TO THE PEOPLE OF QUEEN-ANN'S, CAROLINE AND TALBOT COUNTIES.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

On my return home, yesterday evening, I found that Mr. Hopper, the competitor for the honorable station, which I hold by a distinct expression of your confidence in me, two years ago, had deemed it necessary to make an address to you through the medium of the "Centreville Times." Were I to offer him my sympathy in the cause of his detention at home, my sincerity might perhaps, be doubted by some, who, *during an electioneering canvass*, would deny me the credit for any good feelings whatever. Yet I will say that I *ought* to sympathize with my opponent, because, just at the moment of my entering into the canvass with him, I was by a similar cause rendered almost wholly incapable of moving about and have now but ill-recovered my health and strength.

Seeing something in this communication of Mr. Hopper which he, doubtless, thought admirably contrived not only to *interest* the feelings of a certain class of the Community, by the suggestion of "*objections*" to him, which I am sure I never alleged against him, as well as to *embroil* me with some portion of my *Federal* friends, I seize my pen this morning, before my departure for Queen-Ann's, to give you a brief reply to all that concerns myself in that ingenious publication. For the rest,—I leave to those "*Democratic gentlemen*," to whom Mr. H. seems, with so much bitterness to refer as "a faction—(who like Milton's Devil, would sooner rule in Hell, than serve in Heaven,—) to answer his complaints.

I have but a few minutes to give to this subject and I hasten to the point:—

First; If Mr. Hopper had any design to insinuate that I or any friend of mine, by my sanction, had started "objections" to his *religious* opinions or character, I have only to say, with perfect sincerity, that such a charge would be wholly unfounded and unjust; and I think I may appeal with entire confidence, to every intelligent member of the religious denomination to which he belongs, who knows my feelings and character, for a ready acquittal of it. So highly do I prize the religious liberty, now enjoyed under our Constitution, that I would hazard life and every thing most dear in the support of it; and as to *respect* for the characters of truly pious men, my uniform conduct towards those who are esteemed such within the sphere of my acquaintance, cannot fail to screen me from any imputation of this kind suggested. I venerate the man, whose heart is warmly and sincerely devoted to the cause of religion, or who, as "a minister of grace to guilty men" devotes his life to the quiet and unostentatious exercise of his holy functions. Sentiments incompatible with these were never uttered by me, however any light and unmeaning word may, at any time, have been perverted by malice and misrepresented.

Secondly: Mr. Hopper has introduced, with a degree of adroitness, on which I have no doubt he felt a high *self-gratulation*, some harsh expressions, which he attributes to me, as having been used in relation to "federal gentlemen," that they were "infernal scoundrels"!—Ah! man of peace, do you wish to stir up the blood?—"I do not presume to believe"—(he most ingeniously throws in) that the same principle actuates the gentlemen who oppose me that is ascribed by Mr. Kerr to the Federalists, who oppose him, viz jealousy and disappointment"!—Man of strife take all the benefit you can of the *correct* admission of words and meaning, and set *mischief* still more afoot, if you so desire. I understand that it has been even related by others, from the same expressions used by me in Caroline, to which reference seems to be made by Mr. H. that I declared *all the leading Federalists in Talbot county rascals!!!* And now what is the correct statement of this weighty matter? In speaking with the warmest feelings of gratitude and respect of the confidence I enjoyed from both the Federalists and Democrats of my own county, I did say that I had some *personal* enemies:—aye, even amongst the Federalists, I said, some few—(and I thanked God, there were no more) whom I did describe as insiduous scoundrels, or by some like phrase, malignantly disposed to do me every injury in their power. I never used the epithet "infernal"—I know I never did, and Mr. H. is mistaken—but that makes no odds whatever is the *sentiment*. Yes, I may say, "rather in sorrow than in anger" as to some, but with a high degree of just resentment as to others, that I have some personal enemies, and of them I had a right to make exception. To *such* enemies, too, I referred, on another occasion, without the distinction of Federalists and Democrats, when I alluded to the temper and condition of the wretched malignant *Haman*. It is in part the confidence reposed in me by Democrats as well as Federalists, which so fatally disturbs their repose. But every generous and high-minded *Federalist*, who ever was my friend, rejoices now, on the decline of party feeling, to see me obtain the confidence of Democrats to justify their own; and, with a few exceptions, I know from the latest personal intercourse, that I hold by the firmest tenure, the perfect good will of the great body of the Federalists both of Talbot and Caroline; and under such circumstances it would be impossible for me to asperse or denounce them. Not one of them will ever believe the charge after this simple denial of my having committed such a foolish act. Amongst the leading Federalists of Talbot are some of my warmest personal friends and they can never be made to believe in any such idle tales. Yet, I admit that some few Federal 'Gentlemen,' both of Queen-Ann's and Talbot may have very suddenly fallen in love with Mr. Hopper; and after the overture of his assurance that all his unkind feelings towards them have been long since eradicated, it may befall us soon to see some billing and cooing and new political alliances, which may afford both surprize and mirth.

