

have felt that I must either give countenance by my silence, to a false and disparaging imputation, or adopt the suggestion of the Judge, and "disabuse the public mind as to the alarming suspicion" which his own publication has been the sole and exclusive means of producing.

GEO. M'DUFFIE.

From the National Intelligencer.

Gentlemen:—My attention has been called, by the kindness of a friend, to a publication in the Georgia Journal, signed by the honorable A. S. Clayton, which I feel constrained to notice. The following extract from that publication contains all that has any relation to me:

"Messrs. Editors:—While my review of the Bank Report was publishing, I received an anonymous letter from one of our commercial cities, informing me, among other things, 'that scarcely a particle of the Report on the Bank of the United States was penned by Mr. M'Duffie, but penned by those immediately interested in or employed by the Bank; and that 'the following individuals can tell who penned that document; Langdon Chaves, N. Biddle, Mr. Ingersoll, &c &c.' Now, concerning this matter (continues Judge Clayton) I not only know nothing, but believe nothing; I give the fact as I received it. If true, it speaks volumes; if not true, the honorable Chairman of the Committee, or the gentlemen above named, should promptly disabuse the public mind as to the alarming suspicion which such a circumstance is calculated to inspire. For the sake of the purity of their deliberations, Congress ought to inquire into it if there is the slightest foundation for such a belief."

It is equally due to myself, and to all concerned, that I should state explicitly, that in the whole of the foregoing statement of Judge Clayton's anonymous correspondent, there is not "a particle" or shadow of truth. The entire report of the Committee of Ways and Means, to which reference is made, was composed and written by the chairman of that committee; and of course not a single sentence of it was penned by any other human being. If the reference made to Mr. Chaves, Mr. Biddle, and Mr. Ingersoll, was designed to convey the idea that these gentlemen, or either of them, "penned" any part of the report in question, they "can tell" Judge Clayton that his correspondent is a rascal and reckless calumniator.

I am not disposed to complain of the course pursued by Judge Clayton, because I do not ascribe it to an unfriendly, much less to a malicious motive. I cannot but remark, however, that he has permitted himself to be drawn, by an artful and invidious libeller, into a situation of extreme awkwardness at least; involving all the legal responsibility, without any of the moral guilt, of publishing a false and malicious libel. That this is a base and infamous libel, the Judge will now doubtless perceive and admit.—It is apparent, also, that he is the sole publisher, however inoffensive his intention; and he has been so long at the bar, and on the bench, not to know, that his legal responsibility for this publication cannot be evaded by stating that he received the information from an anonymous correspondent, and neither believes nor disbelieves it. I do not make these remarks for the vain and idle purpose of reading to the Judge a lecture on the law of libel; but to admonish him of the extreme imprudence of publishing a grave charge against a Committee of the House of Representatives, deeply affecting, in his own opinion, the purity of the national legislature, on an irresponsible authority, stamped with suspicion upon the very face of it. If this charge had been published by an anonymous writer, I should have had too much self-respect to notice it; but coming before the public from so respectable a source, even with a very equivocal endorsement, I