they were aware, & it at once became their principal object to divert him from his purpose by means of caresses, & if that failed, to employ threats as the only possible means of effecting it. This change was the expedient resorted to, with the hope that the fear of being held up before the world in an odious light, would force him into their ranks. But Mr. Clay's patriotism & firmness of purpose, had not been rightly estimated. He persisted in his honourable & independent course, without regard to the reproaches & vilifications of those, who were base enough to assail his reputation, because he would not embrace their interested views, or be a pander to the extravagant ambition of Gen. Jackson. Why was this accusation made only a few weeks before the election? Reason & common experience say, that it was designed to have effect on that occasion.

On no other supposition than that the friends of Gen. Jackson in Congress were engaged in a deeply laid conspiracy, & that this charge was its offspring, can the extraordinary conduct of some of them, at the time that Mr. Clay made his appeal, be accounted for. If they had good cause to believe that the charge was founded in truth, they had a most cogent reason to sustain the motion for inquiry, that the guilt of the accused might be proved: as this result would have secured the election of their favourite candidate. If, on the contrary, they believed his innocence, as men honestly engaged in the performance of their duties as Representatives of the people, without knowledge of such conspiracy — as possessed of the ordinary generosity that distinguishes men of honourable principles, they were bound to have supported the motion, that he might have an opportunity to vindicate his character. Instead of this Mr. McDuffie op-