

# To the Public.

**D**ISAGREEABLE as it is at all times to every feeling of delicacy, to expose to the world, facts, which should be forever obscured from their view, yet there are circumstances which not only warrant, but imperiously demand it. It is at this time my misfortune to be surrounded by such circumstances. A descent respect for the opinions of the world, and a justifiable determination to vindicate my character from a foul accusation, is, it is hoped, a sufficient apology for the present publication.

In the Athenian of the 10th inst. I requested a suspension of public opinion, in relation to the charges preferred by A. Walker against his wife and myself, until an investigation could be had.

In the Georgia Journal of the 19th inst. there appears a publication over the signature of A. Walker, in which he says, "Will the public believe after the above notices, (alluding to those of John Gilbert, James C. Edwards, and myself, which appeared in the Athenian of the 10th inst.) that I have in my possession written testimony, positive, full, clear, and unquestionable, of the guilt of the lady alluded to, in the articles above, with many more, other than the three who have published? These three individuals have made and subscribed a solemn oath, before a civil officer, that they are innocent and the lady guiltless so far as they are concerned; and they have acted in concert in the whole affair," thereby endeavoring to create a belief in the public mind of my guilt, and produce an impression that he has proof, "positive, full, clear and unquestionable," of that fact. The above extract from his publication is susceptible of no other construction. Again he says: "she would confess nothing of any living man, unless my proofs of his guilt were incontrovertible." Now from this latter extract, Walker would convey the idea, that because he had not proof incontrovertible of my guilt, Mrs. Walker would not criminate me; but unfortunately for him as a man of veracity, I have been told by a gentleman of the highest respectability, that in one instance she had voluntarily criminate a "living man," against whom he had not the slightest proof of guilt; which fact he (Walker) admitted to this gentleman.

He adverts to the oath which I have taken; now for your information, as well as the vindication of my character, I will state the circumstances under which that oath was taken: During my absence from this place, on the first day of the present month, I was for the first time advised through a friend, of the vile report in circulation implicating my character in connexion with that of Mrs. Walker. I immediately hastened my return, believing as I then did, that I could at sight satisfy Walker of my innocence, and that of his wife, as far as I was implicated. I arrived on the following day and was then informed of his absence from the place. Very shortly after my arrival, Mr. J. C. Edwards, and that abandoned libertine, John Gilbert, who were also implicated, called on me to enquire the course I intended to pursue; to whom I promptly replied, that impelled by every sense of duty which I owed an injured and innocent woman, I should adopt such a course as would not only satisfy Walker himself, but the world of my innocence, and that of his wife, so far as I was implicated, which course was to go forward voluntarily and make an affidavit to that purport, and immediately on his return to request of him an interview, and if granted, to present unsolicited this evidence of my innocence. Mr. Edwards and Gilbert readily approved of the motive which actuated me to this course, and the affidavits were accordingly made before a civil officer, each swearing for himself, and himself alone. Walker returned on the following Wednesday, and immediately on his arrival was waited on by A. S. Clayton, Esq. acting as a mutual friend, with a note signed by each one of us, requesting of him a friendly interview, which interview was refused. Since this period I have stood before you as an implicated individual, charged with the commission of a foul crime, without the means of clearing my character, because those charges have never been made in a fair and honorable way, or supported by any specific evidence so that I could openly refute them. Had Walker made his charges against me in a way in which I could have met them—exhibited the evidence which induced him to believe I was guilty, I should not now appear before you in my present attitude.

I will here take occasion to remark, that from the day of their separation, up to the 16th inst., in the short space of 12 days, Walker made his wife three separate and distinct visits, no doubt for the purpose of extorting from her, confessions against Mr. Edwards and myself, which he as yet, has not been able to obtain; for on his last visit but one to her, he acknowledged to a friend who accompanied him, that from her continued and solemn protestations of my innocence and that of Mr. Edwards, his confidence of our guilt was very much shaken, and since his last visit to her, a friend in the full confidence of Walker, visited her, which gentleman after conversing with Mrs. Walker, pronounced to at least two individuals in this place, his belief in our entire innocence; notwithstanding his (Walker's) production has gone forth to the world as though he was in possession of "incontrovertible testimony" of our guilt. Up to the time of Mrs. Walker's confession, I believed her to be a slandered lady, whose innocence was "nullified by the foul breath of rumor," and in support of that opinion, I had the whole community of this place with me, with but a few exceptions. It may be asked how it is that a female so entirely guilty and abandoned as she acknowledged herself to have been, who agreeably to the declarations of her husband was not a virtuous woman at the time of his marriage with her, was guilty of incest after marriage, and had criminal intercourse with various individuals almost up to the very time of their separation, could have so many friends who believed her guiltless—so many vouchers for her virtue? Let A. Walker answer the question! Let him likewise answer how it was that under all those circumstances, he could, as the high minded and honorable man which he professes to be, impose his wife on this unsuspecting and respectable community, as a virtuous woman; how he could call by the endearing name of wife, and cherish as such a woman whom he knew to be worse than a common prostitute. Now, if you can find no excuse for me in asserting my belief of the entire innocence of Mrs. Walker, up to the time of her confession, you may put under your ban, with but few exceptions, the whole town of Athens. He has taunted me for believing her to be an innocent woman, "called by the foul breath