

OLIVER WOLCOTT'S ADDRESS,
To the People of the United States.

Continued from No. 307.)
Mr. Pickering, retired from office, between the 10th and 14th of May, 1800. On the 7th of May, there was appropriated, for executing the treaty with Spain, twenty thousand dollars, and on the 13th of May, forty four thousand dollars, for defraying the expense, which has been, or during the present year, may be incurred by the payment of costs, in prize Causes, before the Court of Admiralty and Court of Appeals, in England.

During the next session, on the 3d of March, 1801, Congress appropriated forty six thousand five hundred dollars for a deficiency of former appropriations, for carrying into effect the treaty with Spain; also fifty eight thousand eight hundred and sixty four dollars, for carrying into effect the treaty with Great Britain; and sixty four thousand dollars for prosecuting the claims of American citizens, for property captured by the belligerent powers. Either of the two last mentioned sums might be lawfully applied to defray the expenses of prize causes, in England.

Nothing can be more evident, than that these appropriations were in the first place, applicable to the reimbursement of all advances, which had been previously made, and secondly, to the payment of future expenses.

To prove an obvious benefit to the U. States, arising from the advances made by Mr. Pickering, and to bring them therefore within the rule of the Committee, it is only necessary to observe, that the records of the department of state will prove, that in respect to the expenses of prize causes, a debt was actually due and demanded, which the public faith required should be discharged; this reason must be deemed sufficient.

In respect to the advances for executing the treaty with Spain, it is proper to say, that the expenses of running the line between Florida and the United States, greatly exceeded the first calculations; the obstacles arose entirely on the part of Spain, and on these, the United States had no control. The line being through a wilderness and the whole subject requiring the aid and concert of the Spanish government and the concurrence of the Indian tribes, it was impossible to foresee what expenses would be necessary. The advances were principally, if not wholly made, to satisfy bills of exchange, drawn by Mr. Ellicot, payable on short notice, not exceeding if I am not mistaken, the period of ten days. Any hesitation in paying these bills, would have blasted their credit, and proved exceedingly injurious to the holders, who had received them on the credit of a public agent. To have denied credit to Mr. Ellicot, might in his actual situation, have defeated the execution of the treaty, and, by depriving him of his resources possibly have exposed him and his party to destruction, in the wilderness;—surely these reasons are sufficient.

But, as before observed, these advances were covered by subsequent appropriations, and have been completely sanctioned. If the funds cannot be so applied at this time, Col. Pickering, who is out of office, is not to be censured. Mr. Madison had received at least two thousand dollars, and so far impaired the fund appropriated for prize causes; and he has received out of the fund appropriated during the former administration, for satisfying deficiencies in former appropriations, in respect to the treaty with Spain, a sum exceeding six thousand dollars, being more than five times the sum required to liquidate the remaining balance of advances by Mr. Pickering.

Let it not be imagined, by any one, that I am defending Mr. Pickering at the expense of his successors. This gentleman would disdain such a defence. There are abundant and obvious grounds, which fully justify the conduct of Mr. Marshall and Mr. Madison. Their attention in a new and important situation, was very properly directed to other objects, than an examination of the accounts of their predecessor; they did not and could not doubt, that the application of the public money, by Mr. Pickering, had been proper; they knew that these appropriations had been made on estimates, and that the expenses for both objects could not be ascertained, but in consequence of progressive information, they also knew that the obligation of the government to make the necessary appropriations, was absolute; and under such circumstances, all men will agree, that it would be unjust to judge of their conduct by the captious subtilties of a hypothetical logic.

The remaining item is a sum of 3,500 dollars, 75 cents paid by Mr. Munroe, while minister to France, to relieve the necessities of the family of General La Fayette. I presume that this sum was passed to the credit of Mr. Munroe, on settlement with Mr. P. while secretary of state, and in this way constitutes a charge against the latter to the public books. This being the fact, the payment may have been made by Mr. Munroe, out of monies advanced, or paid out of the general fund, for expenses of intercourse with foreign nations, or out of the sum for the contingent expenses of government. The details in my possession do not enable me to state how the payment was considered at the time; it is however certain that no monies are now to be advanced from the treasury, and that the only question is, whether Mr. P. shall be allowed credit for a sum, which he has passed to the credit of Mr. Munroe.

