

still anxious of appearing our friend, and disposed to make you the scape-goat of the committee. I have repeated our conversation to Col. Towner and Mr. Noah, and they both agree in advising that I should lay the whole matter before you, confidentially, in order that you may take such course as you think proper in your report. I tell you again that you report you may think proper to make, will receive from me the credit of being founded upon your ideas of justice; but do not, I beg of you, permit Mr. Cambreleng to protect himself under your known and constitutional hostility to the Bank. Of the propriety and fairness of our loan I know you have no doubt. Where then is the necessity, the justice, or the propriety, of dragging us before the public, more than you would say merchant in the country? The loan from Biddle for Noah you think objectionable. Well then, say what you please of it, we know nothing of that loan. We had no connexion with the Bank, directly or indirectly. The loan was made by Burrows to Noah, not to me or to the paper. And if our subsequent loans were fair business transactions (which you cannot deny) I ask you where is the propriety, or justice in interfering in them? And ask you too, do you not owe it to justice and frankness to state, in any event, that we are exonerated from all suspicion or blame. That we should be exonerated you cannot doubt. I am conscious we have done nothing wrong—nothing that should cast a suspicion upon our motives, and surely we have a right to expect justice at the hands of the committee. If we are to be sacrificed to him a blow at the Bank, you at least cannot and will not loan your name to give sanction to such a measure. We have alone and single-headed fought the battle of the South. In us Georgia has found a bold and steadfast friend, and if we are to suffer without cause, surely we do not expect that one of her representatives will quietly yield to the injustice.

Do not misunderstand me, God knows I would not in the slightest manner influence your judgment through my feelings; but after the frank declaration of your sentiments a few days since, and knowing that these sentiments must be confirmed by the deposition of Noah, forwarded to day, I do look to you as one ready and willing to do justice. We want nothing more, and we are entitled to an expression of your committee's feelings against us. Silence would engender suspicion, and I would rather meet a direct charge than an imputation of misconduct. Cambreleng is playing a deep game, and you will find, that in connexion with leading money men here, his object is to get up a new institution, on different principles, the location of which will be New York. With this view he will endeavor to obtain information on the best system of banking from all parts of the world. He will use the opponents of the Bank to do this, and then he will raise up another Bank for speculating objects. This is a conspiracy, but it will not vary far from the truth. Look at the subject in all its bearings, and do us justice; we ask for nothing else.

Excuse this scrawl as the mail is about closing, and I have not time to let it over. Sincerely your friend,
JAS. WATSON WEBB.
Hon. A. S. CLAYTON.

PHILADELPHIA, April 10th, 1832.
Dear Sir—Yours of yesterday's date came safe to hand, and though I am willing to believe that a high sense of expected injury which you may very truly think you are about to receive from the committee of the peculiar character of your bank transactions has governed you in this matter, yet I sincerely regret that to me you have communicated either your fears or your doubts. I have made it a rule of my life, from which I have no recollection of ever having departed, never to refuse a favor, such as an honorable man would ask; in my private character, (if in my power), and never to grant one in my public capacity, unless it should happen strictly to coincide with the rigid demands of my trust; and then it would become a matter of right, and consequently no favor. You may consider your case as coming within the rule last laid down, and therefore ask no more, but I would greatly have preferred that you should have asserted your claim, as you had a right to do, openly and strip of its confidential character. And further that you should not have connected any circumstances with your application of a political nature, or have suggested any suspicions in relation to persons with whom I am not only compelled to act, but for whom I entertain high regard. I owe it to that course of life I have always pursued, as well as to the frankness which is due to you, to make the foregoing remarks, and to say that, while I shall strictly regard the confidence you have voluntarily reposed in me, but which I must again repeat I sincerely regret, it will be my duty to act in the matter to which you refer as though I had not heard from you, and that course, I assure you, shall be in pursuance of the best notions of justice which my judgment is capable of forming.