In haste, your faithful servant,

JOHN LEEDS KERR.

Easton, Monday morning, 25th Sept.

POSTCRIPT.

TUESDAY EVENING, 26th Sept.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

I returned home to day, about 1 o'clock, and, upon conversing with one of my friends, I understood that I had no sooner turned my back on the little despicable set of slanderers, in Talbot, than they had varied and modified their tales about me, and were whispering an infamous story that I had, in *derision* and *contempt*, spoke of Mr. Philemon B. Hopper, as "*soul-saver*"—Such an expression or phrase was never used by me, in my whole life, at any time or about any person; and I thought it proper upon this and other subjects of misrepresentation to address the people assembled in Easton. I believe not a single individual of the large assembly present retired without a thorough conviction of the baseness & utter falsehood of the charge. Mr. Hopper, most improperly, in Caroline introduced the idle tale which has been carried to him of my having, in conversation with some one about his coming out as a candidate, enumerated in *derision*, amongst his many *avocations*, that of "preacher" (as he stated it;) but he never intimated that one word of reference to his religious calling had ever been made by me otherwise; and yet it has been attempted to be made out that *I* used the first expressions—I have stated in a *public speech* When the gentleman thought proper to introduce the matter of my speaking of his being "*a preacher of the Gospel*," for that was the extent of *his* statement, I instantly made a serious appeal to his good feelings and *candour* to accept my solumn assurance that I never did *intend*, when I mentioned (as he said he had been told) his being a minister or preacher of the Gospel, the slightest disrespect for his religion; and he ought to have been satisfied with that: but I found him repeating, at Hibernia, the very *witty* retort which he first threw out at Huntiug Creek that *he would put his preaching against my swearing* I shall, however, trouble the gentleman with no further apologies on this subject; but I shall pronounce the exagerated story which has been since produced out of this trifling incident, by whomsoever fabricated or by whomsoever sanctioned, as a base calumny, of which every man who heard me, this afternoon was fully convinced.

Further: I was informed also, to-day, that it had been stated in a letter to the Editor of the Easton Gazette, from Queen Anns, that I had there "pronounced the leaders of the Federal party in Talbot the greatest rascals in the world!",—I called on Mr. Graham for the letter and he exhibited to me an anonymous letter stating that fact, from somebody! The silly absurd allegation, thus forwarded, without a name and without the slightest pretext or foundation, was exposed by me to the entire satisfaction of the people whom I addressed this evening, and more especially to the perfect conviction of the Federalists, upon whom the talk about this letter had been most pressed by my persecuting enemies, and a few of whom had been almost seduced to think, from the boldness of the assertion, that there was possibly some foundation for it.

I now express my hope that, from the experience of the last two weeks, no honest man will listen to any more perversions of my words, or any infamous stories just on the eve of the election, when it will be impossible in due time to explain or even to deny them.

JOHN LEEDS KERR.

TO ALL FAIR AND HONEST MEN.

After all the other artful fabrications of *sayings* to put into my mouth and thence to pervert my sentiments, and all the tales which I have already refuted, I am informed that it has been stated and circulated, whilst I have been in Queen-Ann's, that I have declared to a Democratic gentleman in Talbot that *as soon as the election is over I shall come out as a Democrat.*

Two years ago, when I was first a candidate for Congress, precisely the same silly charge was made, and here I am again speaking and professing, *publicly* and *privately*, to all men of all parties, that my grand object is to put down *all* party-spirit, as far as possible, and that I ask the confidence of my fellow citizens *upon that ground alone*, upon which I obtained it two years ago. I can only say in answer to such a charge as this that it is very extraordinary indeed that any *Democrats* should be alarmed at the idea, of my *turning* over to *their* party, if I really had said I would, but the whole is a trumpery tale, for which I solemnly deny that there is the slightest earthly foundation, *as it respects any declaration or word of mine, to any man living, either in public or in private.* It is only propagated to *cool* some of my Federal friends, whom my enemies think silly enough to run away with any story, however absurd or improbable.

