

1828
Diego.

TO DIEGO!

Sir,

Although I have two or three times heard it spoken of by others, I have not seen your communication of the 8th ult. to my address until this 15th of May.—You, voluntarily, wantonly, and ostentatiously, assumed the name of "Diego" in committing an act which had for its basis, perjury.—Do you understand this?—Or do you suppose that there is one solitary gentleman belonging to the "Spanish Bar," who does not know that this is a stubborn, and indisputable fact?—You will find in the sequel, that you possess no advantage by changing your cognomen from "Diego" to "Don Pedro."—You are a very Proteus, but I will divest you of all those flimsy, appearances which you assume as "perfections," but which with you, would be excesses to your nature, and shall speak to you, and of you as justice may require, in your native, and naked state of turpitude, and deformity. In your last production you have shewn, that you are but a clumsy, silly, and contemptible fabricator of false words.—You have gained nothing by attempting a more condensed, and less frothy style than formerly.—In this instance, your principal claim to notice is, that you have had the blasphemous audacity, to mix a hypocritical show of religion, with a most inveterate hatred, which you possess to all correct principle, in order that its effects may be the more diabolical.—You need not expect that I shall propose to canonize you Saint "Diego."—Let you assume what shape, or signature you please, I shall address you as plain "Diego." It is your official, and an indelible stamp, by which you shall be known while you remain here. You would have acted more wisely, only to have used the single word "peccavi," than to have attempted your own defence, or to use scurrility towards me. Any person would possess advantages in contending with you, if either principle or conduct were the subject of discussion. You need not again presume to offer any thing like flattery of my manner of writing, or threats if I should "call any one to account"—that kind of subterfuge will not deter me from the discharge of what I conceive to be a public duty. I hold you in sovereign contempt, and bid you defiance.

You are a subject so fruitful in crime, that a person possessing no other claim to public notice, than a knowledge of you, and a moderate share of common sense, cannot write a sentence in which you are concerned, but that a combination of your misdeeds will involuntarily embody themselves in it with such effect, as to drive your labored and empty periods like chaff before the wind. To those who are only partially acquainted with your history, the circumstances I relate may not be exactly in point with what may have come within their own observation; but there is so great a similarity in your actions, that a conviction of the truth of these statements will be established by a comparison with what they may have previously known.

You may tell the silly gentleman, who has lately threatened to come out disproving my statement of the money you did not pay over in his name, that his talking of this matter, and pimping under your direction, only goes to prove that he is acting upon the same parsimonious, and contemptible economy as lately, when at Spades' Inn, he gathered from the maoger, the remainder of

a measure of oats which his horse refused and put them in the saddle-bags, with his own provender. If he chooses to be defrauded of his money for the gratification he receives by your odious and fulsome flattery to prevent his prosecuting your bond, he may do so—lose his money—which he will; and submit to the execration of those to whom he has heretofore told a different story; and of others, who independent of his information happen to know the whole circumstance; but you shall not enjoy the ill gotten pelf quietly. You have no doubt ordered him to defend you in his conversation, but little as I respect the soundness of your judgement, I do not believe you will allow him to come out in print. Should he do so, it will require no reply.

It is quite impossible, in this hasty manner, to find words that would do justice to the mixture of Pandemonium—like feeling with which you were possessed in committing (contrary to usage) the person by whose levity and forbearance in the "estimate and disbursement" business you have been suffered to exist. Your speculation was manifest, but there were no means of raising the dissipated fund. This person, therefore could not afterwards trust you with money due to those who had defended the country, and out of pure kindness, and good nature to you personally, perambulated the country, determined that the brave should no longer be cheated, and made part of the disbursements himself. He has now experienced the measure of your gratitude. All this was of a piece with your "hip—hip—hurrah!" affair. It does not appear apposite to contrast you with persons so greatly your superiors in point of intellect, but in the latter instance you wereaping the conduct of Danton and Robespierre, while in the former you gave strong proof of a resemblance to Marat. Times however are such, that you cannot like Marat, deprive him of the power of telling, if he should be disposed, without too great a risk for you to venture; but do you suppose that any man of sense doubts your disposition?

You are egregiously mistaken. The people of this country are aware of the comforts of their situation. They know that all the proud advantages which they should inherit as the descendants of Englishmen are secured, and that their happiness depends upon their own industry and observance of order. They may affect to be amused by your efforts to excite general distrust, but be assured that an understanding of your deserts is beginning to prevail. There is now a strong re-action in public opinion as to the principles of the ex-treasurer, and his son, under whose political dictum you act, though your own principles, as far as you possess any, are infinitely more abominable. The public indignation awaits you. The fever that has been excited may require some time to pass away of itself; but happily, all experience shews that uninformed, and inconsiderate human nature possesses those redeeming qualities. That general contempt which you deserve will overwhelm you absorbed in the vortices of your vicious speculations; and then, "you cowardly fellow," to whom will you appeal. You cannot expect that the Militia will wish you re-appointed Pay-Master, with a Pension for the faithful discharge of your former duties, or that betrayed litigants will make further inroads upon their purses by employing you as their Attorney.

