

have no desire to be acquainted with it. It is his public conduct, alone, in this country, that I would scrutinize, because this is my right, and the right, gentlemen, of all. The moment a private individual starts from the great mass of society and endeavors to elevate himself, into greater notice than belongs to him, he is a fair object of animadversion; if, as an elegant writer of modern times has judiciously remarked, any vain or foolish individual, proud of his person and accomplishments, *will* jump upon the pedestal of APOLLO, and place himself in the attitude of that fabled deity, he ought not to be surprised should he be examined and criticised by the strictest rules of grace and proportion. I premise thus much, because I wish to speak freely of this man's proceedings in public. And I must confess to you, gentlemen, that it is a sense of duty, which brings me this day amongst you, unprepared and unaccustomed as I am to speak in large and mixed assemblies. It is but lately I have been called to a seat in the Bench of Magistrates. I tell you this from no impulse of vanity—from no feeling of arrogance—but I tell it you, because I have *sworn* to keep the peace in this fine, this extensive, and happy District. From my soul, gentlemen, I believe that that peace is in danger—and an oath is a solemn, a sacred thing.

“ These proceedings of Mr. Gourlay's, are not only in my mind a breach of the peace, but a glaring insult to the gentry, and native good sense of the country. The Americans, as a nation, are remarkable for their quickness of perception, their shrewdness, and their sagacity;—many of you, gentlemen, have American blood in your veins: the British, as you well know, are not less celebrated, for their love of liberty, and their hatred of