were smarting under disappointment, that this result was owing to a corrupt understanding between them. When Mr. Adams, in forming his cabinet, nominated Mr. Clay as Secretary of State, and the Senate 'advised and consented to it,' then the story was rounded off, and it was agreed by Opposition that the appointment of Secretary of State should be considered as the 'wages of sin'—thus imputing to a majority of the Senate of the United States, who were present throughout the whole transaction and who were intimately conversant with all the circumstances, a deliberate participation in the corruption by 'advising & consenting' to the nomination—& a large portion of that majority too are now of the present Opposition

If the speech of Mr. Clay in 1819 arraigning Gen. Jackson's conduct is referred to, it is believed that no unprejudiced man would ever suppose after that, that he could have been induced to vote for General Jackson as the Chief Magistrate of the country. Nor is there any fair grounds to believe that he supported Mr. Adams from personal motives of any sort, but from a conviction, such as influences ourselves, that he was obviously and decidedly the best qualified man, and as such, he was compelled by duty to vote for him.

As little do we believe that Mr. Adams nominated Mr. Clay to the Senate as Secretary of State from personal attachment or obligation; but knowing that no man in this country had passed through a more brilliant public course for the last twenty years than Mr. Clay, in which he had acquired great popularity and evinced a Statesmanlike ability that classed him in the foremost rank of American Statesmen, it is fair to conclude, that Mr. Adams was governed by the established reputation of Mr. Clay and the public sentiment towards him, and that he very properly desired both his services and his fame to give their usefulness and lustre to his Administration. It was not necessary for Mr. Clay to have a bargain or understanding with any of them—he was conscious, and the world knew full well, that whichsoever candidate he supported, if he succeeded, would call him to the station of Secretary of State as a tribute to his merit, and as a powerful aid to the Administration.

Had Mr. Clay been an ordinary or subaltern man who could have been managed, and who had been thus elevated to a station for which he was unfit, then indeed there might have been some plausibility in the story of a 'bargain'—But if his conceded distinction as a statesman justifiably commanded the appointment, we ought to distrust both the reasoning and the conjecture that implied the belief of stipulated reward. We disdain all such suppositious imputations to accomplish ends—and with this plain narrative of facts we meet the conjectural and gratuitous positions of the Opposition.

Next, Mr. Adams' appointments to office are harshly censured to bring him into disrepute. On this point, so delicate in its nature, many reason either with a morbid or with a wounded sensibility, whilst comparatively few agree in any particular. In selecting a citizen for any public station, many hopes will be frustrated, and the disappointed parties and their friends will be apt to indulge in repudiating the choice, and enlisting the feelings of others in their behalf. In an extended empire, like our own where numerous appointments are to be made in different parts of it, a Chief Magistrate must necessarily often rely much upon the judgment and information of others, and it is equally certain, that no man can give universal satisfaction in appointments. We do not pretend to say that we would have recommended, or that we approve of all the appointments of the President—but we very much doubt, whether any of the gentlemen who have been held up as candidates would have made more that we should have approved—and as we only desire that the character of the country should be sustained and its welfare promoted by a due and proper discharge of all official duties, although we cannot divest ourselves of our preference for friends, it is our duty to be contented with those who acquit themselves in office faithfully and well. When President Adams came into power, he distinctly made it known, that he would confine himself to no party in his selections for appointments—and he was then generally commended for it—To this he has conformed—On which party he has conferred most or greatest appointments, we consider unimportant. If the appointing power will keep integrity of character and ample knowledge and ability to discharge the duties of office, with approved fidelity to the country steadily in view, we unhesitatingly accord to it a fair indulgence of feeling, guided by such safeguards and wholesome restraints.