Whatever may be the opinion of others, I do not question the propriety of the credit, which Mr. Munroe obtained. The advance was probably authorized by the government, and I have an indistinct recollection that such was the fact. If the point is deemed important, it may be proper to enquire whether the advance was not made at several times, and whether the first payments were not authorized by Mr. Randolph. The fact, however it may appear on inquiry, is not in my opinion important, as the representation, on which the authority was given, must have been made by Mr. Munroe, as otherwise the necessities of the family of Gen. La Fayette, could not have been known in the U. States.

Assuming these facts which must be essentially correct, or at any rate not so erroneous as to effect the argument; it appears that on the representation of Mr. Munroe, a minister of the United States, payments were authorized to the family of Gen. La Fayette, out of funds advanced from the Treasury in 1795, or the beginning of '98; that Mr. Pickering passed the amount of these payments to the credit of Mr. Munroe, and now claims a correspondent credit in the settlement of his own accounts.

If credit is refused to Mr. Pickering, it must be on the principle, asserted in the President's message of the 8th of Dec. 1801, of disallowing all application of money, varying from the appropriation in object, or transcending it in amount. Those who receive money hereafter, to be accounted for according to this principle, will have no right to complain of its operation; but before it is applied to transactions of so early a date as the years 1795 and 1796, the fate of the laws and the complexion of existing precedents, ought to be examined.

By referring to preceding observations, it will be

found that the discussions respecting specific appropriations had but commenced; and that the payments in question were made, even before the publication of Mr. Gallatin's Sketch of the Finances of the United States. In the year 1793, Mr. Jefferson, while secretary of state, had authorized a payment for the use of Gen. La Fayette, which, if I recollect correctly, was not very different in amount from that in question; although there existed no specific appropriation, no embarrassment delayed the settlement of Mr. Jefferson's accounts; and the subject was communicated to Congress, & so far from disapproving of what was done, that body voluntarily granted \$4,414 dollars being the pay and emolument which General La Fayette had renounced, while in the American service. It is known to some of the present administration, that unfortunate circumstances rendered the grant less beneficial than was expected. The public sympathy for the misfortune of the general had not abated. His family, in consequence of the disorders of the French revolution was in a state of destitution. The application of the monies, granted for defraying the expenses of intercourse with foreign nations, was then believed to be discretionary with the president, subject to a limitation in respect to the salaries of ministers and their secretaries. The same opinion existed in respect to the fund appropriated for the contingent expenses of government: This was known to have been the opinion of Mr. Jefferson, as in August '90, he authorized the fund for expenses of foreign intercourse to be applied in "necessary aids to poor American sailors." If this application was lawful, (which cannot for a moment be doubted, by any mind not blinded against every sentiment of humanity, policy and justice) upon what grounds can it be denied, that it might also be lawfully applied in "necessary aids" to the family of a General, highly distinguished by American favor?

(To be continued.)

NEW-YORK, November 11.

A paper called the Rhode-Island Republican printed at Newport, by one Farnsworth, commenced a direct attack on the reputation of Mr. Rutledge, in an article under the title of "Rutledge's Letters." The avowed object was to show that Mr. Rutledge was really the author of two certain letters which had been sent to the President under the signature of "Nicholas Geffroy," with a view to bring him, the "President into contempt." The plan had been well systematized, and the hand writing of Mr. Rutledge, in some measure so well counterfeited, that it was by no means calculated to stand the scrutiny of close inspection, yet to a first glance it might to some appear to be his. The author of the attack therefore, to ensure the ready currency to his slander, boldly invited the public to inspect the letters and compare them with Mr. Rutledge's writing. The following then appeared in the Newport Mercury of September 21, addressed to the Printer of the Rhode-Island Republican.