—Much less can you expect that those who have had a wider field to measure the extent of your moral turpitude can ever give you a share in their confidence. You are now contriving to manage in such a way that you may be on terms with several persons of whom you would like to receive favors at some future period, and have said to your friends that a change in the administration, and the sacrifice of a few individuals would be favorable to your pretensions, but it is not likely that such a fiend-like disposition as you have uniformly evinced can be so easily forgotten, or that a sleepish apathy can envelope the senses of all the intelligent guardians of the public rights.

The Board who examined your accounts in the "peculation" affair, were not aware at the time of the detail of your conduct. Some of them are distinguished for clearness of understanding, but they were deceived; and I doubt not, they are now convinced that the deficiencies which appeared between the amount received, and the actual vouchers you could produce, were not occasioned by want of understanding a simple account on your part, but a want of money, which you did not hesitate to take from the product of your "estimate," and quieted the minds of those who made needy importunities, with a belief that the government alone were in the fault.

You do not seem to be aware that all the intelligent of the country approve of the general conduct of the administration. These constitute the country's real strength, and upon any occasion that they might deem it an object worthy a little sacrifice of time from their own avocations, as they possess the talent, and the honesty, they would exert it. When the truth came to be told, and the merits of both sides of questions discussed, you would find the honest decision of the great mass of the people decidedly in favor of the general measures of the Government. You act as though not aware that the intelligent throughout the country, notwithstanding their quietness, examine, and understand the merits of every question that is agitated. They examine with the same scrutinizing eye, the measures of the Government, and the conduct of its opposers—their minds are governed by sentiments purely independent and manly.—Not like yours, that bastard independence of exciting the worst feelings of which human nature is susceptible, in order that you may worm yourself into office, to deceive, and tyrannize over the persons you have misled. This last is the only kind of independence that your mind is capable of grasping.—You do not understand that the government must of necessity persevere in its honesty and consistency, and that one weak step in truckling for a moment, with you, or your masters (the ex-treasurer, and his son) would loose them more substantial popularity than all the railing which you three, and your satellites could deprive them of, should you live and exert yourselves for half a century.

I am not actuated by any trifling motive in addressing you. Although I cannot hope to correct your disposition, yet I may be instrumental in restraining your actions, and thereby render substantial services to the country, in point of illegal taxation at all events; and in doing this I shall look for the fair, and honorable co-operation of the law society as facts may be brought before them. I have differed in opinion in regard

to the manner in which this society is constituted, with many persons for whose soundness of judgement I have a high respect—I know that they include a respectable portion of the honor and intelligence of the country; and cannot without proof to the contrary, be led to believe, that they as a body do not feel the responsibility of their situation. The country has a right to expect from them, that they will not only purge their own body, and check the disingenuous practises of any of its individual members, but also, that they will maintain and defend the constitutional rights of the people. They no doubt feel the propriety, nay, the necessity, of affording facilities to complaints to enable them to judge of their real merits, and not to allow the quibbling of a Lawyer, to place in the shade, the honest statements of those who may not only be poor in purse, but also lack in the information necessary to protect their just rights.

This article is longer than I intended. It is not likely that I can improve you by argumentative instruction, for which indeed I have not leisure; but should it be necessary you will find that I possess the industry, notwithstanding the labor, to afford you a faithful review of the whole of your "thirty years practice at the Spanish Bar," for which I have had greater means of information than you are aware. You are doubtless astonished that I have not touched upon cases with which you know I am thoroughly acquainted. They are not forgotten, and if necessary you shall be favoured. At present, I will conclude with a case which you have not only considered as one of your finest efforts, but that the "gist" of it was secret as the grave.

You will recollect the speech you wrote and committed to memory more than twelve months before you delivered it—in a case important only as it served your purposes of misrepresentation, and secured for future operations, the attachment of the knave you were duping. Here the matter would have ended as far as law was concerned, but that you wanted money, which you could not get from your client—"ways and means" became "the order of the day," and of this I must confess you had a much clearer understanding than when Mr. Van Koughnet was chairman of the "Committee of supply"—you persuaded the petty statesman, that you could carry a point of another description for him in Chancery at home, for which you had no intention to make an effort further than in appearances.—Like "Judas" you betrayed him as "with a kiss"; and quartered upon the enemy, under pretence of a friendly visit, with more address than you did upon the "Militia" when acting the "Pay-master"—and this, on account of the person you persuaded to accompany you, you will remember until you shall sleep with your fathers—you found "ways and means," and provided a "supply," which you never intended to "make good," and which you understand as a bribe to prevent annoyances for which there never was a foundation but that predicated upon dishonesty and fraud. You are said to be a man of genius, and I admit that this mode of fiscal operations is original with yourself; but a ludicrous part of the story is, that your masters and yourself, retain the political subserviency of this sapient diplomatist whom you alone have deceived.

AN OBSERVER.

17th May 1828.