It is formidably charged too upon President Adams by the Jackson Convention, that in taking a portion of his appointments from the parties that did not support his election, he has been guilty of an attempt to corrupt them. At the same time the Secretary of State is assailed for taking the printing of the laws from his foes and giving it to his friends. Without stopping to remark upon the unkind and unmerited imputation which is here cast upon those who have been appointed to office, or to reconcile this blowing hot and cold with the same mouth—we will merely observe, that it is impossible for any man to make any appointment that the ingenuity of opposing partizans may not impute to bad motives, or find some pretences to condemn. If the President confines appointments to his own friends, the cry of proscription is loudly resounded If he appoints from those who have opposed him he is charged with corruption. So, it a Secretary of State, in fulfilment of the law which empowers him to select the printers of the laws, permits that patronage to remain with those who revile him and desire to destroy his reputation, he is laughed at as timid or imbecile, or he is said to wish to win over his adversaries by rewards. But if he boldly resumes that patronage from those who basely malign him, and confides it to those who treat him more friendly and fairly, we see that he is accused of partiality, of cruel injustice, and of a wish to 'punish independence.' Seeing then that the appointment of neither friend nor opponent can escape condemnation, to what are we to attribute such censures? Or from whom can an appointment be made? We abjure all such indiscriminate, such captious objections—all such predetermined, implacable hostility—and we thank that man in the name of our country, whoever he may be, that has the magnanimity and firmness, in making his selections for office, to appoint those who are distinguished for their virtues, their capacity, and their fidelity to the country, regardless of political names or party distinctions.

But how injudicious is it in the Opposition thus to commit themselves? How inconsistent is it thus to attempt to censure President Adams for disregarding party distinctions in making some of his appointments from those who opposed him; when it is known, that next to the victory at N. Orleans, the strongest motive avowed by many of them for supporting Gen. Jackson, is his letter to President Monroe, where, among other things, he advises him to pursue the very same course, of making his appointments indiscriminately from all parties among men of approved fidelity to the country Thus it is we see, how a heated zeal takes the lead from discretion and betrays into inconsistency those, who have united with an Opposition that has proclaimed from the beginning, even before the adoption of a single measure, 'that the Administration should be put down, if its measures were as pure as those of Angels'

That there may be among the Opposition those, confiding less in the merit of their qualifications than in their violence and animated exertions in behalf of party to recommend them to office, who do not like either the liberal *advice* of General Jackson or the liberal *practice* of Mr. Adams; we pretend neither to assert nor to deny—but if this conduct in Mr. Adams can be imputed to him as a fault, presuming that General Jackson gave his advice in good faith, what right have the Opposition to expect from him a different or better course?

Another objection urged against President Adams is, that he has neither recommended nor used his influence with Congress to alter the Constitution so as to prevent the election of President from coming before the House of Representatives.

How far it becomes a President of the United States, at all times, to recommend alterations in the Constitution of the Federal Government, is a grave and great question that we have neither time nor space here to look into. We would barely remark, that in a confederated government, the alteration of the constitution is a very serious matter at any time, and one very dangerous to be meddled with in times of high political excitement—and the question here alluded to, as it touches the balance of power among the states, and is one of the very few instances where the states act upon a perfect equality, and relates to the election of an incumbent for that office which the President now holds, and to which he is constitutionally re-eligible, it appears to us that such a proposition had as well come from any other quarter as from the President himself, and as this was a question by no means new or unknown, it appertained as much to the duties of a member of Congress to introduce it, as to those of the President to recommend it,—But the proposition was brought before Congress and failed—and as many of the friends of President Adams, with others, did not agree to the provisions that were to accompany this change, he is censured for not attempting to control these members of Congress in an independent legislative act; and he is accused of dereliction of duty and of being false to his pledge, in not intermeddling with the proceedings of the House and enforcing the measure whilst it was before them. Here again we see another entrapping dilemma studiously prepared for the President. If he had presented this matter to Congress in a message which he never gave the slightest promise or pledge to do, he would have been exposed to the imputation by those of his adversaries opposed to the measure, of using official influence to regulate the election of President to suit his own views. As he did not present the matter to Congress, he is accused of deserting his duty, and of violating a promise, set up for him by the wildest construction of his opponents, which he never made.

Again, because he did not intermeddle with the matter when it was before the Representatives, which he certainly had no right to do, and influence his friends to support the measure and its provisions, whether he or they thought them proper or not, he is condemned to bear all the blame of its miscarriage.—On the other hand, if the President had intermeddled with a proposition pending before the House, he would deservedly have rendered himself obnoxious to the hue and cry of using official influence over the councils of an independent branch of the legislature. With such opponents, if he acts he does wrong—if he forbears to act, he abandons duty—if he controls the votes of his friends, supposing that he could possibly do so, he is guilty with some, of an unconstitutional interference with other branches of the government—if he does not attempt to control them, he is saddled, by others, with the blame of the miscarriage of the measure.

