THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE.

[Copy.] *Washington City*, Jan. 26, 1837.

SIR:—I received on the evening of the 24th inst. your letter, covering a copy of certain resolutions purporting to have been adopted by a committee of the House of Representatives, of which you are chairman, and request that you will lay before that committee, this, my reply which I hasten to make.

It appears, by the published proceeding of the House of Representatives, that the committee, of which you are chairman, was appointed on your motion. The resolution offered by you, and finally adopted by the House, raised a direct issue with that part of my annual message in which I held the following language—"Before concluding this paper, I think it due to the various Executive Departments, to bear testimony of their prosperous condition, and to the ability and integrity with which they have been conducted. It has been my aim to enforce in all of them a vigilant and faithful discharge of the public business, and it is gratifying to me to believe that there is no just cause of complaint, from any quarter, at the manner in which they have fulfilled the object of their creation." Your resolution is in the following words:

"Resolved, That so much of the President's message as relates to the condition of the various Executive Departments, the ability and integrity with which they have been conducted, the vigilant and faithful discharge of the public business in all of them, and the causes of complaint from any quarter, at the manner in which they have fulfilled the objects of their creation, be referred to a select committee, to consist of nine members, with power to send for persons and papers, and with instructions to enquire into the condition of the various Executive Departments, the ability and integrity with which they have been conducted, into the manner in which the public business has been discharged in all of them, and into all causes of complaint, from any quarter, at the manner in which said departments, or their bureaus or offices, or any of their officers or agents of every description whatever, directly or indirectly connected with them in any manner, officially or inofficially, in duties pertaining to the public interest, have fulfilled or failed to accomplish the objects of their creation, or have violated their duties, or have injured and impaired the public service and interest, and that said committee in its inquiries, may refer to such periods of time as to them may seem expedient and proper."

It also appears, from the published proceedings of the House, that this resolution was accompanied and supported by a speech of considerable length, in which you preferred many severe but vague charges of corruption and abuse in the Executive Department. The resolutions adopted by the committee, as well as that adopted by the House itself, must be taken in connection with your introductory speech, which gives a character to the whole proceeding. When thus regarded, it is obvious that, by the resolution of the House, an issue is made with the President of the United States; as he had alleged, in his annual message, that the heads of the Executive Departments had performed their official duties with ability and integrity. In your speech you denied this, you charged them with manifold corruptions, and abuses of trust, as you had done in former speeches, to which you referred, and you demanded an investigation through the medium of a committee. Certain other members of Congress, as appears by the published debates, united with you in these accusations; and for the purpose of ascertaining their truth of falsehood, the committee you demanded was ordered to be raised, and you were placed at its head. The first proceeding of the investigating committee is to pass a series of resolutions; which, though amended in their passage, were, as understood, introduced by you, calling on the President and the heads of the departments—not to answer to any specific charge; not to explain any alleged abuse; not to give information as to any particular transaction; but assuming that they have been guilty of the charges alleged, calls upon them to furnish evidence against themselves!

After the reiterated charges you have made, it was to have been expected that you would have been prepared to reduce them to specifications, and that the committee would then proceed to investigate the matters alleged. But instead of this, you resort to generalities even more vague than your original accusations, and in open violation of the Constitution, and of that well established and wise maxim, "that all men are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty, according to the established rules of law." you request myself and the heads of the departments to become our own accusers, and to furnish the evidence to convict ourselves; and this call purports to be founded on the authority of that body in which alone by the Constitution, the power of impeaching us is vested! The heads of departments may answer such a request as they please, provided they do not withdraw their own time, and that of the officers under their direction, from the public business, to the injury thereof. To that business, I shall direct them to devote themselves, in preference to any illegal and unconstitutional calls for information, no matter from what source it may come, or however anxious they may be to meet it. For myself, I shall repell all such attempts as an invasion of the principles of justice, as well as of the Constitution; and I shall esteem it my sacred duty to the people of the U. States, to resist them as I would the establishment of a Spanish inquisition.

If, after all the severe accusations contained in the various speeches of yourself and your associates, you are unwilling of your own accord to bring specific charges, then I request your committee to call yourself and your associates, and every other member of Congress who has made the general charge of corruption, to testify before God and our country, whether you or they know of any specific corruption or abuse of trust in the Executive Departments; and if so what it is. If you are able to point to any case where there is the slightest reason to suspect corruption or abuse of trust, no obstacle which I can remove shall be interposed to prevent the fullest scrutiny by all legal means. The offices of all the departments will be opened to you, and every facility furnished for this purpose.

