

Underwood, J. R.

TO THE PUBLIC.

In the Globe of the 27th of January, there is an article under the head of "Mr. UNDERWOOD and Mr. KENDALL," which I deem it a duty to notice, because it contains intrinsic evidence that it was fabricated by Mr. Kendall. The article quotes certain parts of my speech published in the National Intelligencer on the 9th of January, then gives a copy of a letter which Mr. Kendall addressed to me, bearing date the 10th of January, but which I did not receive until late in the afternoon of the 11th, and then inserts my explanatory remarks made in the House on the 13th of January. After these matters are thus presented to the Public, then follows a commentary, in which I am charged, in substance, "unless my memory was sadly bedimmed," with knowingly "*fabricating and propagating a most atrocious calumny.*" The article in question states: "But the *honorable* gentleman (alluding to myself) has at last only retracted so much of his calumny as he *knows* would be proved utterly without foundation." He still leaves Mr. Kendall under the charge of imputing the murder of Col. Sharp, in the Argus, 'to the old Court party or their advocates.' Happily for Mr. Kendall, he can *prove a negative.*"

An attempt is made to prove the "negative" by quoting from the Argus of the 9th of November, 1825, those sentences which leave offence to the old Court party, and then quoting from the Argus of the 16th of November, or "the next paper," the editor's explanation or disclaimer of the construction put upon his remarks, contained in the paper of the 9th of November.

In order to place the Public in full possession of the grounds of the whole controversy, I deem it proper to present here the same extracts published in the Globe. The following is part of my speech as published in the Intelligencer on the 9th of January:

"But, Mr. Chairman, I will leave the military operations of the Administration, and pay my respects to the Postmaster General. He has given us a brief and neat report of the condition of the Department, in which, with a few words, he has stated a great many facts. In this respect his report is a model, which might be beneficially imitated by other Departments. But the Postmaster General knows how to '*mould and touch*' a composition as well as any other man; and he will know, Mr. Chairman, why it is that I emphasize the words '*mould and touch*.' [Here one or two gentlemen near Mr. U. said, 'explain to us,' 'tell us.'] Mr. U. said he had no objection, and made in substance the following statements: He said he was a member of the Kentucky Legislature when Jereboam O. Beauchamp murdered Col. Sharp. At that time, the Postmaster General was editor of a paper printed in Frankfort, called the Argus, which warmly advocated the doctrines of the new Court party with which Colonel Sharp acted. After the murder, insinuations appeared in the Argus, imputing the crime to the old Court party, or their advocates, in order to get clear of the talents of Colonel Sharp, then a member of the Legislature, and his opposition to the schemes of the old Court party. Beauchamp caught at and favored this idea, thrown out by the Argus, in the hope that he might thereby secure a pardon from the new Court Governor, then occupying the Executive mansion. It was understood that Beauchamp had written, or promised to write, a pamphlet, implicating the old Court party. He was to do this as the price of his pardon. The Postmaster General wrote a letter to a relation of Beauchamp, as I was informed, and have no doubt of the fact, proposing to '*mould and touch*' the pamphlet, and thus give point and direction to the slander, in order to stain the reputa-

tion of a party composed of as honest and high-minded men as any that ever associated for the sake of vital principles in any country. I am revenged (said Mr. U.) for the injustice then done to me by the Postmaster General, in thus stating the manner in which he displayed his *charity*, through the medium of his newspaper, for the party with which I then acted. Sir, the Postmaster General's course on that occasion is without a parallel, unless it be found in the perjured certificates, got up during the late reign of terror to criminate Senator Poindexter as the instigator of murder. Whether both these vile attempts to prostrate political opponents by falsehood and defamation have a common paterity, I leave to the public judgment. However that point may be decided, there is one thing in which all honest men, of all parties, must heartily concur; it is, that the propagation of calumny for political effect should receive the execration of man and the curse of God.¹⁷

The following are my explanatory remarks made on the 13th of January:

"Mr. UNDERWOOD asked leave of the House to make a few remarks, explanatory of his statements relative to the Postmaster General, contained in his speech, as reported and published in the National Intelligencer of the 9th inst. The House having unanimously granted leave, Mr. U. said he had been unexpectedly called on, in the course of debate, to explain a passing allusion he had made to old transactions, in which the Postmaster General took an active part, and which, at the time, produced a very deep sensation in Kentucky. That, in compliance with the call, he had made a statement from his best recollection at the moment. Since then, he had conversed with other gentlemen from Kentucky, whose opportunities to know and understand the facts were equal, if not superior, to his own. From such conversations, and my own reflections, (said Mr. U.) I have become satisfied that so much of my former statement as holds out the idea that the Postmaster General was to '*mould and touch*' a pamphlet wrote, or to be written, by Beauchamp, abusive of the old Court party, or implicating any of them in the murder of Colonel Sharp, as the price or terms upon which a pardon was to be granted, is erroneous. I now believe the letter in which the Postmaster General used the words '*mould and touch*' was written after Beauchamp's execution, and, consequently, could have furnished no evidence of a willingness to combine with Beauchamp, then dead, in efforts to procure his pardon as a reward for his political services. That letter, from my present information, related to a manuscript left by Beauchamp, purporting to be his confession. It was repeatedly charged upon Mr. Kendall, in the public journals of that day, that his motive in desiring to '*mould and touch*' the confession was corrupt; and, from the course which the Argus had taken, the old Court party, so far as my information extended, believed that Mr. Kendall had a sinister political object in view in his proposition to '*mould and touch*.' Such was my opinion then, and I still retain it.

"In speaking of these transactions of so many years' standing, it can scarcely be presumed that I should precisely recollect every circumstance. I have deemed it a duty to myself to correct the mistake into which I have fallen, as far as my subsequent information and reflection show to be proper.¹⁸

The following are the remarks published in the Argus of the 9th of November, 1825, expressing the *suspicion* that the "assassin was not actuated wholly by personal considerations," and in which, not "some," but *many* "old Court men" perceived the insinuation that *political considerations* were at the bottom of the murder:

"The gloom which this event has spread through society is of the deepest cast. The murder of a man in his own house, at

the dead hour of night, almost in the presence of his wife, and warm from her embraces, with his children sleeping around him, while extending the rights of hospitality to his assassin, is a blow at all that is sacred in social and civil life. The public feeling is also much heightened by the mystery which shrouds the motive of the murderer. Colonel Sharp's talents; the station which he held; the time selected for the horrid deed; and the fact that he was not known to have a personal enemy, cause suspicion to reach across the road, that the assassin was not actuated wholly by personal considerations. May Heaven grant that, in the speedy apprehension of the murderer, all such painful thoughts may be dispelled.¹⁷

