

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