The true ground of difficulty in relation to changing this part of the constitution, is how to dispose of & regulate the election of President, when it fails to be consummated by the electoral colleges—and upon this ground it is destined to fail perpetually.—The views and the suggestions are so various, and the feelings of state sovereignty are so strong, that there is little hope of a coincidence of opinion in any change—& this is the cause why the proposition failed when it was before Congress, and not from any want of interference or aid on the part of the President.

There can be no doubt that there are many men in this country, who would desire this change in the constitution, if they could substitute a satisfactory provision—but it is equally well known, that a particular set of politicians have fixed their hearts and staked their hopes upon this question and its management, as the great and efficient means to regulate the Presidential question for some time to come. To them "*This is the road to Bizantium*," on which they are moving in gallant array.

Tedious as these details are, which have swelled this address to an extent much beyond our wishes, we are compelled to meet objections that are gravely and industriously put forth, however unsound in their view or unfounded in fact—and we must take notice of a last objection, relating to the Colonial Trade, which charges the administration with the loss of this trade—first, from neglect to give instructions to our minister—and secondly, by omitting to recommend the repeal of the discriminating duties—and lastly, they are blamed for abandoning terms that were asked by a former administration—which terms, it was ascertained, could never be granted.

We will meet these objections by a plain statement of the facts belonging to the case—and although none would more sincerely deplore the loss of the direct trade with the British West Indies, and none would be more prompt to resent its loss, where it could be ascribed to bad conduct, than ourselves, yet we are far from implicating the conduct of others by indefensible suspicions or attacks to answer political ends

It is presumed that the Administration is not held responsible for any measure that took place before it came into power—it will be unnecessary therefore to look back beyond the termination of the negotiation in the hands of Mr. Rush, in the year 1824—This unadjusted negotiation left us at that time in possession of a very advantageous trade with the British West Indies, and at the time it was suspended it was with an understanding that the negotiation should be again renewed at a future time. In the appointment of a successor to Mr. Rush, the strongest evidence was given that could be given, in the selection of Mr King, of a desire to pursue this negotiation effectually and with advantage to the country. The established diplomatic character and eminent qualifications of that gentleman, together with his known acceptable and high standing at the British Court were the best pledges of this—but the history of the world is full of examples how unforseen occurrences have frustrated the plans of human wisdom—Mr. King, unfortunately and unexpectedly, was taken ill on his voyage to England, and, after his arrival there continued to be an afflicted and dibilitated invalid—in so much so, that he was incompetent to any thing like labor and could only attend to some minor subjects that remained unadjusted, that were less difficult of arrangement. But it is said he received no instruction to enable him to renew the questions on the Colonial Trade, if his health had improved—The reason he did not receive these instructions is obvious, viz: because no intimation had been given on the part of the British Government of a disposition to renew the negotiation. After the suspension of the negotiation in the hands of Mr. Rush there was but little reason to believe, from the correspondence, that we could speedily obtain the terms proposed by our Government; and therefore, as we were in the enjoyment of a good trade, there was no inducement on our part to press the subject. Our greatest interest was, in having the trade permanently secured by treaty, rather than to leave it to the mutable and unsteady arrangements of legislative acts on both sides—Forbearance therefore on our part, so far from being a fault, was rather advised by policy. Some time afterwards when the British Government appointed two ministers to renew the negotiation, and sent information of it to our Government, through Mr. Vaughan, the British Minister at Washington, in March, 1826, with an invitation to unite another Minister with Mr. King, on account of his ill health, the selection of another Minister engaged the immediate attention of Mr. Adams, and whilst he was consulting with a gentleman who should go out for that purpose a letter was received from Mr. King begging to be recalled, and stating, that he had no longer a hope of recovering his health—the truth of which has been lamentably confirmed by the death of that distinguished man, who was soon after "gathered" to his associates the departed Fathers of the Federal Constitution. The Administration could but yield to the petition of Mr. King, and a minister (Mr. Gallatin) was immediately appointed with ample powers of conciliation and hurried on to London with all convenient despatch. Where, upon his arrival in August, instead of meeting with the British Commissioners to enter upon the negotiation, as he had been invited, he was met by the British Order in Council of July preceding, interdicting, her West India ports to our vessels. Mr Gallatin used every exertion to revive the negotiation, but the British Government up to the last accounts, have proved inflexible