The following are the remarks taken from the *Argus* of the 16th of November, and published in the *Globe*, as proving the "negative."¹⁸

"These sentences have been construed into an insinuation that our political adversaries have conspired and compassed the murder of our distinguished representative; and so great has been the excitement, that some of them have discontinued our paper on that account. We neither entertain such a suspicion, nor intended to make such an insinuation. On the contrary, although the Commentator formerly called one of the gentlemen who has now discontinued the *Argus* 'a Robespierre,' we believe that he and most of his party utterly detest all such savages, and would go as far to discover and punish the murderer of Col. Sharp as any other men in this community. Nor do we believe their zeal or exertions would be less, did they know his motives were wholly political, than if they knew he struck for plunder or revenge. We have not, thank God, so bad an opinion of a large portion of our fellow citizens."¹⁹

The reader will perceive that there is in this last quotation a declaration that neither "suspicion," nor "insinuation," was entertained or intended. But the entire editorial article on the subject of Col. Sharp's murder, published in the *Argus* of the 16th of November, 1835, is not given. So much only as conduces to prove the "negative" is published; and that part which, had it been published, would establish beyond doubt that there was no retraction, is suppressed. The following is the suppressed part of the editorial article, and, for the sake of brevity, I shall direct attention to certain parts of it by notes:

"On this subject we would be fully understood. (1) It is our object to state the truth, and we hope to do it without offence. No man can deny the prevalence of suspicions that the assassin was actuated by political considerations. We have heard them uttered through our streets; we have heard them echoed from every section of the State as the tidings have spread. (2) It is true they have no foundation but in the talents of Colonel Sharp, the station he held, his importance at the moment, the abuse which has been heaped upon him in common with many others of his party, and the absence of every other known or probable motive. This suspicion is involuntary and probably unfounded; but it creates a sense of personal insecurity in those who have taken an active part with Col. Sharp in our present controversy, from which they would gladly be delivered. (3) They do not wish to believe that society has come to this pass. But they see through all history the bloody track of the political assassin. Sometimes he strikes through prostituted laws and corrupt judges; sometimes in open defiance of all law; sometimes under the shroud of solitude and night. (4) The

(1) You would not then "be fully understood" if you stop at what is already said. We must consider the sequel in order to understand rightly.

(2) "Suspicion" do prevail that "the assassin was actuated by political considerations;" do they? They are "echoed from every section of the State;" are they? Whose voice was thrown back by "echo?" But the forepart of the article says, "We neither entertain such a suspicion, nor intended to make such an insinuation." Is this the correct reading of the whole? Every body believes it was a political assassination but ourselves. We never dream of a thing like that.

(3) The "suspicion is involuntary." Indeed! But you are exempt from the common lot of mortals. You do not perform "involuntary" actions, or feel "involuntary" emotions as they do. You "entertain" no "suspicion." "It creates a sense of personal insecurity," &c. Were all prominent new Court men to be murdered? Were you alike exempt from the general fear, as from the involuntary suspicion?

(4) "They do not wish to believe," &c. Do you mean they are constrained "involuntarily" to believe it against their wishes? Does history force the conviction upon them?

authors of the foul attacks upon private character which have distinguished the last electioneering contest, would shudder at the thought that their productions had wrought up the mind of a desperado to this horrible deed. Yet there is but one step from the murder of men's honesty and honor to the assassination of their persons. The inflammatory author may not apprehend or desire the bloody catastrophe; but when he undertakes to prove that public men, the leaders of a party, are knowers in private and public life, who are seeking their own aggrandizement in the ruin of their country, and the prostration of its Constitution, he ought to remember that weak and desperate men may take up the subject at the precise point where he would end it—may think that they serve God and their country by ridding the world of such monsters. (1) It is in this way only we have thought it possible that political considerations might have entered into the motives of the assassin. But we hope in God that in the speedy development of his real motives this suspicion may be dispelled. It is painful to think it possible that there are desperadoes dogging the prominent men of a political party for a purpose so diabolical. It is painful to think that there may be even one man in our country so deluded and multitudes, to know certainly that such is not the fact. (2)

"But let it no more be said that, because it is deemed possible that this murderer may be a political madman, we intend to charge our antagonists with the crime. An insinuation so foul would, as the Commentator says, be both 'stupid' and 'malignant.' It would be 'stupid' because it would not be believed; it would be 'malignant' because we should know it to be unjust." (3)

There is something more of this article, but the residue is little else than a lecture on "the possible consequences" which may be produced by atrocious attacks on private character," advising all parties to abstain, and need not be repeated.

No one can read the entire editorial article in the *Argus*

(1) This is pretty well imitated by the following passage in relation to the attempted assassination of the late President, taken from the *Globe* of the 31st of January, 1835:

"Whether Lawrence has caught in his visits to the Capitol the mania which has prevailed during the two last sessions in the Senate; whether he has become infatuated with the chimeras which have troubled the brains of the disappointed and ambitious orators who have depicted the President as a Cæsar who ought to have a Brutus, as a Cæsar, a Nero, a Tiberius, we know not. If no secret conspiracy has prompted the perpetration of the horrid deed, we think it not improbable that some delusion of intellect has grown out of his visits to the Capitol, and that hearing despotism and every horrible mischief threatened to the republic, and revolution and all its train of calamities imputed as the necessary consequence of the President's measures, it may be that the infatuated man fancied he had reason to become his country's savior. If he had heard and basked Mr. Calhoun's speech the day before yesterday, he would have found in it ample justification for his attempt on one who was represented as the cause of the most dreadful calamities to the nation—as one who made perfect rottenness and corruption to pervade the vitals of the Government, inasmuch that it was scarcely worth preserving, if it were possible."

(2) You only "think it possible," but you have no "suspicion" that there are "desperadoes dogging the prominent men of a political party" to murder them. To what party do these "desperadoes" belong? I make no "insinuation." Is that the answer? Why do you emphasize "one man?" Was Darby contemplated? It would be a "relief to us" and "to multitudes." What was it that oppressed you and them so sorely? The apprehension that there was one or more murderers, induced by political motives.

(3) "My lord, I would I might entertain your honor To scan this thing no further; leave it to time: And though it be fit that Cassio have his place, (For, sure, he fills it up with greatness,) Yet, if you please to hold him off awhile, You shall by that perceive we are not lean: Note, if your lady strain his entertainment. With any strong or vehement opportunity: Much will be seen in that. In the mean time, Let me be thought too busy in my fears, (As worthy cause I have to fear—I am.) And hold her free, I do beseech your honor."