I hope, sir, we shall at last have your charges, and that you will proceed to investigate them, not like an inquisitor, but in the accustomed mode. If you either will not make specific accusations, or if, when made, you attempt to establish them by making freemen their own accusers, you will not expect me to countenance your proceeding. In the short period which remains of my official duty, I shall endeavor, as I have heretofore endeavored, to fulfil the obligations of that oath of office, by which I engaged "to the best of my ability, to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States;" and for this, and other reasons of the most solemn character, I shall on the one hand, cause every possible facility, consistent with law and justice, to be given to the investigation of specific tangible charges, and, on the other, shall repudiate all attempts to invade the just rights of the Executive Departments, and of the individuals composing the same. If, after all your clamor, you will make no specific charges, or bring no proof of such as shall be made, you and your associates must be regarded by the good people of the United States as the authors of unfounded calumnies; and the public servants whom you have assailed, will in the estimation of all honorable men, stand fully acquitted.

In the mean time I cannot but express my astonishment that members of Congress should call for information as to the names of persons to whom contingent moneys are paid, and the objects of those payments, when there are six standing committees under the seventy-seventh rule of the House of Representatives, whose special duties are to examine annually into the details of those expenditures in each of the Executive Departments. The like remark is applicable to some other branches of the information sought by you, ample details in respect to which are to be found in the reports laid before Congress, and now on your files, and to which I recommend you to have recourse.

I am, respectfully, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON.

To the Hon. HENRY A. WISE,

Chairman of the Investigating Committee of the abuses and corrupuons charged agaist the Executive Departments.

I certify that this is a true copy from the original sent.

Test: A. JACKSON, jun.
Private Secretary &c.

Washington, Feb. 7, 1837.

Sir:—In the Globe of 6th inst. I find the report of a speech made by you on the 4th upon the Land bill, which contains the following passage, viz:

"Was it not notorious that the President of the United States himself has been connected with the purchase of the public lands? Yes, the experiment (*Mr.* Calhoun delighted in the word) was the cause of speculation in public lands, and if this bill should not be passed, speculations could not go on, and the price of the public lands must consequently be reduced. He contended that every man could not but see that it would be utter ruin to those who had borrowed money to speculate in lands if the system was not to go on.' In a former part of your speech, as reported, you say: "The speculation which a particular state of things had given rise to, had been produced by those in power. *They* had profited by that state of things; and should this bill be passed, it would only consumate their wishes," &c. &c.

Knowing the liabilities of reporters to err in taking down and writing out the speeches of members of Congress, I have made enquiry in relation to to the accuracy of this report, and have been furnished with certificates of gentlemen who heard you, affirming that it is substantially correct.

You cannot but be aware, sir, that the imputations which your language conveys are calculated, if believed, to destroy my character as a man, and that the charge is one which if true, ought to produce my impeachment and punishment as a public officer. If I caused the removal of the deposites for the base purpose of enriching myself or my friends by any of the results which might grow out of that measure, there is no term of reproach which I do not deserve, and no punishment known to the laws which ought not to be inflicted upon me. On the contrary, if the whole imputation, both as to motive and fact, be a fabrication and calumnly, the punishment which belongs to me, if guilty, is too mild for him who wilfully makes it.

I am aware sir, of the constitutional privilege under which this imputation is cast forth and the immunity which it secures. That privelege it is in no degree my purpose to violate, however gross and wicked may have been the abuse of it. But I exercise only the common right of every citizen, when I inform you that the imputations you have cast upon me are false in every particular, not having for the last ten years purchased any public land, or had any interest in such purchase. The whole charge, unless explained, must be considered the offspring of a morbid imagination, or of sleeplees malice.

I ask you as an act of justice, honor & truth, to retract this charge on the floor of the Senate, in as public a manner as it has been uttered—it being the most appropriate mode by which you can repair the injury which might otherwise flow from it.

But in the event that you fail to do so, I then demand that you place your charge before the House of Representatives, that they may institute the necessary proceedings to ascertain the truth or falsehood of your imputation, with a view to such furfher measures as justice may require.

If you will neither do justice yourself, nor place the matter in a position where justice may be done me by the representatives of the people, I shall be compelled to resort to the only remedy left me, and before I leave the city, give publicity to this letter, by which you will stand stigmatized as one who, protected by his constitutional privilege, is ready to stab the reputation of others, without the magnanimity to do them justice, or the honor to place them in a situation to receive it from others. Yours, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON.

To the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, United States Senate.