Having heard that Mr. Thomas Henrix, of Talbot, was mentioned as the gentleman who had stated this *new design* for me, I have luckily just met with him and procured the following Certificate:

CERTIFICATE.

"I do hereby declare most solemnly that John Leeds Kerr, Esq. never did, at any time, express to me the idea of his turning *Democrat*, either now, after the election to Congress, or any future time; but, on the contrary, he has always talked to me, as he speaks in public, urging the putting down of *all* party and voting for the best men, Federal and Democratic: but I have not only to one but to *many* of our *true* and *full* democrats said and insisted that Mr. Kerr was a better Democrat than Mr. Philemon Hopper and that I had no doubt he would prove himself so, and that under this conviction we Democrats in Talbot meant to support Mr. Kerr."

THOMAS HENRIX.

Easton, Sept. 29, 1826.

I hope no more can be required of me by any man. Mr. Henrix's zeal for me I shall not censure.

JOHN LEEDS KERR.

Easton, Sept. 29, 1826.

For the Easton Gazette.

THE UNHOLY OPPOSITION.

Could the splenetic bickerings, of the clamorous assailants of the present administration, avail aught, in influencing or prepossessing the Public sentiment, to the injurious prejudice of Mr. Adams, I should be somewhat apprehensive that he would be supplanted in the Presidency at the expiration of the first four years of his administration, but I know full well that all their attempts will be abortive and nugatory. An angry torrent of tempestuous and malignant passions has been let loose—an odious and intolerant spirit of pointed faction and partisan warfare has been evinced by the opponents of Mr. Adams, (of the man and not of the measures;) and has been characterized by the coarsest epithets, and the most malevolent vituperative pasquinades, alike hostile to truth, reason and moderation, and attended only by the most futile, erroneous and extraneous arguments. To judge from the present rash conduct of the oppositionists, I should be led to conclude, that they hope to show the correctness of their opinions by the arbitrary and declamatory tone of their invectives; which is altogether impolitic, unseemly and ill-judged. "For in politics as in religion, it is equally absurd to aim at making proselytes by fire and sword. Heresies in either can rarely be cured by persecution." The wise, judicious and able manner, in which Mr. Adams has swayed the septre of Government, has awakened the fears and alarmed the apprehensions of some ambitious and aspiring demagogues whose resentments have been irritated and embittered by the chagrining and vexatious disappointment of individual promotion, and official elevation. This class of men well know to what, the present course of the Executive, will tend, they are aware that it will ensure the Administration the respect, admiration, and applause of every candid and unbiased mind, for with one or two slight exceptions I believe there cannot possibly be adduced any rational objection to its measures They, therefore, have recurred to the unwise and premature expedient of commencing, as it is denominated the canvass for the great political contest of the nation, in order to endeavour, through the medium of venal presses, to write down the present administration, by ignobly attacking the private character of the present chief Magistrate and bespattering it with the most foul and shameless aspersions—by calumniating every member of the cabinet and by propagating to the world a 'baseless tissue' of unfounded, acrimonious and libellous assertions. They hope to be able to turn the current of popular admiration and eulogy, which is flowing with a rapid but peaceful course down the placid rivulet of Mr. Adams's existence, to another more meandering and rugged but to them a more pleasant, channel. They patronise and wish to elevate Gen. Andrew Jackson 'per fas aut per ne fas' honestly if they can, corruptly if they must. Now I have always admired Gen. Jackson as a great Martial commander, who at New Orleans led on our brave countrymen to a most glorious victory, and thereby considerably advanced our national renown, in return for which, he has received many distinguished and honorary testimonies of his country's gratitude. But as a statesman or diplomatist, I must frankly acknowledge, I never thought him pre-eminent; much less as possessing that eminence of talent and of scientific acquirements which should ever characterize a President of this nation of freemen, to render him capable of discharging the various, complex and important duties incumbent upon that high and responsible station which is the very acme of all our national civil authorities. It were vain and idle for me to attempt to enumerate or notice every groundless & scurrillous fabrication that has been shamelessly cast upon the world by the 'things' who oppose the administration—Many of them carry along with them their own confutation, and many of them are too frivolous to deserve the serious consideration of any enlightened citizen—I will only specify a few examples from that heterogeneous mass of calumny, in order to prove their inconsistency and absurdity; and to expose to view the weakness and fallacy of argument, to which some cavilling factionists will resort, when all fair and honorable resources have been exhausted. I will begin with a very bold assertion of Gen. Jackson himself. He quite gravely assures us 'that the battle of New Orleans gave peace to the nation.' Now it is a well known fact that the treaty of peace had been concluded upon, between the American and British ambassadors at Ghent, and had been approved of by the prince regent of England, before this battle was fought. The General certainly did or ought to have known this fact.—Here is an inconsistency perfectly inexplicable to me. He must admit either that he is grossly ignorant of our historical annals, or that he has betrayed the most unbridled ambition and unhallowed desire of reaping unmerited renown. I will leave him to adjust this matter with the world I only wish his friends and advocates would intercede and that they may possess clearness of comprehension and acuteness of intellect enough to explain this evident incongruity, and remove him from between the authors of this unpleasant dilemma, into which he has thrown himself—Another most *powerful* argument that is adduced in favor of the General, by one of his southern friends, is, that 'he is a Southern man with Southern interests and Southern feelings' If his feelings be so intimately and inseperably blended with the interests of the South, he could not, if elected President, exercise rigid and impartial justice to the Northern, Middle and Western States without violating or sacrificing them—and it will be a most miserable piece of policy for the Northern, Middle and Western states to advocate a man who, if made President, "which may God in his infinite mercy avert," would not hesitate to sacrifice their dearest interests and most essential political rights in a favour of the Southern States. Gen. Jackson will find to his dearly-bought experience, that rash, inconsiderate, and garrulous friends are more injurious than acknowledged enemies—The turbulent and riotous cabal, raised in Washington last winter in Congress, and the cool, resolute firmness with which Mr. Adams discharged the functions of his office and steered through that boisterous whirlwind of savage and maniacal passion, has given Gen Jackson his quietus forever, and has elevated Mr. Adams high in the estimation of every sensible and virtuous man. What principles or goodly intentions can an opposition be supposed to possess whose open declaration is that 'if the present Administration were as pure as the angels at the right hand of God, it must be put down?" 'This vile, malignant and illiberal sentiment ought to stigmatize and blast its ruthless authors into eternal political non-existence, and no doubt, but that they will receive their merited infamy and just approbium It may be gathered from the general tenor of these remarks that they proceed from one who is friendly to the present Administration.—"The consciousness of good intentions disdains ambiguity." I openly and candidly acknowledge that I am in favor of the measures generally, adopted by the present Executive. I consider the appointment of a minister to the Court of St. James in the place of Mr. King, as the only exceptionable one; and should its future proceedings be sanctioned by the same sound policy which has marked its insipient foot steps, it shall ever continue to receive my approbation and support; but should it deviate from that course which I deem expedient to be pursued I shall then express my *disapprobation* of it with the same candour and coolness with which I have my *approval* —I may at some future period resume the consideration of this subject when I will endeavour to meet some objections that have been made by the opponents of the administration, to its measures—and I will also endeavour to confute some other assertions advanced by the friends of Gen. Jackson. If the Editor of the Gazette shall deem these desultory remarks worthy of insertion, he will please give them a place—I shall be his obliged friend,