Iago besought Othello to hold Desdemona guiltless!

of the 16th Nov. 1825, without being convinced that it artfully fanned the flames of suspicion, instead of extinguishing them. The *Argus* exonerates its "antagonists" from participation in the murder, and concedes they were "honorable men!" This is like Mark Antony's concession over the dead body of Cæsar:

"Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest,
(For Brutus is an honorable man;
So are they all, all honorable men.)
Come I to speak in Cæsar's funeral."

And when he speaks, he speaks in such a manner, that while he expresses his "fear" of doing "wrong" to "the honorable men," he excites the citizens to such a pitch of indignation, that they exclaim, "traitors," "villains," "murderers," against Brutus and all the rest.

Why this omission to publish what I have shown, I think to be very important? It was a part of the same article from which evidence in proof of the negative is attempted to be extracted. A design to conceal the truth can alone account for it. Had justice to me been intended, there are other articles in the *Argus* of the 16th Nov. 1825, which should have been published before my veracity was attacked. It is my duty to present them to the Public. The following is one of them:

"We are authorized and requested to state that the report affecting the moral conduct of Col. Sharp, circulated by malevolent persons, as if to furnish a motive for the murder, is based in the foulest slander, and is as false as it is unmanly and cruel. It is hard that the shafts of malice should be shot into the peaceful grave, and that the memory of the defenceless dead must be tarnished by charges with which their authors dared not meet his face while living. It is hard that an affectionate wife, who has been completely delirious a large portion of the time since this dreadful event, and has been confined to her bed with sickness, occasioned by the horrors she has witnessed and felt, should now be told her husband was a villain, who, perhaps, deserved his doom.

"The names of respectable men are left with us who are responsible for this statement, and who pledge themselves to hold responsible the authors of this base and unmanly calumny."

We perceive in this article a powerful appeal made to the sympathies of the community to discredit and reject the motive for the murder, which had been suggested as probable. We perceive more; the article contains a threat that "respectable men" would "hold responsible," personally, no doubt, those who might persist in attributing the murder to private transactions. Thus the idea was fortified that Col. Sharp's assassin was a "political madman."

The other article in the *Argus* of the 16th Nov. 1825, is headed "Insinuations," and runs thus:

"Mr. Dana seems to mean something, but we know not what; because we are not aware that any man ever charged the murder of Baker to the Governor's enemies. The Danville Advertiser, in closing the account of Col. Sharp's murder, says it is equalled by nothing he has heard of, unless it be the murder of Francis Baker, about twelve months ago. Whence come these remarks, but from a dread of these men, that a terrible retribution now awaits them for the political use they have made of the murder of Baker?"

Could this "terrible retribution" be apprehended without any foundation, without good grounds for suspicion? Is there no insinuation here that a "political use" could be made of Sharp's murder, by way of retaliation? We shall see in the sequel how these hints of the *Argus* were improved.

It thus appears that Mr. Kendall undertakes to prove the "negative," and to impeach my veracity, by publishing a part, and not the whole evidence, forgetting or disregarding the maxim repeated and enjoined upon every witness, to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." I once heard of a defendant, who, to get a continuance, and delay a heavy judgment, swore that his most important witness was compelled that morning to take to his bed, and that he left the witness just as he started to court in such a situation that he must die before night, unless a change took place. The judge, supposing the witness to be taken dangerously and suddenly sick, continued the cause. The defendant's statement was literally

true, as far as it went; but when the whole truth came out, it appeared that he had seized the witness, and, by superior strength, thrown him on the bed, and then persuaded him to drink a mug of cider, so that the defendant might see him lying down, and in the act of swallowing, as he left the room for the court-house. The defendant inferred that the witness must die before night if he drank cider without ceasing, and therefore concluded he was safe in taking the oath and making the statement. But an honest jury found him guilty, and the judge passed sentence for perjury, when the vile trick and all the facts were fully brought to light. I leave the conduct of my assailant, in garbling and presenting only a part of the evidence, to be tried and sentenced by public opinion.

To bring this publication within a reasonable compass, I must lay before the Public, without comment, except in short notes, such other extracts from the *Argus* as will establish, beyond all doubt, the attempt, on the part of that paper, to connect the murder of Col. Sharp with the politics of the country, and thus to "stain the reputation" of the old Court party. It will be seen that Patrick H. Darby, the editor of the Constitutional Advocate,—a paper zealously engaged in support of the cause of the old Court party,—was suspected and charged as an accomplice. As Darby, through his paper, was to some extent the political organ of the party, the establishment of his guilt as an accomplice in the murder was well calculated to strengthen the suspicion that he was likewise the organ of the leaders of the same party, to the extent of his participation in the murder.

The *Argus*, of Nov. 30, 1825, contains an obituary and biographical notice of Col. Sharp, in which the following sentences are found:

"The motives which produced this mysterious murder are perfectly impenetrable."

"Notwithstanding the amiable manners of Col. Sharp, which always preserved him from personal altercation, the repugnance felt to his political views had called down upon him the most vindictive spirit of party animosity. It was excited to the highest by the energetic course he pursued in organizing the new Court of Appeals, and was particularly inflamed by the authority he exerted as Attorney General, in extorting from Mr. Sneed the office which he held against the law."

"It was his (Col. Sharp's) worth, his great value to the party with whom he stood connected, that made him obnoxious."

The *Argus*, of Jan. 25, 1826, gives quotations from other papers, relating to the murder of Col. Sharp; among them the following:

"We understand, says the Fredericktown Herald, that circumstances connected with the assassination of Col. Sharp, of Kentucky, render the transaction far less horrible in the eyes of justice, (however reprehensible it may be in a moral point of view), than it was at first apprehended. It was rumored that Sharp had seduced the wife of his supposed murderer."

The following is an extract from the editorial "remarks" made upon the above statement:

"We have good reason to believe that the whole story as to Col. Sharp is a fabrication, invented originally to shield others from public odium at his expense, and circulated now to afford a motive for the most atrocious murder the country has ever witnessed, different, probably, from the true one. Or, if this tale had any influence in producing the tragic event, it was in consequence of the most outrageous and groundless falsehoods industriously propagated by Col. Sharp's political enemies, in relation to his recent conduct towards that unfortunate woman."