P.S. I herewith enclose you the copies of two notes verifying the correctness of the report of you speech in the Globe of the 6th Feb. 7, 1837. A.J.

(NO. 1.)

Washington City, Feb. 6, 1837.

At the request of the President of the U. States, I hereby certify that I was present in the gallery of the Senate of the United States on Saturday, the 4th inst. during a discussion on the land bill, and heard some of the remarks of Mr. CALHOUN upon that subject, in which the President was charged with being a speculator in public lands.

On coming out of the Capitol the subject was mentioned to me by a friend of the President's. And my recollection of the words use accorded with what he understood had been said, and which is substantially the same as reported in the Globe of the 6th instant.

(Signed) ARTHUR CAMPBELL.

(No. 2.)

WASHINGTON, February 7, 1837.

SIR: In answer to your enquiry of me whether Mr. CALHOUN, in his remarks on the land bill, on Saturday last, used the words attributed to him by me in the report, which appeared in the "Globe" of yesterday, viz: "Was it not notorious that the President of the United States himself had been connected with the purchase of public lands?" I would state that I have referred to my short hand notes, and find that such was the language he used according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Your's very respectfully,

(Signed) W. E. DRAKE.

I certify that No. 1 and No. 2 are true copies of the originals.

Test: A. JACKSON, Jr.

COL. JOHNSON'S REPLY,

To the Committee appointed to wait on him and inform him that he had been elected by the Senate to the office of Vice President of the United States.

To the Senate of the United States.

GENTLEMEN: I have received, with no ordinary emotions, the notice through your committee of my election to the office of Vice President of the United States by the Senate. I accept the station assigned me. This token of regard from the representatives of the States, will ever be held in grateful recollection. Permit me to tender you my sincere thanks.

Observing that your decision is in harmony with a majority of the States, and a majority of all the electors in the primary colleges, my gratification is heightened, from the conviction that the Senate, in the exercise of their constitutional prerogative, concurred with, and confirmed the wishes both of the States and the people. Called, in virtue of this preferment, to preside in the deliberations of your enlightened body, from and after the third of March next, permit me to make use of this opportunity to say, that I cannot feel insensible to difficulties which I must anticipate, and the frequent occasion I may have for your forbearance. Though for 30 years a member of one or the other of the two Houses of Congress, yet I have never been accustomed to preside, even temporarily, over either, or in any deliberative assembly. *My* attention has generally been engrossed by the more immediate acts of legislation, without special regard to the minutes of rules and orders, so necessary to the progress of business, and so important to the observance of the presiding officer.

Contemplating the character of my distinguished predecessors, and considering my deficiency in point of talent, and the want of experience for the appropriate duties of the station, it is impossible for me to overcome entirely the diffidence with which I meet this call of my fellow citizens. But this reflection will always console me, that any errors on my part will effect me personally rather than the public, the intelligence of the Senate will guard the country from any injury that might result from the imperfections of its presiding officer, and its magnanimity will cover those imperfections with the veil of charity. In this conclusion, I find a warrant in contemplating among the members of your body so many friends with whom I have been associated in public life. It only in the event of an equal division of the Senate that the presiding officer is called upon to give his vote. My hope is, that there may be always sufficent unanimity to prevent such a contingency. If, however, it should happen, this duty will be familiar to me, and I shall perform it without embarrassment. In exercising this power, I shall expect the same indulgence that I have ever extended to others, where differences of opinion existed.

To the Senate the most important trusts are committed. Its duties are legislative, executive, and in certain contingencies, judicial. As Citizens, every branch of our Government is dear to us; but from my more immediate relation to this, by your choice, I shall regard it with special interest. It stands preeminent in talent and character. In presiding over its deliberations, it shall be my effort to act with perfect respect and impartiality towards every member, and endeavor, by this course of conduct, to merit the approbation of all.

R. M. JOHNSON.

City of Washington, Feb. 10, 1837.

Maryland Legislature.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Feb. 16, 1837.

Mr Keene reported a bill, entitled, an act to alter and change part of the divisional line between the fourth and fifth election districts in Dorchester county.

Which was read the first and by special order the second time, and passed.

The bill reported by Mr. Hicks, entitled an act supplemental to an act for amending and reducing into system the laws and regulation concerning last wills and testaments, the duties of executors, administrators, and guardians, and the rights of orphans and other representatives of deceased persons, and the amendments reported thereto from the committee on grievances and courts of justice, were taken up for consideration,

On motion of Mr. Keene,

Said bill was ordered to lie on the table.

Friday, Feb. 17.