Mr. Farnsworth,

The publicity which you have given to certain ridiculous and contemptible compositions, under the title of "Rutledge's Letters," and the malicious and unprovoked attack which you have permitted to be made upon me, by name, in your Gazette, excite me I think, to demand a place in it for the enclosed documents. They are the depositions of every person in this place, known to be in the habit of correspondence with me, or supposed to be well acquainted with my hand writing; by every one of whom it has been unequivocally declared that the original letters, produced to them in the presence of the Sheriff, were not written by me. Although a consciousness of the rectitude of my conduct and a confidence in the justice of the public, might render any additional proof of my innocence unnecessary, yet, in respect which I feel for the opinions of my fellow citizens (to men whose esteem will ever be my highest ambition) has induced me to obtain the depositions of the unoffending individuals, whose names have been used on this occasion, probably because his ignorance of our language, and of the true state of our politics, would afford a greater facility of procuring from him the evidences of a forged correspondence which he might not understand, and about which he would be indifferent. This affidavit, which may be seen at the office of B. Hazard, Esq. states that the water of the ink of the two aforesaid letters referred to, at the time of its delivery was so wet, and so evidently of recent infection, as to cause immediate suspicion of the letters having been fabricated in this town; that it was accordingly returned to the post office, with a complaint of imposition, and a demand of restoration of the postage, which demand was immediately and readily complied with by the postmaster, although the letters had been already opened, and read in a place other than the post-office. It further states that a certain Senator of the United States, from this State, kindly and voluntarily, charged himself with the letters, for the purpose of comparing it with certain letters from the President then in his possession, and of detecting the imposition. It also states, that the same Senator predicted the arrival of other letters from the same quarter, and by the same hand; that he asked and obtained permission to take up at the post-office such letters when they should arrive; that he afterwards acknowledged having taken up a second letter, and that the said Senator had declared, on the 18th inst. he had delivered the said two letters to the President in person. I have also obtained a certificate from a respectable citizen of this town corroborating the fact of the letter, said to have been from the President, having at the time of its delivery a wet water, evidently of recent infection. These documents are lodged Mr. Printer, at the office of B. Hazard, Esq. notary public in this town, where they are offered for the inspection of your correspondent and of your other readers, even without the attendance of the Sheriff. I shall not offer any animadversion at present upon this most extraordinary fabrication, or the singular circumstance of the arrival of the second letter having been predicted. It is no common good fortune Mr. Printer to detect calumny, "which walking in darkness spreads contagion far and wide which the most wary traveller cannot avoid," and to detect the calumniator. In my situation, and under present circumstances to effect more would be impossible—to attempt it useless, I cannot hope for honourable satisfaction from a "lowlife," whose prey is innocence and whose sport is ruin, and I must conclude by declaring that the insinuation of your correspondent, respecting me, in your last Gazette, is a malicious and infamous calumny, and that he is a scoundrel and a liar.

JOHN RUTLEDGE.

To the Printer of the Rhode-Island Republican.

* Nicholas Geffroy; a Frenchman, L. P.

Personally appeared before me, John Rutledge of South-Carolina, who being duly sworn, maketh oath that the letters exhibited at Mr. Farnsworth's office, signed "Nicholas Geffroy," and "Nica Jeffrey," were not written by him, nor had he any knowledge

of them before reading them in the Rhode-Island Republican of the 18th inst.

JOHN RUTLEDGE.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

Sworn to before me, Sept. 20, 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Pub. Not. ex off.

No. I.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

Moses Seixas, Cashier of the Bank of Rhode-Island, being sworn, declares, that observing in the paper called the "Rhode-Island Republican" of the 18th inst. two letters under the title of "Rutledge's Letters" one signed "Nicholas Geffroy" and the other signed "Nica Jeffrey," and being acquainted with the hand writing of Mr. John Rutledge, he was induced to call at the Printing Office, where the originals of the aforesaid letters were advertised to be seen; which being shown him, he examined said letters and compared them with specimens of Mr. Rutledge's hand writing, and is fully of opinion that the said letters were not written by the said John Rutledge; but that they appear to be an unsuccessful attempt to imitate his hand writing.

M. SEIXAS.

Sworn to the 20th Sept. 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Not. Pub. ex off.

No. II.