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

Somerset co. Sep. 23, 1826.

From the Dublin Freeman's Journal.

A RECENT MIRACLE —Some few evenings back a mourning party were assembled in one of the upper rooms of a house in Bresford street, for the melancholy purpose of *keening* over the remains of a departed friend. Every thing was prepared for this sad solemnity with the greatest decorum. The gentlemen were supplied with pipes and potteen—the ladies had their tea and tears, as suited the occasion The corpse was decked with flowers, which would have shed their fragrance around, had not the stronger perfume of the "sovereign weed" come forth with every blast from some scores of mourners. A dozen lights save one, were placed around the sad remains of her who once was lovely, but now, alas! no more. The scene was solemn—the hour was silent, though not the company. It was a time when ghosts begin "to scent the morning air." The drowsy guardians of the night, responsive to the deep toned bell, were crying the hour of one. Mrs. O'Rafferty, the kind hearted hostess of the company, had just commenced in a strain of plaintive lamentation, to recouut the virtues of her departed friend, when dreadful to relate, the flooring of the apartment, which had not been constructed to bear so ponderous a load as eighty-five human beings, gave way with a tremendous crash, precipitating sires and sons, maids and matrons in one confused heap, into the room below. Here all was darkness and silence; every light had been extinguished by the fall, every tongue had been paralized by the sudden catastrophe Before this intrusion of the mourning company a widowed mother and her infant child were the only inmates of this lower tenement. The mother heard the crash, but heard no more; she clasped her infant in her arms as they lay together in the bed, and from that moment sense and sensation were lost. After a time the precipitated mourners began to recover from their first alarm, and one of them, who found himself uninjured by the fall, extricated himself from his companions, and groping his way out, procured a light, and with which he returned to the assistance of those who had suffered by the accident. But what a sight was now presented. On the floor was stretched, in one promiscuous heap, the entire company which had been assembled in the room above; some lying on their faces, some on their backs and sides, and in the midst of them stood, as erect as in the days of her youth, her who had been the object of their lamentations, her countenance still presenting the pallid hue of death.