"We do not intend to bias the public mind, by expressing an opinion as to Beauchamp's guilt or innocence, but there are circumstances enough to convince us that, if he be the murderer, he had accomplices. If, therefore, he was stimulated and driven forward by imaginary personal injuries, by what motive could he be actuated? Or, if he was not the murderer, what motive guided the ferocious hand? (1) We hope for, and we have some grounds to expect, further developments as to persons and motives in Beauchamp's final trial."

The following extracts are from the *Argus* of February 8, 1826:

"Darby, in his last Advocate, sums up all the evidence

(1) Politics! politics! was doubtless intended to be the answer suggested by these questions.

against Beauchamp, charged with the murder of Col. Sharp, including his own, and then leaves it to the People to say whether he is guilty."

"Why this effort to make the world believe that Beauchamp is guilty? If he be proved guilty, a jury will find him so, without being prepossessed by the *hearsays* of Dana,(1) or the testimony of Darby."

"What motive influences these men, it is impossible to tell with entire certainty. They are conscious of a general suspicion that *politics*, either directly or indirectly, had an agency in producing this murder. They know that their ravings at us for publishing what is the general impression of the country(2) produces no effect in allaying those impressions. It is possible they imagine that the conviction of Beauchamp will effect that object by fixing the murder on one, who they can make the Public believe, was influenced by other considerations. But they are mistaken. If Beauchamp was the murderer, he was stimulated to it by falsehood, purposely poured into his ears, in relation to the recent conduct of Col. Sharp. The circumstances which are said to have actuated him occurred many years ago, and were not in themselves sufficient to stimulate any man, however ferocious, to such a daring and dangerous deed.(3) If he be the murderer, he has been stimulated to it by busy and designing men, who have made him the instrument of their own vengeance. In fine, we are among the many thousands and tens of thousands who believe that *Col. Sharp would now have been living, if he had not been a candidate for the Legislature last year.*"

The Argus of March 22, 1826, contains an address to the Public of more than five columns, by Mrs. Sharp, vindicating the character of her husband against the charge of seduction, and stating various circumstances upon which she rests in exposing terms, that she suspected "Patrick Darby" as the chief instigator of the foul murder. Mrs. Sharp expresses the belief that the motives which led to the murder "were mingled with politics, professional rivalry, and private interest." After detailing the grounds of suspicion against Darby, she says: "I trust I have now been sufficiently explicit to prevent my suspicions from being any longer attached to the whole of a respectable party."

In regard to Mrs. Sharp's address, it is said, under the editorial head in the same paper:

"Discussions of this character are wrong in principle, and nothing but the course which Darby himself has pursued in relation to this matter would have opened our columns to its insertion. On the merits of the controversy the Public will be left to form their own opinions, without comment from us."(4)

In the very next Argus, of the 29th of March, the following may be found in a column of editorial matter, headed Mrs. Sharp:

"Dana considers the circumstances detailed by Mrs. Sharp *trifles light as air.* Well, let the Public judge. There are many who think they require explanation, at least. But Darby, in his last Advocate, does not deny one of them!"(5)

In the Argus of April 5, under the editorial head, the following may be found:

"Darby says he has '*satisfactory evidence*' that Mrs. Sharp's publication was written by Francis P. Blair, &c. But it is wholly immaterial who wrote it. Is it *true or false*? Darby says, '*not one word of it is true.*' We know better. Let him bring the suit which he threatens. *Shame and guilt* will then alight where they are deserved."(6)

The Argus of May 24th, speaking of Beauchamp's conviction, says:

"He (the judge) first fixed on Friday, the 16th day of June, for the execution; but the prisoner solicited longer time, alleging that he wished it, not on his own account, but for the purpose of writing some story to justify those whom he left behind him. His request was granted, and he was sentenced to be hanged on Thursday, the 7th day of July."

- (1) Mr. Dana was editor of a paper devoted to the cause of the old Court.
- (2) Who labored most to produce "the general impression?"
- (3) Why this attempt to produce "the general impression?" Was it to strengthen the idea that it was a political murder?
- (4) "The lady doth protest too much, methinks." *Hamlet.* "O, but she'll keep her word."
- (5) Call you this "without comment from us?"
- (6) Call you this "without comment from us?"

In the same paper, of May 24th, an article headed Darby is thus concluded:

"In relation to the murder, we have strong hopes now that motives which led to it will be fully developed. We shall be among the first to render justice, even to our enemy, if we have done him wrong, after such a development. Our confidence in arriving at the truth is the stronger, because the only hope Beauchamp can possibly entertain must rest on the extenuating circumstances, if any there were, which stimulated him to the dreadful deed."(1)

The Argus of May 31st says:

"Many rumors are afloat as to Beauchamp's confessions. Few of them, we believe, are entitled to confidence. It is certain, however, that he has confessed the crime, &c. We do not deem it proper to embody in this paper any of the thousand rumors we have heard, &c. A pamphlet, we are told, is in preparation, and will be immediately published, in which the Public will see his own account of the affair."

The same paper contains an article headed "Pat Darby," commencing thus:

"This man appears to be still writing with agitation and alarm. He seems to fear Beauchamp's confession as much as he did his escape. How else can his article in the last Commentator be accounted for? Why else does he seize upon some of our expressions the most harmless, and draw from them a conclusion that we are attempting to *bride* Beauchamp with the *boom of life* to implicate the old Court party in Sharp's murder?"

The following extract is from the same article:

"What fools Darby must think us, or rather what a graceless knave he is himself, to charge us with publicly offering pardon to Beauchamp through the Argus, on condition that he will make out a tale of calumny and falsehood against our political enemies! If we had the means and the disposition, should we go about such villainy so openly, and thus defeat our object? Should we not go to him privately, in the jail, and say, Give us a good story upon these men, and here is your pardon?"(2)

The Argus of June 7th says:

"Nothing can exceed the zeal and activity manifested by the organs of the old Court party, in manufacturing and circulating the foulest of all charges against the Governor and others who are engaged in attempting to defeat their schemes of ambition.(3) Rumors of Beauchamp's confession, tending to show that he was instigated to commit the horrid crime by misrepresentations made to him last summer relative to the conduct of Colonel Sharp towards his wife, have filled them with the most fearful trepidation.(4) To destroy, if possible, all confidence in the disclosures which Beauchamp may make, it is necessary that they should ascribe all he says to the hope of saving his life by ministering to party animosities. Hence, it is boldly said in the streets of Frankfort, and trumpeted through the country, that the Governor has promised him a pardon, if he will make out such a confession as will implicate his political adversaries; and it has even been asserted that one of the editors of this paper and Mr. Blair were engaged in writing a confession for him! We shudder at the depravity of those infuriated partisans who can entertain or express such suspicions," &c.(5)

(1) A pretty direct hint is here given that there is "*hope*" for Beauchamp, provided he can show the "extenuating circumstances" which "stimulated him." We shall see in the sequel the course which was taken as best calculated to tempt the offence.

