

Notice in the Genius of Liberty December 1817

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE publication of my letter to Mr. John M'Carty was entirely unnecessary, and it was therefore that I did not publish it. But I care nothing about it. His to me he expressly authorized me to publish, or I most certainly would not have published it.

In mine I stated that a base calumny had been propagated against me, and that his name had been used to give currency and strength to it. It was the use made of his name that induced me to notice the calumny at all. And I applied to him to say that he did not authorize his name to be used to sanction that calumny, and thus "to contradict the impression" which the propagators of it were endeavoring to produce by the use of his name, "or to enable me to do it upon his authority." He expressly declares that "he never did sanction the calumny of any printer against me."— This was a direct answer to my application. It was all I asked of him.

If however, I have misunderstood him; or there is any part of my letter to which he designedly failed to reply, and he means any thing by that failure, it will be time enough, when he shall explain his meaning, if he had any, for me to reply to it. But he most certainly does not mean to intimate that I shrunk from a contest with him on the occasion alluded to, because such an intimation is notoriously inconsistent with truth as an hundred living witnesses can testify. And Mr. John M'Carty himself also well knows that any such intimation, made in any way, by any man, is infamously false and dishonourable; and for that reason he surely never meant to make it; or to lend it the sanction of his name when made by them who are destitute of Honor and regardless of truth.

The construction, which (with characteristic impudence and turpitude) has been put upon his "Valedictory" in the Washingtonian, as well as the wilful misrepresentation, in that paper, of what passed between us at the hustings, comes from a source which puts the seal of infamy upon it, and admonishes me that it would be degrading to any gentleman to notice it. I shall therefore treat it, as I do every thing which comes from that source, with sovereign contempt.

In conclusion I can only repeat, on this subject, what I have already said, "that every man, who, directly, or indirectly, avowedly, or tacitly, lends his name, or gives his countenance, in any manner, or form, to the insinuation, which some scoundrels have propagated, that I shrunk from the contest with Mr. John M'Carty at the last Loudoun election, or who would, in any way, attempt to produce that impression, is a vile calumniator."

It is not difficult to perceive the drift of the despicable and cold-blooded assassins, whose folly and wickedness were the cause of the open rupture between Mr. Mercer and myself. Having failed in their object on that occasion they are now, with truly demoniac spirit, seeking to involve me with some body else, in the hope that my life may fall a sacrifice. This would be a glorious triumph for them. It would suit the base envy and malignity of their souls. And I can, in brief, assure these wretches, once for all, that it is the only triumph of that kind they have any chance of obtaining over me, even if they should be able to find a man, with the reputation of a gentleman, depraved enough to become the willing instrument of their hellish purpose.

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.
Selma, 23d December, 1817.