

"Ours are the Plans of fair delightful Peace,"
"Unwarp'd by Party Rage to live like Brothers."

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1800.

No. 32.

MR. COOPER'S TRIAL FOR A LIBEL.

No correct statement having yet been made to the public of the grounds of the action lately prosecuted by the United States against Thomas Cooper, in the Philadelphia District Court, an account of that Trial having been published at length, in order, to give our readers correct information on the subject, we take the opportunity of giving them copies of the publications on which the action was founded; and, in a future paper, we will give the Speeches of Mr. Rawle in support of the prosecution, and Mr. Cooper's Defences.

TO THE PUBLIC.*

To the Printer.

I should not condescend to answer anonymous slander, but the information on which the falsehoods contained in the following paragraph are grounded, must have been originally derived from the President himself. I cannot believe him capable of such misrepresentation, for I still think well of his intentions, however I may disapprove of his conduct; but the following narrative will show that some of his underlings are capable of any thing.

From the Reading Weekly Advertiser, of October 26, 1799.

COMMUNICATION.

"Thomas Cooper's address to the readers of the Sunbury and Northumberland Gazette, of which he was editor, having been republished in this State, with an introduction, approbatory of the piece, a correspondent wishes to know if it be the same Thomas Cooper, an Englishman, of whom the following anecdote is related? If it is, every paper devoted to truth, honour, and decency, ought to give it a thorough circulation."

No. 1. Mr. Cooper, an Englishman, applied to the President of the United States to be appointed "agent for settling the respective claims of the citizens and subjects of this country and Great-Britain." In his letter he informs the President, that although he (Thomas Cooper) had been called a Democrat, yet his real political sentiments are such as would be agreeable to the President and Government of the United States, or expressions to that effect. This letter was accompanied with another from Dr. Joseph Priestley, who did not fail to assure the President of the pliability of his friend Cooper's democratic principles. The President, it is said, rejected Cooper's application with disdain, and Priestley's with still stronger marks of surprise, saying, it is said, as he threw the letter on the table, does he think that I would appoint any Englishman to that important office, in preference to an American?—What was the consequence? When Thomas Cooper found his application for a lucrative office under our President rejected, he writes in revenge the address which appeared in print, and Dr. Priestley exerted his influence in dispersing this very address, which he must know was the offspring of disappointment and revenge.

"The address is as cunning and insidious a production as ever appeared in the Aurora or the old Chronicle, and as for impudence, it exceeds, or at least equals, Porcupine himself. Priestley and Cooper are both called upon to deny the above narrative. A recourse to the letters themselves would establish the accuracy of this anecdote even to a syllable."

Yes; I am the Thomas Cooper, alluded to; luckily possessed of more accurate information than the malignant writer of this paragraph, from whatever source his intelligence was derived. About the time of the appointment of commissioners under the British treaty, Doctor Ross, who had sedulously brought about an intercourse of civility between Mr. Liffon and myself, urged me to permit him to apply on my behalf to that gentleman for one of the appointments that must then take place. He pressed on me the folly, as he

termed it, of my confining myself to Northumberland, his earnest wish to see me settled in Philadelphia, and the duty I owed my family to better my situation by every means in my power. He stated that Mr. Liffon he knew thought highly of me, and though the post of the fifth commissioner was probably then disposed of, there must be an agent for the British claimants; an office which from my situation as a barrister in England, and my knowledge of mercantile transactions, I was peculiarly fitted to fill. I replied that he probably over-rated Mr. Liffon's opinion, and his own influence, and that at all events my known political opinions must render it equally improper for Mr. Liffon to give, and for me to accept, any office whatever connected with the British interests. That Mr. Liffon and I understood each other on this question, and had hitherto avoided all politics whatever. That being an American, I should not object to any office under this government, if I could fairly obtain it; but that I would never consent to any application to Mr. Liffon.

