near neighbor, and intimate friend. He must have heard of his aberrations, if any ever existed.

SAV. REPUBLICAN.

Messrs. Editors—In a letter of Dr. Abbott 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 1798.—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, and 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 elevation 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 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 of 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.
GEO. MOORE.

Since the preceding statements were furnished to the Milledgeville papers, we have received the additional testimony of the two surviving members of the committee who were associated with Mr. Crawford in forming the address. It is scarcely necessary to say that their respectability and veracity are undeniable. Col. McKinne is a Federalist—Mr. Barnett a republican. The latter is Cashier, of the Branch bank of Georgia at Washington.—**SAVANNAH REPUBLICAN.**

Perceiving that our names have been referred to by the Hon. Joel Abbott, member of congress from Georgia, in his exposition, in the National Intelligencer of last month, on political principles in the year 1793, as respects the meeting of the young men of Augusta in the month of July of that year, upon the occasion of their addressing president Adams on the then crisis of the times, in which the present secretary of the Treasury was associated with us on the committee of five, appointed by George Watkins, Esq. the chairman of said meeting, to draw up said address (Nathan'l. Coker and Isham Malone, the other two committee, having departed this life,)

We deem it an act of common justice to Mr. Crawford to say that he never was at that period, or at any time since, considered by those most intimately acquainted with him, as attached to or belonging to what was called the federal party.

The meeting in question was attended by both the great contending parties in politics of that day; and probably as much by the one as the other; for party feeling seemed, as well as we remember, to have been kept out of view on the occasion. It was thought that the nation had been insulted by the French republic, and therefore it was that an union of sentiment as well as of action, in nearly every section of the country, was deemed expedient by the Federalists and Republicans.

Signed **SAMUEL BARNETT.**
JOHN MCKINNE.

March 20th 1823.

The public has now before them a complete development of the grounds upon which Mr. Crawford has been charged with federalism in 1798. This subject has been a fruitful theme of denunciation,—the calumny has been widely spread and every effort of malignant ingenuity has been enlisted to give effect to it. We now call upon gentlemen of all parties, and particularly those who have been most industrious in stamping credit upon the report, to avow if a doubt remains of the fallacy of the imputation, Is there in the whole explanation a single equivocal expression that would debar unbounded belief in Mr. Crawford's political consistency? Among those who know him best, and have been longest associated with him, can one be found who will even insinuate that he has ever strayed from the Republican ranks? We boldly assert there is not, and challenge refutation.—**SAY. REPUBLICAN.**

The Richmond Enquirer received by last night's mail, alluding to the address of the young men of Augusta, and the charge of Mr. Crawford being a federalist in 1798, after commenting at some length on the idle and stupid charge, thus concludes his remarks:—"We presume, however, the Georgia politicians will cast all the light they can collect upon the subject. We shall soon know of the course which Mr C. pursued under Mr Adams' administration. What party did he adopt before and after this Augusta address? was he the friend of the Alien and the Sedition laws? was he or was he not stigmatized as a democrat, nay a jacobin—or was he hailed as the friend of Mr. Adams? Let us only hear the truth, gentlemen. On W. H. C's. account, we do not dread it. On account of the country, it should be fully exhibited."

The documents which we have published above gives an answer to all the interrogatories of the Enquirer, and will, no doubt, be satisfactory to the great body of the republicans.