(2) It is certain that Beauchamp did contemplate making "a good story" for political effect, and that he expected to be benefited by it. The evidence of this will be given; but the Argus never "*publicly*" and "*openly*" offered pardon for such a story; and if Darby made that charge against the Argus, he erred.

(3) Their "ambition" was, to have a constitutional Government; to have some settled and fixed principles; and to enforce contracts according to the laws under which they were made.

(4) Were these "misrepresentations" the "extenuating circumstances," or some of them, which might furnish Beauchamp with reasons to "hope" for pardon?

(5) If the organs of the old Court party were zealous and active in their efforts to destroy "the confidence in the disclosures" of Beauchamp, the base "rumors" of which created the "most fearful trepidation," were not the organs of the new Court party equally active to prepare the Public for believing the "disclosures?" How did you expect "motives would be fully developed," except by getting Beauchamp to speak, and believing what he said?

The Argus of June 14th says:

"Our readers now have before them all that appeared in evidence on the trial of Beauchamp, and the examination of his wife. (The Argus had published the evidence.) In the trial nothing was developed which could throw the least light on the motives of the murderer, or lead the mind to a conclusion whether he had an accomplice or not. (1) In the examination some things are stated, which tend to show that the motive of the murderer was an old injury done to Beauchamp's wife, and that he had no accomplice. (2) Our minds hesitate in giving assent to the truth of either of these positions, and we deem it proper briefly to give our reasons." (3)

I will not repeat the editor's reasons. With all my anxiety to shorten this address, it will necessarily enlarge itself by the insertion of other important extracts and papers.

The Argus of the 28th June says:

"The Western Citizen asks five questions, to which the editor requests answers; we will give them." (The answer to the fifth question is given in these words:) "The writer of this heard a gentleman tell the Governor that Beauchamp said it was the design of his accomplice or accomplices, that the Governor and one or two others should be taken off on the same night with Sharp; that he was requested to delay the murder of Sharp until Monday night; (4) that arrangements might be made for that purpose, which he refused to do; and that his companion in the murder wished him to kill the Governor after killing Sharp, on the same night. Moreover, the Governor and one other prominent new Court man, in Frankfurt, were warned about the time of the election last year, that designs were formed against their lives; but they paid little attention to the information." (5)

The Argus of July the 5th makes quotations from the "Spirit of Seventy-Six," or, as the Argus styled that paper by way of ridicule, the "Spirit of Seven and Six;" from these quotations it appears that an article in the "Spirit of Seventy-Six" used the following language in reference to the new Court party, or its advocates:

"You and your clerks for demolishing one department of the Government, and introducing a revolution, ought to be hung or exiled, if crimes be punished according to their grade."

In reference to which the Argus says:

"The old Court party ought to excuse us for suspecting that some of their violent men had some concern in stimulating the murder of Col. Sharp, when they allow themselves to publish to the world such sentiments as these in relation to the living." (6)

The Argus of July 12 contains Mr. Kendall's "Narrative of the attempts made by the late J. O. Beauchamp to procure a pardon," &c. From this "Narrative" I make the following extracts:

"Final sentence was pronounced on Beauchamp on Monday, the 23d of May. On the next morning, if I mistake not,

(1) Consequently, nothing, so far, has appeared which can militate against the design of making it a political assassination, and implicating Darby as an accomplice.

(2) This sentence contradicts the preceding. In the first, it is affirmed there was "nothing developed" to explain "motives," or lead to a conclusion whether or not there was an accomplice. In the second it is admitted that "some things" were stated tending to show the "motives," and that the murderer had no accomplice.

(3) Still anxious to prove there was no "motive" for the murderer growing out of an injury done to Beauchamp's wife, and to keep up the idea that there was an accomplice, notwithstanding "some things" were stated tending to show the contrary.

(4) The murder was committed Sunday night.

(5) Here is a statement given on the authority of Beauchamp (and corroborated by the circumstances of a warning as far back as the election in 1825, to wit, in August of that year) tending to prove that there was a gang of political assassins in the country, bent on the murder of the Governor and others. The inference intended from all this was: Sharp is the first victim. Well, as you have made a witness of Beauchamp, when I use him, I hope you will not attempt to discredit your own witness.

(6) You did "suspect some of their violent men," did you? In the Argus of November 16, it is said: "We neither entertain such a suspicion, nor intended to make such an insinuation." There is an old adage which says, persons of a certain description ought to have very good memories.

I received from him the following letter, left at the Argus office by his uncle, J. Beauchamp. (Then follows a copy of the letter requesting Mr. Kendall to advocate the extension of mercy) to him: The Narrative then proceeds: "I read the letter and determined to pay no attention to it. On the evening of the same day, the uncle called on me and told me confidentially, that his nephew had confessed the crime, and related the circumstances which led to and accompanied it; many of which he detailed to me, without giving me the name of any person implicated by him, but stating generally, that Col. Sharp owed his death to his activity in wresting the papers of the old Court of Appeals from the former Clerk, and that his nephew said, if he were at liberty he could establish the whole by incontestable evidence." (1)

"I told the old gentleman, that it was in vain to expect the interference of the Executive, which appeared to be the object, unless the country petitioned for the pardon of his nephew; that now the impression was almost universal that he was guilty, and that under this state of public opinion, without a circumstance known to the world to palliate his crime, the Governor would not, ought not, and dare not interfere; that if he intended to appeal to his country for mercy, it was necessary that he should first appeal to that country by confessing to it the crime itself, and the motives which led him to commit it; that if it should be proved by him, that he had received deadly injury from Col. Sharp, or had been deluded into the crime by misrepresentations as to his conduct, he would die with the world's sympathy, if nothing more; that convicted as he was, without an extenuating circumstance, the truth could do him good, because he must have been actuated by some powerful motive which the world would appreciate." (2)

"The impression made upon my mind was one of suspicion that young Beauchamp had operated on the prejudices of his uncle by a false tale for the purpose of influencing the Governor through his friends to grant him a pardon." (3)

"The apprehension that there was deep design at the bottom of this tale, was so strong on my mind, that on seeing the Governor as I passed out of the office door, I determined to communicate my fears to him, although I was bound by an injunction of confidence not to speak of the matters disclosed to me by Mr. Beauchamp." (4)

The "Narrative" states that on the 8th of June the jailor handed to the Governor a letter from J. O. Beauchamp, bearing date the 5th of that month, which letter says:

"I am preparing an appeal to my country for its mercy, to mitigate its sentence of death upon me, and to suffer me to go into perpetual exile. I will not appeal to your excellency for an exercise of the high prerogative of pardon, unless I can first gain the voice of my country in my behalf." Beauchamp solicits a reprieve in the letter, until after the election, so that time might be allowed for collecting evidence and submitting his Appeal to the People; and near the close he says, "I wish to know frank-

(1) Let it be remembered that on the 23d of May, in the evening of that day, Mr. Kendall was "confidentially" informed that Beauchamp had confessed his guilt.