Through Mr. Coleman's interest, Mr. Hall, of Sunbury, was complimented with the offer of being appointed agent of American claims. On mentioning to Dr. Priestley one night at supper that Mr. Hall had declined it, Dr. Ross's persuasions occurred to me, and I said that such an office as that would have suited me very well. Dr. Priestley replied, if that was the case, he thought he had some interest with Mr. Adams, with whom he had long been acquainted, and who had always expressed himself in terms of the highest friendship; that as he never intended to ask any favour of Mr. Adams for himself, I might as well let him try for once to ask one for me. Adams's politics and mine were probably very different, Dr. Priestley declared that this, so far from being an objection, might be an inducement in my favour; for if Mr. Adams meant to be the ruler of a nation, instead of the leader of a party, he would be glad of an opportunity to exhibit such an instance of liberal conduct. At length I consented, expressly requesting Dr. Priestley to take care that Mr. Adams should not mistake my politics. In consequence of this conversation Dr. Priestley wrote the following letter; not a few months, but above two years ago.

August 12, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

It was far from being my intention or wish to trouble you with the request of any favours, though it is now in your power to grant them; and it is not at all probable that I shall ever take a second liberty of the kind. But circumstances have arisen which I think call upon me to do it once, though not for myself, but a friend. The office of agent for American claims was offered I understand to Mr. Hall of Sunbury, and he has declined it. If this be the case, and no other person be yet fixed upon, I shall be very happy if I could serve Mr. Cooper, a man I doubt not of equal ability and possessed at every other qualification for the office, by recommending him. It is true that both he and myself fall in the language of our calumniators, under the description of Democrats, who are studiously represented as enemies to what is called Government, both in England and here. What I have done to deserve that character you well know, and Mr. Cooper has done very little more. In fact we have both been persecuted for being friends to American liberty, and our preference of the government of this country has brought us both hither. However, were the accusations true, I think the appointment of a man of unquestionable ability and fidelity to this trust, for which I could make myself answerable, would be truly such a mark of superiority to popular prejudice as I could expect from you. I therefore think it no unfavourable circumstance in the recommendation, that you will act according to your best judgment. I have no doubt, with respect to this and other affairs of infinitely

more moment, through which I am persuaded you will bring the country with reputation to yourself, though in circumstances of such uncommon difficulty, perhaps with less ease and satisfaction than I could wish. With my earnest wishes for the honour and tranquillity of your Presidency, I am, &c.

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY.

This letter was accompanied by the following from myself:

SIR,

On my expressing an inclination for the office which Mr. Hall has declined, Dr. Priestley was so good as to offer his services with you on my behalf.

Probably the office will be filled, ere this letter can reach you: probably there may be objections to nominating a person not a native of the country: probably the objection mentioned by Dr. Priestley may reasonably be deemed of weight in my instance. Be all this as it may, I see no impropriety in the present application, to be appointed agent of American claims, for it is still possible I may suppose more weight in the objections than they will be found to deserve. If it should so happen that I am nominated to that office, I shall endeavour to merit the character the Doctor has given me, and your esteem. I am, &c.

THOMAS COOPER.

Is this the letter of a Man, or not? I do not appeal to the cowardly propagator of anonymous falsehoods, but to the public. What is there in it, of vanity or servility? Do not these letters take for granted that I am a Democrat, though not a disturber of all government; and that what I am I shall remain, even though it be deemed a reasonable objection to my adhering to my principle, whatever becomes of my interest?

Nor is it true that the address originated from any motives of revenge. Two years elapsed from the date of those letters before I wrote any thing on this country. Nor did I feel the objection to taking any fair means of improving my situation. This is a duty incumbent on every prudent man who has a family to raise, and which I have already too much neglected from public motives, nor can any office to which I am eligible in this country, recompense me for the office I rejected in its favour. But it is not in the power of promises or threats, of wealth or poverty, to extinguish the political enthusiasm which has actuated my conduct for these twenty years. The prudence of middle age and the claims of duty may make me cautious of sacrificing my interest, but they cannot induce me to sacrifice my principle.