On motion of Mr. Keene, (seconded by other members that voted in the majority,) the house reconsidered their vote upon the bill reported by him, and passed by the house on yesterday, entitled, an act to alter and change part of the divisional line between the fourth and fifth election districts in Dorchester county.

On motion of Mr. Keene,

Said bill was then amended, by striking out in the 8th line thereof the word "seventh," and inserting "sixth."

The said bill was then read the second time as amended, passed, and sent to the Senate.

Feb. 20.

Mr. Richardson submitted the following order,

Ordered, that the committee on education be instructed to enquire into the propriety of of reporting a bill, appropriating a portion of the school fund of the several counties, for the education of the deaf and dumb and blind of said counties,

Which was twice read,—and,

On motion of Mr. Hemsley, ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Richardson,

Ordered, that the committee on grievances and courts of justice be instructed to enquire into the propriety of reporting a bill to divest the Governor of the power to grant a nolle proseque in any case whatever, and to limit his power to grant pardons to those cases where the convict shall be recommended for pardon by the court or jury before whom he shall have been tried, or by the court where the case has been submitted to the court without a jury, and of making said bill, when confirmed, a part of the constitution of the state.

Feb. 21.

On motion of Mr. Hardcastle,

Ordered, that a committee of five, be appointed to enquire into the propriety of abolishing public executions in this state, and to report to this house by bill or otherwise.

In pursuance whereof, the speaker appointed Messrs. Hardcastle, Harrison, Hicks, Townsend, of Talbot, and Cuibreth, the committee.

IN SENATE.

Friday February 17, 1837.

A bill entitled, an act to alter and change the divisional line between the fourth and fifth election districts in Dorchester county,

Which was read the first time and referred to Messrs. Goldsborough, Hambleton, & Wright.

On motion of Mr. Tidball,

The bill entitled, an act relating to the proof of accounts of clerks of county courts & registers of wills against their respective counties, was taken up for consideration..

'And it shall be lawful for the levy courts, county commissioners or commissioners of the tax, as the case may be, to have free access to the records of the registers of wills, clerks of county courts and sheriffs without charge, for the purpose of examining the accounts of said registers of wills, clerks of county courts or sheriffs, so far as regards their charges against their respective counties."

Saturday, Feb. 18.

Mr, Goldsborough from the committee to which was referred the bill entitled, an act to alter and change part of the divisional line between the fourth and fifth election districts in Dorchester county, reported favorably thereon.

It was read the second, and by special order the third time and passed.

Monday, Feb. 20.

The bill entitled, an act to alter and change part of the divisional line between the fourth and fith election districts in Dorchester county, also severally passed by the Senate on Saturday, were returned to the house of delegates.

The bill entitled, an act to require the chancery court and the several county courts of equity in this state, to demand bond surety in cases of injunction, was read the second time, and

On motion of Mr. Ricaud,

Ordered to lie on the table.

For the 'Aurora.'

EVENING.

SACRED TO VIRTUE.

Virtue! to thee, these artless strains belong,
To the bright daughter of erernal truth,
Thy name adds honor, to the aspiring song—
Thy crown of wisdom, and the hope of youth.

Say, whether veil'd amid the shades of night,
May their fair form, celestial maid, be seen—
Say, dost thou climb old Ande's rocky height,
Tread the wide heath, or sweep the level green?

Oft have I sought thee with enraptur'd eye,
Thro' sacred Tully's time-approving page,
Seen midnight moons ascend the glowing sky,
Years not diminish'd, but increased my rage.

Tutor'd by thee, the cheerful peasant goes,
Nor meanly asks, what labor can perform,
Bares his rough bosom to the wintry snows,
And tempts the fury of the pelting storm.

At eve returning from the trackless woods,
The brooding tempest blackens round his head;
Unaw'd, he hears the wild descending floods,
For *peace* and *Virtue* guard his humble shed!

But ah! what tortures wring the guilty soul,
While conscious mem'ry turns past actions o'er,
Thro' all its frame, the glooms of midnight roll,
And sad reflection bleeds at every pore.

Come then and bear me to thy blessed shade,
Where, with you, I may pass the smiling hour—
Thee, thee, I call O Virtue, sainted maid,
And kneeling, woo thee, in the moon-lit bow'r

In this dark spot, this unfrequented scene,
What time the moon-beam tips the trembling trees;
Oft let us range, unseeing and unseen,
While day's last echo dies upon the breeze.

Lo, dimly view'd, beneath the lunar ray,
A steeple's summit rising in the air!
Thence let us bend our solitary way,
Thro' this lone footpath to the house of pray'r.