It is further stated by Opposition, that President Adams neither recommended the repeal of the discriminating duties, nor did he countenance the proposition brought before Congress for that purpose. He did not recommend any measure to Congress in the session of 1825, 26, in relation to the colonial trade, as the negociation was then suspended—nor at that of 1826, 27, because the British interdict had been previously issued—but he submitted the whole matter with the correspondence to Congress for their consideration—That neither the President nor the Secretary of State discountenanced the proposition to repeal the discriminating duties, is satisfactorily proved by the testimony of two distinguished members of Congres, viz General Smith a Senator from Maryland, and Mr. Cambreleng, a Representative from N York—The former of whom, in a speech in the Senate, exhonerated President Adams from having entertained any Opposition to that measure; and the latter, in a speech in the House of Representatives was equally explicit in a similar defence of Secretary Clay—With such evidence against them we presume even Opposition must cower and retire.

That the Administration have abandoned in their instructions to Mr. Gallatin, the terms which were insisted on under the Administration of Mr. Monroe, which were the terms upon which the negotiation was broken off in 1824, may be true, and certainly this Administration has acted wisely in so doing; but is there any thing derogatory, in an Administration yielding up terms which had been unsuccessfully urged by a preceding one, and which it found unattainable? Or is it either unusual or disreputable in governments, finding that they cannot obtain all they want in their commercial negociations, to abandon a part of their pretentions in order to secure others? We omit to touch upon the views displayed by the British Cabinet in this matter which would further illustrate our opinions, but as they do not particularly relate to the view of the question we are now taking, we decline it.

We conclude this part of the subject with the declaration that the refusal of the British government to pursue the negociation, after their invitation to our own for that purpose, was as unexpected by the world as it was by President Adams—nor could it have been calculated on or conjectured by any one who was not admitted into the secret plans of the British Ministry.

Having thus gone through the objections made against, President Adams, in which we have tested conjecture by facts, and controverted arbitrary inferences by those rules of construction which obtained in cases of most important concern before the highest tribunals of our country, we cheerfully submit the decision to the unprejudiced opinion of our fellow citizens.

If we believed that the measures of the present Administration were improper, or if a rational hope could be held out to us that a different course of measures more propitious to the interest of the Republic, would be pursued by another more capable of Administering the Government than the present incumbent, our duty to our country would oblige us unhesitatingly to support that man.

We desire not to cloud this great question with any thing that can lead us from the simplicity of truth, or furnish a doubt of the sincerity with which we speak. We know of no act of General Jackson's life, of nothing that has proceeded from him, that can justify us in the belief that he is qualified to fill the station of Chief Magistrate of this country; and if we can trust his bosom friend and biographer (Eaton) who is among the most ardent of his supporters, the General's sense of duty has hitherto obliged him to resign the several subordinate civil stations to which he has been appointed, because he felt himself incapable to discharge their duties properly, and not as the Jackson manifesto would adriotly impress the belief, that it was to 'take higher ones.'—Thus, in the absence of all other qualifications, the military popularity of the Chieftain is to be the club of Hercules in the hands of an aspiring Opposition with which they are to fell the present Administration—and the dynasty of the nation is cast, that after the reward of a single term in the Presidential Chair, his sun is to set in the west and a new orb is to arise, whose shorn radiance is in the mean time to be reloined.

But with a Chief Magistrate thus pronounced incompetent by his intimate friend, at a guileless moment when there was no expectation that the General would ever be thought of as a candidate for the Presidential Chair, what are we to expect, but that his course will be directed by a privy council of friends?—& look to those friends, talented as they are, and see what a heterogenious mixture of political policy they present, so far as their views are made known—how destitute of the essential principle of cohesion—how versatile some have appeared in the progress of events. Can the people of this country act so unreflectingly as to reject a competent, and tried, and approved Administration for the purpose of running the risk of such a state of things as the contemplated change would be likely to entail on them? Satisfied with the present course of measures, they ought to be cautious how they permit this change—for to use the thought of one of our earliest and soundest statesmen, "To undo what has been done by a predecessor is considered by a rival successor as the best proof of his own capacity and desert; and where the change of men has been the result of public choice, the person substituted will consider himself warranted in supposing that the dismission of his predecessor has proceeded from a dislike to his measures, and the more he varies from his course, the more he will be likely to recommend himself to the favor of his constituents. These considerations in the case of rival candidates, where an administration has been supplanted by a competitor would be apt to induce the new President to promote changes which would not only subvert the existing policy, but occasion a disgraceful and ruinous instability in the administration of government. *When then the people have reason to approve of the conduct and measures of a Chief Magistrate, they act wisely to continue him in station* in order to prolong the utility of his talents and virtues, and to secure to the government the advantages of permanency in a wise system of administration."