Nor do I see any impropriety in making this request of Mr. Adams, at that time he had just entered into office; he was hardly in the infancy of political mistakes: even those who doubted his capacity, thought well of his intentions. He had not at that time given the public to understand that he would bestow no office but under implicit conformity to his political opinions. He had not declared that "A Republican Government may mean any thing;" he had not yet sanctioned the abolition of trial by jury in the alien law, or entrenched his public character behind the legal barriers of the Sedition Law. Nor were we yet saddled with the expense of a permanent navy, or threatened under his auspices with the existence of a standing army. Our credit was not yet reduced so low as to borrow money at 8 per cent. in time of peace, while the necessary violence of official expressions might justly have provoked a war. Nor had the political acrimony which still poisons the pleasures of private society been fostered by those who call themselves his friends and adherents; nor had the eminent services of Mr. Humphreys at that time received their reward. Mr. Adams had not yet projected his Embassies to Prussia, Russia, and the Sublime Porte; nor had he yet interfered as President of the United States to influence the decisions of a Court of Justice. A French monarch would have shrunk

from: an interference without precedent, against law, and against mercy! This melancholy case of Jonathan Robbins, a native citizen of America, forcibly impressed by the British, and delivered up with the advice of Mr. Adams to the mock trial of a British court martial, had not yet assuaged the republican citizens of this free country. A case too little known, but which the people ought to be fully apprized of before the election, and they shall be.

Most assuredly had these transactions taken place in August, 1797, the President Adams would not have been troubled by any request from

THOMAS COOPER.

Valuable English Books.

J. GALES,

HAVING just received from London, by Way of Charleston, a Collection of the most valuable and superbly bound English Books ever seen in this State, takes Leave to lay before his Readers a Catalogue of them, and of such other Books as he has at present for Sale, at his Store, next to the Court-House, in Raleigh, with the Assurance that they will be sold at moderate Prices:—

THEOLOGY. Dr. Priestley's Discourses on the Evidence of Revealed Religion, 2 v. — Cafe of Poor Emigrants, a Sermon, 2 v. — Letters to Unbelievers. Maynard's Josephus's Fleetwood's Life of Works, with plates, 2 v. — Smith's Sermons. Burkett's Exposition Butler's Analogy of the New Testament. Fox's Book of Martyrs, 2 v. — Campbell on the Miracles of the New Testament. Crutwell's Concordance of the Bible. Fisher's ditto. M'Leven on the Types and Figures of the Christian Church. Christian Philosophy. Brown's Christian The Messiah, from the Journal of Mr. Kippis's Sermons. Klopstock, 3 v. — Price's do. Owen's Christian Mysteries. Family Lectures, from the most eminent English Divines, in Defence of Theoph. Lindsey and Unitarian Worship. Do, in one vol. Gill's Body of Divinity, 3 v. — Fyfe's Paraphrase of the Acts of the Apostles, 2 v. — Brown's Dictionary of the Bible, 2 v. — Edwards's History of the Redemption. — Treatise on Religious Affections. Walker's Sermons, 2 v. — Calvinism improved. History of the Baptists. Newton on the Prophecies. Religious Truths. Spiritual Letters of J. W. de la Fleschere. Jenny's View of the Internal Evidence of Christianity. — On the Origin of Evil. — Lectures on Dialogue between the Revelation. Bennett's Strictures on Female Education. Antidote to Deism. Burton's Lectures on Female Education and Manners. Mrs. Trimmer's Sacred History, 6 v. — Flavel's Husbandry spiritualized. Christian Remembrancer. Watts's Psalms and Hymns, bound together or separate. — Miscellaneous. Watts on the Mind. Beauties of Watts. Bolton's Fourfold State. Reign of Grace. Forayce's Sermons to Young Women. Paley's Evidences of the Christian Religion. Hervey's Theron and Aspasio. — Meditations. Brown on the Oracles of God. Beveridge's Private Thoughts. Memoirs of Rev. Thos. Halyburton. Fuller's Letters. Christian World. Newton's Cordiphonia. Powell on Mortgages, on the Utterance of the Heart, 2 v. — Cooke's Bankrupt Bishop Lowth's Translation of Isaiah. Owen on Sin. Littleton's Dialogues on the Dead. Sterne's Sermons, 2 v. — Titles.

