Letter from John Quincy Adams—The Coalition.
The following letter from John Quincy Adams,
now first published in the Journal of Commerce.

now first published in the Journal of Commerce, is especially interesting from the remarkable freedom of its comments on the political events of his own time, in which he bore so conspicuous a part:

WASHINGTON, Friday, April 16, 1836.
ROBERT WALSH, Esq., Philadelphia.

My Dear Sir:—An article in the National Gazette,

some weeks since, indicating the hand of your son, gave me the first intelligence of the long and distressing illness with which you have been afflicted, and from which I lament to learn that your convalencence is yet so incomplete as to leave you disabled for writing but by the hand of your daughter. It is still an immense consolation, upon which I heartily congratulate you, that you have the benefit of such an assistant. May she long be preserved to render you the same service when needed; and may you soon, for a long, long season, cease to need the service.

As to the materials for the sequel of my life and adventures since the period when I was a candidate for the

office of president of the United States, I scarcely know

how to point them out to you. At the election of 1825, as you know, there were four candidates—three of whom were returned to the House of Representatives-besides a fifth who had sunk by his own weight into the secondary rank of an aspirant to the Vice Presidency—in which he succeeded for the moment, by the ruin of his after-prospects, I believe for ever. My election was effected in the House by the junction of the fourth and excluded candidate's supporters with mine, and that operation produced the subsequent failure of my re-election, the triumphal elevation of my successor, and the irretrievable disappointment of him who had, as a last resource, linked his political fortunes with mine, but who, from that hour was deserted and betrayed by his own party. They gained the coalition of the three preceding disappointed candidates, and thus left me at the election of 1528, to my own solitary strength. That remained unimpaired, but was unequal to the contest with the united power of the four parties combined against me, and I fell. The four parties, defeated by my election in 1825, were all as adverse to each other at that time as the four parties constituting the Whigs are at present.

mocracy were Crawfordites, and they had made a Congressional caucus nomination of him, but in the Electoral Colleges they had been able to muster only the votes of four States, and that was the sum total of his vote in the House. Had the Kentucky delegation obeyed the instructions of their Legislature, and voted for Jackson at the first ballot, the whole Crawford vote would have been for me at the second. After the election, they went in a mass over to Jackson, and have ever since constituted his principal strength, They gave him Democracy, Virginia and Van Buren.

The first three years of my Administration were occupied in settling the proportion of the spoils between the coalescing parties. The West was bought with the promised plunder of the public lands, a part of the bargain not yet entirely consummated. The South, by the un-

hallowed sacrifice of the Indians, some of the fruits of which we are now enjoying. Internal improvement, the manufacturing interests, and free labor were sold for Southern machinery, State-right paper money and a simple machine—the colonial trade, the Panama mission, and the bargain, were tubs for the whale. The great weapon against the Administration and against me was slander, and from the military chieftain himself down to Jonathan Russell it was vrged without cessation and The last words spoken by Warren R. without mercy. Davis, in the House of Representatives, in June, 1834, were pointing at me, "for the share that I had in overthrowing the Administration of that gentleman, I hope God will forgive me—for I never shall forgive myself." He is gone to his account, and assuredly not an individual of his party survives but has much more to answer for of that sin than he had. It would require volumes to give you the detail of what is comprised in this summary of public affairs during my administration. My inaugural address and my first annual message to Congress contains the principles and political system of my administration. The three succeeding annual messages exhibit the succession of public measures and events connected with the incidents of my life. I have heard that translations of the inaugural

was only my system, and it has been superseded by Bank and Indian wars, Nullification, Tariff Compromises, the surrender of Colonial trade, and to use the language of Burke, "the languishing chimeras of fraudulent reformation." But all this has been done by the Democracy, and to the Democracy we must all bow the knee and the neck. Aspirations for the amelioration of the condition of our race must be kept in constant subordination to the voice. of the people; and State rights and negro slavery, and agrarian rapacity control the current of our public affairs for the present, and for an indefinite futurity. tical system of the present administration is unfolded in the Presidential annual message of December, 1832. critical examination of it, and my objections against it, are exposed in the Report of the Minority of the Committee of Manufactures, of the 27th of February, 1833. with your penetration, judgment, and experience of mankind, you will read those two papers as commentaries

each upon the other, they will show you in mutually reflected light, the basis of the two systems for the govern-

ment of the North American Union.

be finally revised.

1832.

versy.

Dec. 31, 1834.

Shakspere.

address and of the first annual message have been published in some pamphlet of Chateaubriand, as expositions of the American system of government—but it

Besides my inaugural address and the four annual messages to Congress, I recollect two occasions while I was President, upon which I spoke in public, and expressed opinions of interest less transient than the day of their delivery, on the 7th September, 1825. The address to General La Fayette, on his departure from the United States—and on the 4th July, 1828, upon breaking ground for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

Since my dismission from the office of President of the United States, the catalogue of my offences is, so far as I recollect, as tollows:

1. A correspondence with H. G. Otis and others, Hartford Convention Federalists, commenced by them precisely at the moment of my retirement—their half-way advance towards the favor of my successor. He was not quite so ready to meet them as they were to court

him, and they never reached the Heaven of his smile. I permitted them to have the last word of that controversy before the public; but my reply to it is in manuscript, to

2. An oration delivered before the inhabitants of the town of Quincy, on the 4th of July, 1831—the anniver-

sary of National Independence.

23 Eurogy on the life and character of James Monroe, delivered at the request of the Corporation of the city of Boston, Aug. 5, 1831.

4. Minority Report, with Col. Watmough, from the Committee to investigate the affairs of the Bank of the United States, May 24, 1832.

5. Report of the Committee on Manufactures, May 25,

6. Speeches on the Apportionment Bill, and the Tariff Bill' and the General Appropriation Bill, 1832. [Gates & Seaton's Register of Debates.]
7. 1832: Letters to William L. Stone; 1833, to Edward Livingston and others, on the Masonic contro-

in the same work for 1831.

10. Report of the minority of the Committee of Manufactures, Feb. 27, 1833.

11. Suppressed speech on the removal of the deposits, April, 1834.

12. Oration on the life and character of La Fayette.

can Annual Register for 1830; one chapter on England,

8. Oct., 1832: The poem of "Dermot Mac Morragh."
9. Six chapters on Turkey and Russia, in the Ameri-

Aug. 1834.
14. Speeches Jan. 20, 7 and 14, Feb. 28, and March 2, 1835, on the dispute with France.
15. Sundry fugitive pieces in verse, and criticisms on

13. Report to the overseers of Harvard University.

I have barely room to add to my salutations and best wishes.

J. Q. ADAMS.

P. S.—I have omitted a correspondence with Rev.

W. Carnell, and a report in defence of my fellowmen of Quincy, against his charges, August, 1835.

16. Speech Jan. 22, 1836, on the last Fortification bill.

MOST STRANGE AND TRUE.—The London Mercury, on the authority of a correspondent, relates the following: Some time ago, a man of the name of GRORGE THORNTON, of Halifax, in Yorkshire, being disappointed in his expectations, made a yow that he would not eat any food as long as he lived; and, not withstanding the endeavors of his friends to get him to take something to