I must beg leave to correct you in one statement which you have made in relation to the interview you had with me. You called with Mr. Morris to see me, Mrs. Clayton and Mrs. Meigs being present. We, as is usual on such occasions, entered into full and free conversation on the subject of your examination before the committee, and that I was glad you had called to see me, as it afforded an opportunity of explaining the reason of a question I had asked you, at which your feelings appeared to be hurt, and which you thought was purposely intended to reflect upon you. I did explain the matter to you, and observed I was incapable of intentionally hurting the feelings of any one. I further observed, that your testimony had thrown much of the suspicion of the charge against your press upon Biddle and Burrows, or rather the Bank; but I did not say that I was "satisfied your paper and its Editors had not merited censure," on this subject I spent no opinion. With every wish for your success in business; and with not the slightest desire to injure either your own standing or that of your press,
I remain, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. S. CLAYTON.

New York, April 14th, 1832.
Dear Sir—Yours has this moment come to hand, and I regret that under the circumstances I addressed you the letter to which you refer is no answer, and beg that you will turn it to me. Justice to you, and to myself, requires me to add, that I was only desirous of placing you on your guard against what I deemed the intention of others, and if you will again read that letter before you send it to me, I am sure you will find it worded in the spirit here mentioned—you cannot do yourself the injustice to believe I could have intended any thing else, but I admit, that under the circumstances, I regret having addressed you. Could you be influenced to do less than your duty in such a case, I would desire you to do what my judgment of the

man nature. I asked it not—I wished it not—and to one of less character than yourself, I could not have written, fearful of being mis-assured we will not question your motives.

But let this pass—do what you may, rest assured we will not question your motives. The feeling here in relation to Georgia, I am happy to say, is becoming quite favorable, and I have reason to believe, that if it were not for Nullification in South Carolina, your cause would have many friends who now are unwilling to speak least they should be deemed favorers of Nullification; though in my opinion, there is no connexion whatever between the cases.

I send you our paper of Tuesday, containing an able article, which the editor writes me is from Governor Lumpkin. It is possible you may not have seen it.
Believe me your friend and obedient servant,
JAS. WATSON WEBB.

PHILADELPHIA, April 15th, 1832.
Dear Sir—According to the request made by you in your letter of yesterday, I have forwarded you the letter which you addressed to me on the 9th inst.

Your good feeling towards Georgia deserves her acknowledgements, but as I told Congress the course of Georgia is taken; and though she would prefer peace and union and the good opinion of her sister States, yet if they regard the rights of savages more than hers, they are welcome to their choice, and she is full able to maintain her own position against such an unprovoked aggression.
I am very respectfully your ob. servant,
A. S. CLAYTON.

Jas. W. Webb, Esq.

ADDRESS
Delivered by Peter Webb, Esq. before the meeting to form a Temperance Society at the Temple, August 25th, 1832.

The object for which we have assembled this evening, the most of you have already heard. It is a strictly moral, I had almost said in holy cause; it exists all our better feelings for the promotion of good, and the welfare of our fellow men. It has for its design the total eradication of a prevailing evil, and the extinction of an abominable vice—None with whom I have ever conversed upon this subject, have had the hardihood to deny its benevolent intentions, and but few have endeavored in vain to ridicule its utility. It is a hope of checking in its mad career this more than beastly practice, and degradation of our nature, that we are now assembled.

My principal purpose in addressing you, is not to portray, in its gloomiest colours, this debasing vice, but to make some statistical statements with which many of you may be unacquainted.
It has been accurately ascertained by a committee of gentlemen, appointed for that purpose, that there are consumed annually within the United States, sixty millions of gallons of ardent spirits. Think not this fact is misstated.—I repeat, there are consumed with in these states, sixty millions of gallons of this liquid fire. You are astonished at this enormous quantity. I beg you to reflect deeply and seriously upon it.

If we average the price of these sixty millions of gallons at 50 cents per gallon, there is the immense tax of 30 millions of dollars, paid by the dram drinkers for that which is no benefit to them, but a positive injury; an amount greater than the expenses of the government of this free republic, in all its departments, sufficient to support in ease and plenty all the paupers of the land. To this is to be added the expenses of all the criminal prosecutions, which disgrace our common country; for, almost every crime can be traced, either in its origin or accomplishment to the intemperance use of ardent spirits. The judges, lawyers, clerks, jurors, witnesses, magistrates and constables, must all be paid: This amounts to another 30 millions, which is paid for the support of the poor and miserable, made so by drink. Here then is a tax of 60 millions of dollars, paid every year, for what, and by whom? For that pestilence of America, that insatiable monster, the bottle; that curse of men, that drags into the whirlpool of disgrace and death, the wealthy and the poor, the learned and the illiterate; and even reaches up its sacrilegious arm to the pulpit, and drags down some of its fairest ornaments to ruin. Are we not called upon, then, by every tie which we owe ourselves, to stop this fell destroyer, in his destructive course, and say to our fellow men, oh! wretched men, ere you plunge into the irrecoverable abyss of ruin and disgrace.