Fellow Citizens of Maryland. Our task is fulfilled—With this appeal to you, we offer our humble and reverential supplication to the Author of all Good, that He will be pleased to direct with wisdom the Councils of our Country, and lead our Fellow-Countrymen in all their acts to the best and happiest results.

In accordance with these views we submit the following Resolutions

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Convention, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS was elected President of the United States pursuant both to the form and the spirit of the Constitution, and therefore, in the execution of his high and responsible duties is entitled to the support and co-operation of the good People of Maryland.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the charges of intrigue and corruption alleged against JOHN QUINCY ADAMS and HENRY CLAY in relation to the last Presidential election, are totally without foundation in truth.

Resolved, That the principles and policy of the existing Administration, are those which distinguished the Administration of Mr. Monroe, and which then gave universal satisfaction to the people of the Union.

Resolved, That we highly appreciate the military services of General Andrew Jackson, but have no faith in his experience, ability or moderation as a statesman. That we deprecate his election to the first civil office in the gift of the people, merely as the result of his military achievements, as an example fraught with danger to the liberties of the American people. Further, that by the elevation of General Jackson to the Presidency, we fear an abandonment of the policy of Internal Improvement; and as far as executive influence can effect it a prevalence of the "State right" doctrine in the construction of the Constitution.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to the people of Maryland, a cordial and active support of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS as the next President of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Jenifer, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That Messrs. C. S. Walsh, W. Meeteer, John Edelin, Isaac Monroe, George Hebb, James Harwood and Truman F. Cross, of the city of Baltimore, be appointed a Central Committee of Correspondence for the purpose of communicating with the Committees of Correspondence of the several Counties, and the friends of the Administration throughout the State, and that it be recommended to those Counties by whom it has not already been done to appoint Committees of Correspondence.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Baltimore Committee for the appropriate arrangements in preparing a Room for the accommodation of the Convention.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the President, Vice Presidents and Secretaries, for the dignified and able manner in which they have discharged the duties of the respective stations.

RESOLVED, That the proceedings of this Convention be signed by the President, Vice Presidents and Secretaries, and published in the Baltimore Patriot, and all other papers in Maryland, and in the District of Columbia friendly to the Administration, and that 5000 copies of the same be printed.

THOMAS EMORY, *President*,
WILLIAM D. BEALL, } *Vice Presidents*.
JAMES SEWALL, }
JOHN M'PHERSON, }
JAMES M. ANDERSON, } *Secretaries*.
JOHN EDELEN, }

NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

Travellers in the low country have related to us the following facts:

A spot of earth, about an acre in extent, near the Court House in Lowndes county, suddenly gave way not long since, and sunk to the depth of a hundred feet! The place is now covered with water, the trees standing as they grew—the tallest pines being 20 or 30 feet below the level of the surrounding country. Small ponds like this are frequently met with in the lower parts of the State, and are there called *Lime Sinks*—produced probably by the action of the subterraneous streams.

In Thomas county, the waters of two creeks at their junction, formerly made a lake of considerable size, and then ran off in a large rivulet. But, about a year and a half ago, the water of the lake found a subterranean outlet—the bed of the rivulet, as well as of the whole lake, has become entirely dry and covered with luxuriant grass, &c. The lake disappeared so suddenly, that tons of fishes, terrapins, and alligators, totally unapprized of its intentions, were left behind.

Travellers speak of the large Ponds or Lakes in Florida, as objects of curiosity. In Armonia Pond are several large islands, said to be *floating!* A circumstance is mentioned of an individual having purchased a small island in this pond, which, when he went the second time to see, could not be found! He afterwards heard of it in another part of the lake, several miles from where he left it.

Jackson Pond, in Florida, is said to be increasing in extent—the earth on the margin having settled; or, from its outlet becoming obstructed, the quantity of water having accumulated. Fields and orchards cultivated but lately by the Indians, are now entirely under water—the tops of the peach trees being nearly covered.

We have given the above particulars as

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