(2) Consider well the opinions here expressed, and then see how exactly Beauchamp attempted to carry them out in practice. Shortly after, he prepared a letter to the Governor, telling him of the "Appeal to the People" he was preparing, and asking time till "after the election!" See how he intended to show that he was "deluded into the crime by" Patrick H. Darby! Look at the title page of the pamphlet lodged in the Clerk's office on the 17th day of June, to secure the copy-right. Remember, the Argus of 31st May said: "A pamphlet, we are told, is in preparation, and will be immediately published," &c. These things show that Beauchamp intended to secure the "world's sympathy, if nothing more," and that he thought he would secure something more, to wit, his life, by playing a political game for the new Court party.

(3) Here is a confession on the 12th of July, after Beauchamp had been executed, that Mr. Kendall, as early as the 23d of May, had a "suspicion" that young Beauchamp had operated on the prejudices of his uncle by a false tale; "and yet we find no 'suspicions' expressed in the Argus during the month of June, that Beauchamp was about to operate in his 'Appeal to the People' by a 'false tale';" on the contrary, in the Argus of June the 7th, there is a manifest leaning in favor of the truth of the "confession" which filled the organs of the old Court with such "fearful trepidation."

(4) A confidential "injunction" is violated to tell the Governor of the "deep design at the bottom of this tale," and yet there is no warning of the Public in the Argus.

ly, whether I have any thing to hope as to the extension of the time set for my execution."

"To this application, (says the 'Narrative,') the Governor gave no immediate answer."

"On the 4th of July (says the Narrative) young Beauchamp caused an application to be made to the Governor through his uncle for a respite of thirty days; but the Governor still made no reply."

"After nine o'clock on that night (July 5th) the Governor received in bed the following letter, brought by the uncle:

"The petition of J. O. Beauchamp, to his excellency Joseph Desha, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.— Your petitioner and suppliant prays a respite of the sentence of the law upon me for thirty days, for the sole purpose of completing the publication which he has nearly completed, giving a full and minute account of all the causes which led to, and the circumstances which attended the assassination of Col. Sharp, and for the purpose of better preparing his soul to meet the forgiveness of Almighty God, &c. 'I do humbly pray your excellency to apprise me frankly to-night whether you will grant me the respite I pray.'"

The "Narrative" says, the Governor told the uncle that "He could look upon the letter in no other light than an attempt to induce him to grant the desired respite, by the advantages he was to receive from the young man's publication. [1] The old gentleman, on his return from the Governor's, was heard to say to his nephew, that the Governor refused to interfere, and he must prepare to die."

The "Narrative" relates Beauchamp's acquittal of Darby thus:

"Just as they were ready to start (to the gallows) he (Beauchamp) said, in a severe tone, 'I want to see Darby.' He was asked what he wanted of Darby. He said 'I want to acquit him.' Darby soon made his appearance beside the dearborn, and Beauchamp, smiling, held out his hand to him; but Darby declined taking it. 'Mr. Darby,' said Beauchamp, 'I felt as if I wanted to acquit you to your face before I die. You are certainly innocent of any participation in the murder of Col. Sharp; but you were guilty of base perjury on my trial. I do not believe you would take a bribe, but certain it is, you were guilty of a vile perjury, and I cannot conceive your motive.'"

Beauchamp having acquitted Darby, the Argus, believing the witness, adds its acquittal in these words:

"In justice to ourselves we do not hesitate to say that we believe this man (Darby) innocent of any participation in the murder of Col. Sharp. This, we say, not to conciliate his friendship, or deprecate his vengeance. We scorn the one, and defy the other. But we say it, because *it is just*. He owes our suspicions, and those of thousands, to his own inconsistent statements and mad conduct."

I shall present to the Public no other extracts from the Argus. I will now give a few of Beauchamp's statements taken from his confession, as printed after his execution:

In pages 38 and 39, he says: "I thought if I could get off without being arrested, (viz. leave Frankfort,) possibly they might not send for me, seeing they had no shadow of evidence against me. And this I the more hoped, if the diversion should be created in my favor, which I foresee and intended should arise, from suspicions of Col. Sharp's having been murdered from political motives. I knew there would be a great clamor of this kind raised," &c.

Page 58, he says: "While, therefore, the excitement was kept up against the old Court party, to the clearing of me, I prided myself secretly on my foresight and success in so planning the murder, as to the time, as to raise this diversion in my favor; and had for a time very little fear but that I should thereby escape. And I should have done so, but for a turn in the current of popular excitement, which was as unlooked for, and as unprovided for by me, as the burning of Moscow was to Bonaparte. This was the uniting of me and the old Court party together, and making me their instigator. This united the Sharp, the new Court party, the old Court party; in short, all parties and all orders upon me, without a diversion in my favor for any quarter! This proved fatal to me, and this alone. I had looked for and foreseen and provided for every thing but

[1] It seems that Beauchamp, in all his efforts to get an explicit and direct answer from the Governor, could not succeed. The communication which his uncle made him on his return from the Governor, seems to be an inference, rather than the delivery of a direct answer to the petition which had been presented.

this. All this was done by Amos Kendall and the new Court leaders."

"This union of the old Court party and me the new Court party effected, by connecting me with one Patrick H. Darby, who had edited an old Court paper in Frankfort, called the Constitutional Advocate."

Page 79, he says: "The new Court faction attempted to strengthen the suspicion of my connexion with Darby, by the testimony of the town watch, or some street walkers, going in the character of a patrol. One of them was of those who were interested in the reward. (1) He proved by two others that they met me a little while before the murder, going right to Darby's office. (2) But we examined them separately, and thereby detected them."

