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CONGRESS.

House of Representatives,

Monday, April 7.

SPANISH AFFAIRS.

Debate on the motion of Mr. J. Randolph to publish the President's message.

(CONCLUDED.)

Mr. J. RANDOLPH. It is not my wish, sir, to speak, to trespass, on the patience of the House. But I think it necessary to explain what I am sorry the House has not well understood; for my position has been grossly perverted, whether intentionally, or not, I will not undertake to say. Gentlemen appeared to me, in a very strange & unwarrantable light, I have yet to give credit to a private individual as to a conversation had with the head of departments, relative to this subject. I only stated that conversation as a reason for saying that I had withdrawn my confidence. And will gentlemen say I was bound, on evidence so come to my private knowledge, which is sufficient to damn any man, in public or in a principle of confidence. When I had misrepresentations of my conduct and insinuations of the most despicable kind on this floor, I come now, and call on any man to show what I have stated, they cannot—they dare not—for I take it for granted no man will be found, on the face of the earth, to affirm it. But while gentlemen will not give credit to what has fallen from me individual, they have no hesitation in giving credit to what has fallen from the head of the department. When the executive say he has a right to the country, the question is whether, we are to believe that gentleman, or, you will give them money to buy the country, in other words, to buy people by us. Has the contrary, the government had shown the validity of the claim of Spain, I should not, perhaps, have hesitated to give the money, I do not absolutely say that I should. While gentlemen say the opinion of an individual is not to be asked for, they justify the government by that opinion, at the same time that the government tell us, (perhaps, hereafter, said gentlemen will justify the government in its proceedings on the principles avowed by it, and not on principles of a hostile nature.)

As my opinion is of the first importance that the message should be published, I mention a fact which took place in the House. A member in his place said, that the course pursued by a particular individual was consonant with the secret wishes of the executive. I did then represent, in language as the most unconstitutional & reprehensible, ever uttered in this House, I did believe that the people of the U. S. were not a free people, and that we were British people, & I had hoped it over; I have the much language had to the British Parliament been considered as reprehensible, and had brought forward a vote of censure in that body. I asked leave to the case where the king's name was used for purposes of influence. Mr. Fox's leg is lost. I then represented this back stair influence, this double dealing, this intriguing, as set forth in the journals and newspapers, and asked, if there were to be a British House, it should be always responsible such language, and of this it was not a single man, hoping, as I said, that the British people, if