Then as the shades of night prevail,
Its sounding domes and cloisters let us tread,
Hear well known voices speak, in every gale,
Or distant echoes imitate the dead!

Ah me! Good Heaven! what deathful sounds draw near,
What sick'ning visions throng this haunted gloom:
(Ye once our friends, who nightly slumber here,
Can aught disturb you in the silent Tomb?)

Whoe'er thou art, that at this hour of woe,
With dauntless steps, dost walk these aisle's around,
Gay son of Earth! e'en now, the destin'd blow
Is pois'd in air, that lays thee with the ground.

Like thee, oh man! we glittered in the sun,
Like thee, we shared of fortune's golden store:
The sands of Time, their silent course have run;
We sleep in *dust*, the airy scene is o'er.

Oh save us, Virtue, in this trying hour,
Thy smiles each dreary phantom can dispel,
Can gild the horrors of the murky bower
And tune to Harmony, the midnight bell!

Yet vain the efforts of creative art,
And all the sounds of *Poetry* how weak;
These ne'er can soothe the grief distended heart,
Nor call fresh vigor in the wasted cheek.

The hoary parent of a spotless race,
The tender Virgin in life's vernal bloom
Alike must fail!—The victors to grace
Our path, is strewn with blossoms of the tomb.

In vain, fair *Painting* bids the canvass warm
With boasted life, and features, not its own.
Sculpture, in vain, may weave her magic charm,
And *mimic motion* in the speaking *stone*.

Say, what the arts, which *learning* can display,
Say, what of *science*, all the vain parade?
When a few suns, have roll'd their orbs away,
The greatest names with all their lights shall fade!

G. E. R.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

CAMBRIDGE:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1837.

GEN. JACKSON & MR. CALHOUN.—We publish to-day, the letter of Gen. Jackson, controverting some statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Calhoun in the Senate, reflecting upon the General.

The South Carolina Senator, it seems, was somewhat personal, and the general so treats it, and calls upon Mr. Calhoun to retract, the charges or stand before the world, as a calumniator. We believe that if the President had not noticed the allegations of Calhoun, his character could not have suffered, as the charges of the opposition are so indiscriminate, that the country attaches little or no importance, to their violent phillippics. The President might have treated the insinuations of Mr. Calhoun, with silent contempt, but we see not that impropriety that the opposition pretend to be shocked at, in the letter of General Jackson. For Mr. Clay too to set up such a hollow hearted Jeremiad at the circumstance, as invading the privileges of the Senate, is too bad, after he himself, when Secretary of State, under Mr. Adams, challenged John Randolph, a Senator, for words spoken in debate, and not only challenged him, but shot at the Hero of Roanoke twice. Clay's sensibilities would not allow him to brook the allegation of the caustic Senator of Virginia, charging a "coalition between the Puritan and the Blackleg," meaning thereby the unholy alliance between Adams & Clay. He felt justified in inviting Mr. Randolph to mortal combat, and yet, forsooth, President Jackson, must not notice disreputable charges brought against him, by a Senator, because it may derogate from the dignity of the Senate. Let the "whited sepulchre" set himself right before he attempts to lecture others.—General Jackson has sensibilities as well as Mr. Clay, and can as little tolerate an outrage upon his feelings.

General Jackson's Letter to the Committee.

We insert to-day, this nervous and strait forward document, in reply to the unusual proceeding of the investigating Committee. The letter is in perfect keeping, with the manly and open character of the veteran patriot.—Let every man read it. It needs no comment, speaking for itself in reasoning, perfectly irrefragable, and which must carry conviction of its correctness to the impartial examiner. The appointment of a committee of enquiry on the part of Congress, in the absence of specifick charges against the administration, was in itself, a step, merely tolerated by the friends of the administration, who had a majority in the House, to gratify *ex gratia* the opposition, and prevent a useless clamor, that abuses existed, which were screened from exposure by the authority of Congress. When it became organized, great delicacy & decorum should have been observed in its investigations. The President seems to have considered the resolutions of the Committee as an uncalled for impeachment of his allegations, as made in his opening message to Congress, and treats it accordingly. If corruption exists, let it be exposed, but in the name of justice, do not hang a man, before he is tried, and not try him unless you have evidence to exhibit his guilt, and do not be so uncharitable as to believe he is guilty, without the slightest shadow of proof whatever.

Especially should we be extremely cautious, where the men accused, act under the solemn responsibility of an oath. There are partizans, however, who would not be satisfied with the conduct of Gen. Jackson and his Administration, no matter how pure,