Page 88, he says: "The connexion of Darby and me together united all parties against me; and this, too, made Darby use every effort in his power against me, in order to prove me guilty without him. For all the world united upon Darby and me, some saying one done it, and some that the other done it, and many that both done it. But our mutual sin was to prove, the one that the other was guilty alone, and thereby clear himself. I at one time got the better of Darby, and would sooner have risked my chance than his. For I succeeded to make it prevail pretty generally, for a time, that one or the other was simply guilty, from the absurdity of the thing in itself, that if we had been accomplices he should have turned against me. This was the point I wished to gain; for, severed from him, I had now nothing to fear. For, although the heads of the new Court faction were well satisfied of my guilt, and were equally well satisfied of Darby's innocence, yet I knew, if the question were put simply which of the two was guilty, they would always cry Darby, and so far excite their faction in the country to the same leaning that I could escape through a jury of that faction."

Page 101, he says: "I have now to bid adieu to this world, To-night my beloved wife and myself will lie down in each other's arms, and sleep our long sleep. (3) I have a thousand duties to my God and to my friends, crowding upon me to-day. The evening draws to a close, and I wish to abstract my mind from external engagements, that I may enjoy with my wife the luxury of contemplating in our happy exit from this world, as the destined moment approaches, when we shall launch together into a happier scene. But I must stay one moment to do an act of justice to my memory."

"After all the intrigues which had been concerted to impute Col. Sharp's death to political motives had failed, from its intrinsic absurdity, and I had been completely convicted, there was still another effort made to establish that falsehood upon the old Court party, through me. I had reason to believe Governor Desha would probably extend to me a pardon, or respite, if I would confess and accuse several of his political opponents of being my accomplices. It was wanted that Achilles Sneed and John U. Waring should be brought in as having both been to my house, and instigated me; but mostly it was insisted upon that Waring should be accused. They wished me to say there had been a combination amongst the leaders of the old Court party, to assassinate the Governor, and several of the most prominent supporters of his Administration. (4) I would not do this for these reasons: The Governor would not secure me his pardon by writing, but wished me to go to the gallows, and there to hazard the execution solemnly maintaining my statements, and he would then pardon me. I therefore suspected his design was to deceive me, and I was determined not to risk dying on the gallows. I knew such a wicked and foolish and absurd fabrication would not be believed, and would only be charged at once upon Governor Desha, and he would not then have the firmness to pardon me. Besides, I could not reconcile to myself a hazard of the execution of mankind for so false and cruel an accusation against men who had never injured me, and of those they wished me to accuse, and then probably die with the contempt of the world, like a cowardly wretch, upon a gibbet. I,

(1) The reward of \$3,000 offered by the State for the apprehension of the murderer.

(2) The names of these persons are given, but I have thought it useless and perhaps improper to name them.

(3) He evidently alludes here to the intention to take laudanum, which they did; but took it in such quantities that it did not produce death.

(4) This statement, had Beauchamp made it, would have been used as a confirmation of the truth of the story got up in the Argus of June the 25th, that "the Governor and one other prominent new Court man in Frankfort were warned, about the time of the election last year, that designs were formed against their lives."

however, agreed to do thus far, and accordingly did it. I accused Mr. Darby, who had sworn a falsehood against me, and promised, so soon as I was pardoned, to accuse any body named, alleging I had before my pardon divulged it to several, but was afraid of enraging the old Court party by coming out fully. They therefore stated, in my publication, which I prepared against Darby, that that was not a full disclosure, but that the limited time set for my execution, and other reasons, prevented me from publishing a full account of the murder at that time."

The following is the title page of the forthcoming pamphlet alluded to in the Argus of May 31st, but which was never published, so far as I know or believe: "Beauchamp's Confession: being an account of the most important circumstances which led to and attended the murder of Col. Solomon P. Sharp, who was assassinated in Frankfort, Kentucky, on the night preceding the commencement of the session of the Legislature of 1825, by one PATRICK HENRY DARBY and JEREBOM O. BEAUCHAMP; written by said Beauchamp immediately on being condemned to die for the murder." [1]

The above was filed in the Clerk's office, and the copyright secured, on the 17th of June, 1826. This pamphlet was doubtless intended to contain a confession of the crime, and the motives which led to its commission, to show that he had been deluded by Darby, to exhibit all the extenuating circumstances, and to operate as an appeal to the People. It was to furnish the foundation for Executive interposition in a manner conformable to the opinions expressed by Mr. Kendall in the interview with J. Beauchamp, the uncle. At least such is my inference from the facts. The scheme was assaulted in such manner as to render it ridiculous and abortive, and it was never carried into execution.

The following is a copy of the moulding and touching letter addressed by Mr. Kendall to Jeroboam Beauchamp, the uncle, the allusion to which has involved me in this controversy:

"FRANKFORT, JULY 10, 1826.

DEAR SIR: You have no conception of the abuse heaped upon you by the old Court party here. You are openly and everywhere charged with promising your nephew a pardon upon condition that he would implicate Darby and the old Court party, and this fellow intends trying to prove it upon you for the purpose of enhancing his claim for damages against you. [2.] It becomes you as well as me to use every effort to counteract the efforts of this fiend. Would it not be well for you to give notice for the taking of depositions in Tennessee on the same day that we have, and get some agent to attend to it? Fidele C. Sharp will act for us, but I suppose there can be no concert between you and him. I was anxious to see you before you left town, and make you a suggestion of great importance to yourself as well as some others. I never placed reliance on the truth of your nephew's declarations in relation to Darby, and waited for the last scene to fix my opinion [3.] Yet I had no doubt that you believed its entire truth. From the temper with which your nephew lived and died, I should not be surprised if he has left that among his papers which directly or indirectly charges you or others with improper practices in relation to his pardon. [4.] He has exonerated the jailer, and written an article of thanks to him, and there is no other man but yourself through whom communications could be interchanged between your nephew in jail and any person out. They will say, as they do already, that you have been the instrument of such a correspondence. [5]

[1] The above copy was taken from Darby's defence, and not obtained officially from the Clerk's office; but I have no doubt it is correct. Where is this "confession"? What has become of it? Why was it not printed?

[2] Darby had instituted suits against Mr. Kendall, Mrs. Sharp, and Mr. J. Beauchamp, the uncle, and perhaps Doctor Sharp also, for alleged libels or slander.

[3] If you "never" believed these "declarations," why make the publications in the Argus tending to implicate and goad Darby?

[4] Oh! what a deduction from premises is here! Judging from his "temper," he has probably left charges against the living of "improper practices in relation to his pardon." Were there no other facts known to the writer, which created this apprehension of "charges"?

[5] The extracts already printed prove that Mr. J. Beauchamp, the uncle, was the instrument of communication, to some extent, between his nephew in jail and those without.