But, by whom is this immense tax paid?—The first item, it is true, is paid by the dram-drinkers alone—yet there remains the large balance of 60 millions; and the payment of this falls upon the innocent, as well as the guilty. Are we not called upon, I ask, by the duty which we owe ourselves, in the protection of our property and our rights, to liberate ourselves from this unjust and iniquitous tax?

We need no longer talk and dispute about high or low tariffs, and the diplomatic expense of the government; they are but as a feather in the balance, while this monster stalks and staggers through the land, sitting like an incubus upon our physical energies, wasting our substance, retarding the progress of our victims, and for whose support we pay so much. What fills our jails, penitentiaries and almshouses, with their loathsome inmates; and crowds the records of our courts with crime? 'Tis this unrelenting tyrant—rum! It has been ascertained, by a late examination of the almshouse in Baltimore county, that the number of persons in that institution, amounted to 897; of these, 950 have been brought to this state of dependence upon public charity, by the intemperate use of ardent spirits, leaving but the very small minority of 40 who have been reduced to indigence by misfortune. Reflect for a moment upon this state of things, and contemplate the mighty change which would be produced, could this horrid practice be driven from society. Let us farther examine the amount of money paid by the laboring farmer and the industrious mechanic, for the support of the dissolute and depraved; those who equally share our commiseration and contempt; for who so contemptible, except in his own eyes, as the drunkard.

In one of the counties of this State, where the facts have been ascertained, and whose annual levy amounted to nearly 21 thousand dollars, it was found, that more than one-third of this amount was paid for the support of paupers, made by intemperance, and the necessary expenses of the courts, in arresting and prosecuting to condemnation and punishment, the offences and crimes of drunkards; and I have no doubt that should the matter be investigated in this county, the same facts would be found to exist; and our levy, which averages about 10 thousand dollars, would be reduced one-third, and we should have no more of high taxation, nor see in the newspapers the urgent and repeated calls of the Collector for the taxes of the county. Should we not be urged on then, not only by the consid-

erations which are due to society, but also the protection of our property and the comforts of life, and no longer permit them to be squandered for the support of the vicious and dissipated?

This vice prevails throughout this fair republic, and has become a stigma upon our national character. We are held up as an object of derision and contempt to the world, by the hired travellers, the slaves and scoundrels of the despotic tyrants of Europe, who exclaim, behold this land of boasted freedom—they have become the votaries, the slaves of the bottle.

Whether that spirit of our fathers fled, which led them on to victory and political freedom? Has it become extinct in their sons?—No—they are rising in the majesty of their strength; the spirit of '76 is bursting forth throughout this otherwise happy land; and they declare we will no longer be slaves to prostitution which animated and fired the bosoms of our matrons of the revolution, who denied themselves the luxuries, and even the comforts of life, became dead in the hearts of their daughters?—No—they also have put to their helping hands; their aid is mighty and shall prevail.

Although we condemn this vice as a national evil, yet its effects are more sensibly seen and felt in individual capacities. A farmer of this State, who the Sheriff and meagrely circumstances, beloved and almost idolized by an affectionate wife, surrounded by his blooming and dutiful children, had upon his farm a thriving apple orchard; he had lived sober and contented in the enjoyment of every domestic bliss, until the destroyer came, "in the shape of a distiller," who persuaded this unfortunate man to send his cider to him, of which he would make brandy; and he would be much more profitable; he done so; he freely gave it; until he could not dine without his grog; it increased to two and three; he would then drink of an evening, to keep up the unnatural stimulus until he began to feel feeble and languid in the morning; his whole system was relaxed, and his mind enervated; he lost his something to cause his debilitated faculties, and drive them into action; he takes his morning dram, becomes a sot, and his property is sold, by the Sheriff and meagrely circumstances, beloved and almost idolized by an affectionate wife, surrounded by his blooming and dutiful children, had upon his farm a thriving apple orchard; 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