To the Honorable, the Members of the General Assembly.

GENTLEMEN:

I am as sensible as any other man can possibly be, of the delicacy of appearing before you in a hand bill; and I do honestly declare, that the necessity which now drives me to this course, is a subject of deep regret. Col. M'Kinley, in his second publication has said, "the present contest, (meaning the election for U. S. Senator,) has brought about a system of electioneering, of a character never witnessed before in any country." While I readily concede to Col. M'Kinley a more intimate acquaintance with the secrets of the canvass, (if any such there be,) than I myself can venture to lay claim to, I might be permitted to say, that not the least remarkable feature in that extraordinary system, is the attack which he has "felt bound" to make upon me, under the pretext of vindicating himself. To exhibit his character in its true light, is the privilege of any man, whether in a public or private capacity; but surely it will be expected of those who seek to obtain the credit of so laudable a motive, that they should confine themselves to the legitimate purposes of defence; or at least turn their weapons against those only who have assailed them. What is the fact? Col. M'Kinley finding himself driven to the necessity of defending his public acts, from allegations urged by others, endeavors to evade their force by shifting the ground of controversy to subjects wholly irrelevant; and for this purpose, he resorts to a speech of Maj. Hubbard, which had been published for months previous, as a pretext for unceremoniously dragging MY NAME before the public. Not content, however, with this achievement of controversial skill, he has recourse to the adroitness of a special pleader, and endeavors to make the subject of Marshal for the Northern District of Alabama, a prominent, if not the only point in issue between us.

When his first famous handbill was published, containing what I knew to be uncandid statements of the conversation which had occurred between us on this subject, I was prompted by the feeling of the moment to reply; and then had the accompanying address printed; but having been assured by several friends whose opinion I was bound to respect, that his artifice in attempting to bring the names of Gen. Jackson, Coffee, Col. King, &c. into review with his own, would be easily understood, and believing also, that the station I occupied seemed to forbid this mode of canvass, I determined to stop the publication. But Col. M'Kinley having thought proper again to assail me, and "having charged me with the publication of his private correspondence," with the unfounded insinuation, "that it was withheld with a view of being used in his absence," it has become my imperious duty to exhibit the address as printed, and ask your candid perusal, in order that you may appreciate justly the ground of his complaint; from which it will appear that his charge is utterly destitute of foundation. It is true, however, that I read parts of some of his letters to three or four gentlemen, one of whom was his known friend. This was made necessary for my justification, by reason of his having given a mutilated detail of a private conversation, which had occurred in the town of Huntsville, and also to explain his views in relation to an important public matter, connected with the interest of a respectable portion of the citizens of the State. Although these letters were private they *were not confidential*, nor were they relative to private matters, but in relation to public measures; and surely Col. McKinley does not wish as *Senator*, to urge his opinions upon me to influence Executive recommendations, and then shrink from the responsibility of these opinions. He also insists on my exhibiting a letter I have received from the President. For what purpose can he desire that I should expose Gen. Jackson's letter? Cannot the Col. risk his claims for re-election upon his own intrinsic merit, and his public services? Does he wish to invoke the aid of Gen. Jackson in support of his pretensions? Or is he determined to convince every one that he is a true Jacksonian and has supported all the measures of his administratihn, except the most *important one, the veto message?*

The Col. however is not the keeper of my conscience or honor, and although he may give *his* consent, that I should expose Gen. Jackson's private correspondence, yet as the Gen. has not given such license, I must be permitted to differ with him on this point of etiquette. Whence, may I ask, does the Col. derive his *right to control the private correspondence of Gen. Jackson?* Is it from participating in his services, or from an approbation of that patriotic policy, in the furtherance of which Gen. Jackson was a material and well tried instrument? Where was the Col. when Gen. Jackson won the laurels which now adorn his brow? Was he engaged in support of that contest for which he now seems to have so great a regard?

But Col. McKinley in his second hand bill production, renews the subject of Marshal of the Northern District, calls me Dictator &c. and again introduces in connexion with his own, the names of Gen. Jackson, Coffee, Col. King, and the patriotic services rendered by Mr Pattison during the late war. Now it is believed that this is a connexion of names, not authorized by a unity of action between the men, either in the military or political history of the country, and the attempt at such connexion at this time for electioneering effect, is an artifice too shallow to require exposure.

But Col. McKinley having deemed it convenient for his purpose to overlook every other objection which has been urged against his official or public conduct, except that in relation to the part he bore in the appointment of Marshal, and has thus made it a subject on which some may feel interested to know the truth, I shall with frankness and candor lay before you some other facts, which, when attentively considered, will leave I think but little room for hesitation as to the light in which that matter ought to be viewed.

Although this has been but a secondary consideration, and altogether of a private character, yet if the *Col.* chooses to risk his hopes of success upon a true developement of facts, they shall be most frankly and unreservedly set forth. It is true I experienced no little chagrin and mortification towards him on account of this matter, not for the reasons which he so unfairly and improperly indicates; but because it proved the want of fidelity and sincerity in the professions of friendship he had often reiterated. Young Mr Moore had received the appointment the year before; had travelled some distance in order to meet the Judge of the District Court, to give bond and be qualified. In consequence of the appointment's being made prematurely, it was recalled. Last year he was again an applicant, and previous to the final passage of the law authorising the appointment, I received a communication from Col. M Kinley stating, that a letter had been shewn him in the city of Washington, *but from whom received and in whose possession he could not reveal*, and which he had no doubt would be shewn to the President. That the letter referred to stated, "Young Mr Moore has been one of the President's enemies," and *expressed some fears that this might defeat his prospects; but said, he would endeavor to keep the subject off until an opportunity was afforded for the transmission of letters or other documents denying this slander.* These letters were procured and transmitted to him, but before time had been given for their arrival, Col. M'Kinley *himself*, moved the Senate to take up this subject, which was at *his* instance thus disposed of; and the young man deprived of the opportunity of exonerating himself from an imputation so fatal to his interests. Col. M'Kinley afterwards acknowledges the receipt of the documents, which he stated were amply sufficient to free the young man from any imputation on that score, and had placed him on proper ground, or as I believe his language was, "on elevated ground," but too late; the appointment having been already made. With these facts before them, in connexion with those contained in the accompanying publication, will a candid public say, I accused Col. M'Kinley wrongfully, in charging him with an act of private treachery? Why was it that *he could not reveal* the author or possessor of the letter fated to do so much mischief? And why did he so certainly give effect to the poison of a letter, whose *origin and end are destined to remain forever unknown*, by bringing the contest to an issue before the antidote he had asked for could be furnished? Why, after promising to protract the appointment, was he the voluntary cause of bringing it on prematurely?

But this is a private matter, and I should never have thought of troubling you with this complaint against a false friend, if he had not dragged me into a relation of the case. If its true history is unpalatable, the Col. must lay the blame to his own temerity. I have but a word more to say in conclusion. I cannot but think it difficult to persuade an intelligent public that a contest embracing great and important principles, was either created or sustained by personal considerations—and in the present instance it is well known, that the opposition to his re-election existed long before the occurrence of those circumstances to which he has chosen to attribute it.

I am with high regard,
Most respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
GABRIEL MOORE.

November 30, 1830.

Jaime Coffee
Care of Jott
"Weekly" &
Florence Gazette
Mr. George