"Twas listening fear and dumb amazement all," among the wondering throng; the living were no longer thought of—the dead alone became the object of attention, but who dare look upon a sight so awful? He who had the light was the first to recover the use of speech and motion, but it was only to plunge the rest into greater horrors; he uttered a faint cry, dashed the candle to the floor, and rushed from the apartment Again the company were left in utter darkness, while among them stood the resuscitated inhabitant of another world.

At this time 'the grey-eyed morn began to dawn,' and it happened that the gas light man was going round to extinguish his nocturnal luminaries The mourner who had emancipated himself from the scene of horror within, related to him as well as his faultering accent would permit, his tale of wonder and alarm, and requested he would not extinguish the lamp until a sufficient number of lights could be procured not only to fright away the ghost, if such it was, but to see the extent of mischief and injury done to the living—The hour had come, however, (two o'clock,) when the lamps were to be put out, and out they must go; remonstrance was in vain; broken limbs or fractured skulls could make no difference; the Gas Company had nothing to do with such matters; there was no allowance for contingencies in their contract, and out went the lamps accordingly. A gentleman residing in the neighborhood, being aroused by the noise, went out to inquire the cause of it, and having learned a few particulars, he insisted in a peremptory manner on the fellow relighting the lamp, until the dead and dying could be removed from the ruins. With some difficulty his request was at last complied with, and lights and assistance being procured, several persons proceeded to the scene of the disaster. Here all was found as it had been left; not a being had ventured to move or articulate a sound, and even the deceased had maintained her upright position, without advancing or receding a single foot.

The presence of light, and the encouragement of those who had last entered, at length induced the fallen throng to begin to look around them, and to inquire the injuries received by their companions. One after another, however started upon their legs, though still doubtful whether they had a whole leg to stand upon. But what was their joy & their surprise to find that neither bruise nor fracture had occurred. But still she who had been dead stood among them: and as they were assembled to wake her to the grave and not unto life, they all made the best use of their limbs to which they were restored, by quickly escaping from her awful presence.

The room being thus cleared of its former visitors, the party who had last entered began to bestir themselves, for they knew that the mother and the child, upon whose premises this unprecedented trespass had been committed, still remained buried beneath the flooring. With some difficulty they cleared away the rubbish, when they discovered the poor woman and her child, safe and sound, the latter sleeping composedly, and the former as tranquil as if nothing had happened. The deceased too had by this time resumed her recumbent posture, and no longer presented that awful appearance which had struck such terror into her living friends. These, however, were not inclined to resume their mourning duties, they could not so soon recover from the alarm, neither was it easy to convince their minds that a miracle had not been wrought.

Lest our readers might suppose that we too are dealing in the miraculous, we shall give a simple solution of what at first appears so passing strange. When the floor gave way, as we have stated, from the weight that pressed upon it, the joists broke in the centre; but remaining fixed at the ends, the flooring formed two inclined planes, down which the company slid gently and thus escaped injury. The body of the deceased slid down in like manner, and, coming on its feet, so remained, to the astonishment of the beholders. The escape of the woman and her child may appear the most extraordinary part of this occurrence—but it is as easily accounted for as the rest. Her bed happened to be placed against the wall, and consequently under that part of the floor which continued to be supported by the ends of the joists: in this manner she was as perfectly secure as if no accident had occurred. We shall only say in conclusion, that 'all's well that ends well,' as in this instance.

A writer in a Western paper has discovered in the venerated name of THOMAS JEFFERSON, the anagram "*Host of man is free.*' He congratulates himself on the application of this anagram to Mr. J's great work: for he says, the Declaration of Independence sets out with the great truth contained in the above sentence, viz:" All men are created equal." It is rather a singular coincidence, as the writer says. It must have cost him some time we think, to work out the riddle.

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