Having corresponded with the hon. John Rutledge of South-Carolina, and being well acquainted with his hand writing, I was induced to avail myself of the general invitation given last Saturday in a newspaper called the "Rhode-Island Republican," printed in this town by Oliver Farnsworth; and on my calling at Mr. Farnsworth's office, he handed to me two letters, which he said were the originals of those he had just published, and of which Mr. Rutledge was the supposed writer; one of them dated in Newport, August 13, 1801, and signed "Nicholas Geffroy;" and the other dated in Newport, August 7th, 1801, and signed "Nica Jeffrey." I saw the superscription of only one of them, which was to "The President of the United States, Washington." The cover of the other was not shown to me, I examined with attention both these letters, and carefully compared them with the superscription of a letter, and with several notes written by Mr. Rutledge, which I had had for some time in my possession; and the result of this examination and comparison, is, that I am decidedly of opinion, that the letters dated as I signed I have above mentioned, were not written by the said John Rutledge.

CHRISTOPHER G. CHAMPLIN,

Sworn and subscribed in Newport, the

20th Sept. 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Pub. Not. ex off.

No. III.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

William Tew, of New-Port, being sworn, declares that he has had notes and billets from Mr. Rutledge upon business, and is well acquainted with his hand writing;—that he has compared genuine specimens of Mr. Rutledge's writing with the originals of two letters published on the 18th inst. in the Rhode-Island Republican, under the title of "Rutledge's Letters," and is convinced those letters were not written by Mr. Rutledge; and if said letters had been shown to him with the signatures of Mr. Rutledge to them he should have suspected them to be forged.

WILLIAM TEW.

Sworn to the 20th Sept. 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Pub. Not. ex off.

No. IV.

Personally appeared before me, William Littlefield, of this State, who being duly sworn, deposes, that he has known Mr. Rutledge five years, intimately, and often received letters and notes from him; that he thinks he knows his hand writing well, and believes the letters shown at the printing office, signed Jeffrey, were never written by Mr. Rutledge.—When this deponent commanded at a garrison in Georgia, he there paid a sum of money to Mr. Rutledge, which he had collected from the soldiers of his company, for payment of articles they had bought when stationed in his town of M. J. Troy, and Mr. Bots, and took a receipt promising to pay the money to Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Bots. This receipt which the deponent saw Mr. Rutledge write, is as dissimilar as can be to the hand writing of the letters in question; and the word Jeffrey, not in the least similar to their signatures. This receipt the deponent has lodged at the office of Ben. Hazard, Esq.

WM LITTLEFIELD.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

Sworn to, the 20th Sept. 1802,

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Pub. Not. ex off.

No. V.

Personally appeared before me, Stephen T. Northam, who being duly sworn deposes that having known Mr. Rutledge in Charleston, on his arrival here, he showed him his services; and done much business with him; hath received many written notes, orders and letters from him; knows his hand writing well; and does not think that the letters shown by the printer, signed Nicholas Geffroy, and which he the deponent has examined, were written by Mr. Rutledge.

S. T. NORTHAM.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

Sworn to, the 20th Sept. 1802,

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Pub. Not. ex off.

No. VI.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

Jacob Read of Charleston, in the State of S. Carolina, now being at Newport, on oath, declares, that he hath known John Rutledge, Esq. from his early infancy;—that he hath often seen him write, and seen his letters to others, and particularly during several years that the deponent served as a senator in the Senate of the United States; and the said John Rutledge, as a member of the House of Representatives, had frequent communications with him in writing, and conceives himself to be well acquainted with Mr. Rutledge's hand writing; that the deponent hath examined certain letters, produced on Saturday last, the 18th Sept. instant (and which have been published in the newspaper of that date, called the Rhode-Island Republican) by Mr. Farnsworth, as the originals of the letters published by him; and the deponent faith he does not believe such letters are of the hand writing of the said Rutledge.

JACOB READ.

Sworn to, the 20th Sept. 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Pub. Not. ex off.

No. VII.

Nathaniel Russell, Esq. of Charleston, being duly sworn, doth depose that he has been acquainted with Mr. Rutledge from his childhood; that for some years he has been in correspondence with him; that he has an accurate knowledge of his hand writing, and from being familiarly acquainted with it, he is convinced the originals of the letters published at Newport, in last Saturday's paper, signed Nicholas Geffroy and addressed to the President, were never written by Mr. Rutledge; that some words and letters in them bore some similitude to the hand writing of Mr. Rutledge, which was shown at the printing office, but, in opinion of the deponent, the letters in question are by no means a good imitation of the letter shown at the printing office, and are very dissimilar to Mr. Rutledge's general manner of writing.