You know, and I know so far as respects myself, that the whole story is false. [1.] Yet if there be any thing in your nephew's papers calculated to convey this impression, [2] it will operate almost to your ruin, and much to the injury of others. [3.] Nothing could more gratify Darby or aid him in his suits. Now I charge you as you value your reputation and your property to see your brother and obtain a perusal of those papers, and do not take a refusal from him, but insist on it as a matter of right, inasmuch as you have been his most devoted and most active friend. [4.] On a [sight] of the papers you will know what is prudent. [5.]

"I contemplate making out a narrative of your nephew's last moments, in which I should like to obtain the aid of yourself and brother. I have not a sufficient acquaintance with your brother to address him, but you may assure him that I have no political views in this publication. Nay, if he chooses to aid me, and, as far as he thinks proper, give me the use of his son's papers, and a narrative of his intercourse with him, I will not make the publication until after the election. [6.] Indeed, in case he intends to publish any part of his son's confession, it will go better to the world accompanied by the narrative I contemplate; and I am willing to unite with him, do all the writing and printing, mould the whole to his mind, and share the profits with him. I can secure it an extensive sale in the East as well as the West, and probably it will not lose in its interest by having been touched by my pen. [7.]

"Whatever you do, do not fail to see your brother and get a sight of those papers, if you have to ride to your brother's house for it. [8.] It is of more importance to you than you probably think. Write me immediately.

"Your friend, AMOS KENDALL."

Mr. Jeroboam Beauchamp may or may not have had access to his nephew's papers after his death. Certain it is he has not prevented the publication of the charges directly made by the nephew, that some persons wished him to say, "there had been a combination amongst the leaders of the old Court party to assassinate the Governor and several of the most prominent supporters of his Administration;" that "he had reasons to believe Gov. Desha would probably extend to him a pardon or respite, if he would confess and accuse several of his political opponents;" that the Governor would not commit himself "by writing;" &c. Whether Mr. Kendall was of the number of those that instigated Beauchamp to charge Darby as an accomplice, and wished him to go further, and charge "a combination

[1.] What "story" in reference to yourself are you thus declaring to be "false"?

[2.] What "impression"? Do you mean the offer of a pardon as the price of a good political tale?

[3.] Verily the tables seem to be turned. Beauchamp's "papers" now produce with you a "trepidation" as "fearful" as that attributed to the "organs of the old Court party" in the Argus of June 7th, as the result of "rumors of Beauchamp's confession."

[4.] Was any thing ever more importunate?

[5.] Is this the "suggestion of great importance" hinted at in the commencement? What would have been "prudent"? Would it have been "prudent" to place them in the condition in which *fire* has placed some of our Treasury and Post Office papers?

[6.] The reader will perceive that I spoke in commendation of Mr. Kendall's report as Postmaster General. I said it was a "model" which might be beneficially imitated by other Departments." At this moment the words "mould and touch," used in this letter, came into my mind, and I said what I still believe, that he knew how "to mould and touch" a composition as well as any other man." I was called on to explain. I knew that the letter related to Beauchamp's confessions. I recollected, generally, the course pursued by the Argus, and without discrimination at the time, I applied the letter, or rather gave it a relation to the "confessions" prepared to implicate Darby, to the pamphlet, the title page of which had been filed in the Clerk's office. On the receipt of Mr. Kendall's note I conversed with some of my colleagues, ascertained my mistake, and made the correction in the presence of the House, where I had committed the error.

[7.] Thomas Beauchamp, the father, a firm and respectable citizen, was an old Court man, and hence probably the protestation that nothing "political" was intended, and that the publication might be postponed "until after the election."

[8.] Mr. J. Beauchamp lived in Washington county, Thomas Beauchamp lived in Simpson county, about 100 miles from him.

amongst the leaders of the old Court party to assassinate the Governor and others" and whether Mr. Kendall furnished any of the "reasons" which induced Beauchamp to believe that the Governor "would probably extend to him a pardon or respite if he would confess and accuse," are questions about which the Public will form its opinion upon the evidence. If the publication of the evidence should—to use the language of Mr. Kendall's letter—"operate almost to your ruin, and much to the injury of others," so be it; I cannot help it.

The *moulding and touching* letter declares that the writer had "no political views" in regard to the publication he contemplated. To secure it "an extensive sale" East and West, and to "share the profits," seem to be the avowed objects. If Thomas Beauchamp, Esq. the father, had united with Mr. Kendall in making his "narrative" and the "son's confession" a joint concern, as proposed, would it not have been very probable, in the process of *moulding and touching*, that so much of the confession as relates to the schemes of the new Court leaders, to use the son as a tool, to subvert party purposes, would have been suppressed? Was not such a suppression the "suggestion of great importance," to make which Mr. Kendall was so "anxious to see" Mr. J. Beauchamp before he "left town?" Mr. J. Beauchamp was a warm and active partisan in support of the new Court party. The argument in favor of suppression would have been, the pamphlet will offend the new Court leaders if this offensive matter is retained, and it will not sell as well; therefore let us strike it out. Thomas Beauchamp, Esq. as a firm and honest man should have done, gave his son's confession to the world without mutilation. The only political use which could have been made of the confession at the time this letter was written, so far

as Mr. Kendall's friends were concerned, was to withhold its contents until after the election.

I have now presented such evidence as proves, I think beyond all doubt, that I did Mr. Kendall no injustice in charging that "insinuations appeared in the *Argus* imputing the crime (of Sharp's murder) to the old Court party or their advocates." I trust that I have shown by the record, that my memory was not "sadly bedimmed" in speaking of these old transactions. I applied the *moulding and touching* letter to the *confession* which was to be fabricated, the title page of which was filed in the Clerk's office on the 17th of June. In that I was mistaken. I corrected the mistake as soon as I could, after being satisfied that I was mistaken, because "it was just," and not because I feared Mr. Kendall's "lash." The insinuation to that effect deserves no notice further than the expression of my contempt.

In reviving these old transactions, I have abstained as far as possible from wounding the feelings of the highly respectable families connected with and related to the dead. I am fully sensible that it must give them pain to see these things again made the subject of discussion; and, out of respect to them, I would most willingly have avoided it. But I could not, through a fastidious delicacy towards them, remain silent; and allow a publication representing me as "fabricating and propagating a most atrocious calumny" to go unanswered, when it was in my power to repel the charge with success.

This publication would have appeared earlier, but for the necessity of writing to Kentucky for several papers and documents, which has occasioned delay.

J. R. UNDERWOOD.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 15, 1838.