

Athens, July 4th, 1820.

The citizens of this place, answering to the feelings which the birth day of the Union always inspires, met by previous arrangement, at Mr. Erwin's Tavern, for the purpose of commemorating that great event, and affording those suitable and social demonstrations of gratitude and joy peculiarly belonging to the occasion, and are commonly, as was in the present instance, offered around a festive and convivial board. The Hon. Augustin S. Clayton, acted as President, and Col. John A. Cobb, as Vice President of the day. The President of the University participated with the citizens in the cheerful pleasures of the repast prepared for the purpose, on which he invoked an appropriate benediction, and relished with equal gratification, the higher enjoyments of sentiment and paternal congratulation usually flowing from this distinguished festival.

After passing the social glass in cordial approval of the unprepared, though not the less patriotic sentiments, spontaneously and alternately rendered by the individuals of the board. The President of the day offered a sentiment accompanied with the following address:

Gentlemen.—Animated by the occasion which has called us around this social board, and exhilarated by the generous and patriotic feelings which have been produced from our fraternal conviviality, I trust I may be permitted to preface the sentiment I am about to offer, with such remarks as are calculated to explain its object. The hour of this festival having passed in which a studied style and ostentatious display of language is wont to be used, I will directly advance to the purpose in view by the undorned relation of a simple allegory. The great and virtuous Parent, whose birth day so many cheerful hearts are

at this moment celebrating in song or mingled mirth, has three rosy and industrious daughters, their names are *Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures.* Like many fond mothers, some visionary and unaccountable train of thought, has usurped the sway of her sober judgment, and delivered her over to the curse of a blind and infatuated favoritism. This partiality is obviously directed to the last named sister: the other two greatly mortified at this unnatural and cruel preference, have determined to approach their parent in a strain of humble and affectionate remonstrance. *Agriculture*, has resolved to employ a language something like this: "Oh tender and just mother! Do not believe that I am actuated by a false jealousy, or an envious spirit, when I complain of your partial attachment to my younger and beloved sister; she has ever been an object dear to me and her prosperity has been the constant source of my most pleasing anticipations. In proof of this who has done more for her welfare than myself? But is it right, is it natural, is it wise, to enlarge the patrimony of this favorite child, and to increase her inheritance from the hard earnings of your other children? What entitles her to this exclusive regard? Have I not been equally dutiful? Have I not contributed to your maintenance by every aid you have ever demanded? Have I not supported your growing population, upon which your wealth, strength and reputation depend; laid bare your wilderness, once the haunt of savage beasts & a race of men still more savage, and made it the peaceful habitation of smiling contentment? Who has filled your purse with almost untold thousands from the sale of your real estate? Who is increasing your power and fame by means of agricultural pursuits, extended over your uninhabited domain? Who improves and fertilizes your land, forms and supports your armies, feeds your people, and will finally nurse your old age? Shall I be constrained to say it is myself, with the aid of my sister commerce? Are then, my just claims upon your affection to be postponed? Will you, in your advancing age, like the rest of your sex, grow giddy, and let the light airy trappings of fashion, the gay fringe and tinsel of ornament, the gewgaws of childhood, and the vain parade of dress, in which our young and inexperienced sister delights, carry you away from the more solid and lasting good which you know it is in my power to bestow? Have you considered what an unspeakable source of chagrin it will be to become an off-cast and what feuds may arise from an awakened jealousy? Do you believe it is in my nature or in human nature, calmly, to bear the sight of this favored object of yours, sporting in your lap, dandled on your knee, lying in the shade of ease, and drawing from your breasts every comfort that it wants, and wantoning in every passionate caress that you can afford, while I am fainting in the Summer's sun, or drenched in the Winter's rain, to till your soil and tend your flocks? You cannot believe it—pause before you act, reflect, I beseech you, before you bring on such an unhappy order of things."

The other sister, *Commerce*, has determined to meet her mother in some moment of retirement, when her mind is tranquil and her reason sedate, and thus accost her: "Much honored Parent! permit your dutiful child to address you and implore the reason, why of late, you have turned all your attentions towards my youngest sister? Why am I becoming a stranger to your maternal affections? Have I not mainly supported you to the present hour through all your trials? Have I not for your sake, ploughed every sea, opposed their every open and hidden danger, braved every hardship, risked the pestilence of every clime? Have I not encountered the overwhelming whirlwinds of the south, and the frozen blasts of the north and all for you? Have I not enriched your Treasury, and by preventing the necessity of an appeal to your people for aid, warded off their murmurs, rendered them contented with their present condition, and respectfully obedient to you? Have I not furnished your young country with the advantages of arts, the embellishments of science, and the refinements of every country? What better would it have been than the nation you found it, but for my constant and unwearied exertions? Is there any rational comfort, desirable rarity, or useful discovery, in any corner of the habitable globe, that I have not already brought, and will again cheerfully bring you? Why then this unnatural distinction? Why such a derangement in the ties and relations of our people, calculated to throw them out of a livelihood, beggar their prospects, destroy their plans, ruin their property, and consign them to a new and untried state, where they must either languish from inexperience or perish for want of employment? Is this the reward for all the toils and perils of the "raging Main?" Is this the reward for the thousands of my hardy sons who lie ingulphed in the bosom of the ocean? Is this the reward of those gallant souls I have so anxiously reared to fight your battles, and who have shed such ardent beams of glory around your name? It cannot be—think earnestly, I entreat you of these things, and may you come to this generous and no less just conclusion, that *Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures*, shall claim alike and indiscriminately receive your kind and equal protection."

On a day consecrated to the equal rights of man, achieved by the highest efforts of his nature, and rendered dear by the effusion of his best blood, and in a state invariably acting upon these inestimable principles, it would seem almost unnecessary to state, that sentiments like these were greeted with every mark of approbation, and conveyed through every bosom with the liveliest emotions of sympathy.

The company parted and retired to