NATHANIEL RUSSELL.

State of Rhode-Island, and Providence plantations.

Sworn to, the 18th day of September,

1802, at Bristol, on the 18th day of September,

A. D. 1802, personally came the within named Nathaniel Russell, and subscribed to the within deposition, and made solemn oath to the truth of the same.

[L. s.] before me JOSEPH RAWSON.

Just. Pacis.

VIII.

William Price, Esq. of Charleston, in the State of South-Carolina, being duly sworn, declares, that in consequence of a publication of two letters this day made in the paper called the Rhode-Island Republican, signed Nicholas Geffroy and addressed to the President of the United States, which letters were said (in said paper) not to be written by said Jeffrey, but by Mr. Rutledge, he, the deponent, called at the office of Oliver Farnsworth, printer of said paper, and compared said letters with writings of Mr. Rutledge, which were genuine, and after an attentive examination he found said letters to be unlike the hand writing of Mr. Rutledge, and was convinced they were not written by him.

WM. PRICE.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

Sworn to, the 18th Sept. 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Not. Pub. ex off.

No. IX.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

John Ludlow Frazer, of St. Andrew's Parish, in the State of S. Carolina, and Major Tobias Bowles, of Charleston in the same State, being sworn, declares that having seen two letters, published on the 18th inst. in the paper called the Rhode-Island Republican and having called at the office, where the originals of said letters, published under the title of "Rutledge's Letters," were advertised to be seen, they compared said originals with specimens of the hand writing of Mr. Rutledge, and are convinced that said letters were not written by him.

JOHN LUDLOW FRAZER.

TOBIAS BOWLES.

Sworn to, the 20th Sept. 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Not. Pub. ex off.

No. X.

I, Thomas Lowndes, of S. Carolina, being duly sworn, make oath and say, that on Saturday the 18th inst. the Rhode Island Republican, edited by Oliver Farnsworth (printer to the State and of the laws of the United States) being put into my hands, containing two letters to the President of the United States, under the signature of Nicholas Geffroy, and the publication of which letters was preface with the declaration of their being "Rutledge's Letters."—I went to the office of the said editor and saw the original letters, and from my knowledge and long acquaintance with the hand writing of Mr. Rutledge, and also a comparison of them with letters of Mr. Rutledge, which were there produced, I am enabled to state, with confidence, that they were not written by him; but are on the contrary, a poor imitation of his hand writing, and will upon a slight examination of any person accustomed to discriminate hand writings, be discovered to be a Forgery.—The superscription of one of the letters, is not only in a style of writing unlike Mr. Rutledge's, but superior to what he ever wrote.

THOS. LOWNDES.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

Sworn to the 20th Sept. 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Pub. Not. ex off.

No. XI.

State of Rhode-Island, &c.

Cleland Kinlock being duly sworn, maketh oath, that he is and has been several years past well acquainted with the hand writing of Mr. John Rutledge; that he has examined the originals of two letters published on the 18th inst. in the paper called the Rhode Island Republican, under the title of "Rutledge's Letters," and that he is firmly convinced that the said two original letters were not written by the said John Rutledge.

CLELAND KINLOCK,

Sworn to, the 20th Sept. 1802.

[L. s.] before me BEN. HAZARD.

Dep. Sec. & Not. Pub. ex off.

RAN-AWAY from the subscriber,

some time early in July last, a negro woman named GRACE, formerly the property of Jeremiah Fonville, living on the found, the is a middle sized wench about 35 years of age, her dress cannot be described as she took with her a variety of clothes—she is supposed to be harboured about the plantation of Mr. Fonville, or on White Oak, where she has a number of relations. I will give a reward of 20 dollars and all reasonable charges, for her being taken up and delivered to me in this town.

All persons are hereby forbidden from harbouring, employing, or carrying her away, under the severest penalty of the law.

MARY MEEK.

Wilmington, Dec. 2.—if.

A FEW copies of Judge Taylor's Reports, and Evans's Essays on the Law of Insurances, Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, may be had of A. Hall, it applied for soon.

Nov. 18.