

The DRAWING ROOM.—The reader will find an article below, concerning the presidential drawing-room. From the confident tone of the piece, we take it for granted that the concluding part of it specifies the *etiquette* that will be observed in future at the executive mansion.

FROM THE NATIONAL REGISTER.  
THE DRAWING-ROOM.

The opening of the drawing-room and the course which Mrs. Monroe means to adopt in receiving the ladies of the District and strangers, has, for some time past, been the subject of much inquiry and debate, if we are not misinformed, among the fashionables of Washington. We have ourselves repeatedly witnessed the introduction of this subject upon the tapis, and it has never failed to excite considerable interest and various opinions, and of late the sensation has been considerable, on learning that Mrs. M. does not mean to return visits, but merely to receive company.

We must, in truth, admit that the preponderance of opinion, as far as we have heard it expressed, seems to set more against than in favor of the adoption of this measure, but, perhaps this is owing to the want of giving the subject due reflection, and from the warmth which is excited in the discussion of a question in which female pride and prerogative bears so great an interest. We are far from advocating the introduction of courtly etiquettes and unnecessary ceremonies in our republican institutions, but we shall always uphold and contend for propriety of behaviour and respectful conduct. We are far from wishing to decorate or encircle Mrs. Monroe, or any other Presidentess with *royal insignia*, but at the same time we hope we have too much justice to ask from the lady of our chief magistrate, a conduct and a sacrifice which we should consider as cruel to exact from the wife of any other citizen.

"What," exclaimed a lady in the height of irritation, "and is Mrs. Monroe about to pursue a course so opposite to that of her predecessor?—a course which made *her* so beloved by us all, and which rendered *her* so amiable in the eyes of every visitant at Washington. If such be her plans, I answer for one, she will not hold her popularity long."

Reflecting on this speech, and not wishing that either our chief magistrate or his consort should lose their popularity unjustly, we gave some consideration to the subject, and we began first by tracing in our mind, the origin of the drawing-room which led us back to the days of Washington, when all attempts at introducing a *court etiquette* for the house of the chief magistrate was ridiculed on republican principles, and on the ground that the respect we should entertain for the man of the people's choice, would in all cases govern our deportment towards him, and every individual of his family. Notwithstanding, however, that this subject had been fully discussed and conclusions drawn therefrom, a few persons acted in contradiction thereto, and in fact to the very spirit of our government, and attempted to make comparisons between the upper and lower houses, and between the wives of senators and those of representatives, and between them and the wives of the heads of department, and between them and the wives of citizens. Gen. Washington, to put an end to all these intrigues and cabals, established a levee for himself, and Mrs. Washington was instructed to visit the ladies of all the senators, members of the lower house, and those of respectable citizens without distinction. This was the origin of the drawing-room.

When Mr. Adams succeeded to the presidency the same arrangements were observed, with this difference, that strict attention was paid that no gentleman should be admitted to the drawing