Crown Circuit Com. — Politics, Commerce, &c. — Devlin on Homicide. Smith's Cause of the Devil and Larceny. — Weakness of Nations, 3 v. Huelock's Law of Godwin's Political Justice, 2 v. — Gilbert on Distresses. Warville on Commerce and Replevin. Joel Barlow's Writings. Every Man his own Political Dictionary. — Spirit of Despotism. Espinasse's Nisi Prius. Webster's Polit. Essays. Swift's Laws of Con. Paine's Works, 2 v. — Monroe's View of the Conduct of Executive of United States. — vol. 4. just published. Callendar's History of United States. — Annual Register U. S. Andrews's Reports. Proceedings on the Impeachment of W. Conduktor Generalis. — Blount. Pennsylvania State View of the New England Illuminati. — Trials. — Speeches of Messrs. Gallatin and Harper on the Navy and on all the individual Foreign Intercourse. — Letter from George Nicholas of Kentucky to his Friend in Virg. The Wisdom of Ages, or the British Constitution. — Vattel's Law of Nations. — Physic and Surgery. — Dictionary of Surgery. — Buchanan's Domestic Medicine. — New Dispensatory. — Democracy vindicated. Afflicted Man's Complaint. — Proceedings of the Virginia Legislature with respect to the Alien and Sedition Laws, containing Mr. Madison's celebrated Report on these subjects. — London Practice of Thelwall's Tribune, 3 v. — Every Man his own Physician. — Hays on Coughs and Colds. — Beauties of Blair. — St. Pierre. — Henry's Biography. — Henry's History of England, 10 vols. — Genlis. — Hume's Do. continued by Smollet, Corrick Bell's Art of Angling and Lloyd, 25 vols. — Essay on the Passions. Goldsmith's Ditto. Goldsmith's Essays. — Lives of the Sportman's Dictionary. — Poets, 4 v. — Ramsay's History of the American Revolution, 2 v. — Principles of Taste. — Memoirs of the Life and Reign of the Empress of Russia. — Collection from the Harleian Treasures, which relate principally to English History, and many of which are referred to by Hume. — Ravaul's History of Lavater's Aphorisms on the American Revolution. — Lavater's Essays on Physiognomy, the original edition, with all the fine plates, bound in Russia, 3 v. — Abridged, in 1 v. — Memoirs of French Revolution, 2 v. — Letters to the People of Scotland. — Description of Corsica. — Cox's View of the United States. — Lettans du Peuple. — Winterbottom's History of America, 4 v. — Lord Kaim's Elements of Criticism, 2 v. — Handmaid to the Arts. — Stiles's History of the Judges of Charles I. Knox's Essays, 2 v. — History of the American Revolution, 2 v. — Guarding, 2 v. — Life of Col. Gardiner. — Franklin's Works. — Moore's Journal in Zimmerman on Solitude. — France, in French. — Memoirs of the year 2800. — Maw's Gardener's Calendar. — Hilt of Baron Trenck. — Godwin's Reflections on 3 v. and in 1 v. — Watts's Logic. — Jefferson's Notes on General Washington's Letters. — Appel de Roland. — Do. Epistles. — History of the State of Tennessee. — of a Gentleman of British Nepos, or Lives of illustrious Britons. — Hopkinson's Works, Heron's Designation. — of Scotland. — D'Argenson's Essays. — Derington's History of Blair's Lectures on Rhetoric, abridged. — Roberton's History of Yorick's Sentimental Journey. — Mary Queen of Scots. — The Mirror, a periodical Work. — PHILOSOPHY. — Carey's American Philosophical Deity. — Museum, 12 v. — Nicholson's Philola. — Tooke's Pantheon of Philosophy. — Hoyle's Games. — Reid on the Intel. — Dr. Priestley on Education. — Powers of Man. — Mrs. Carter's Cookery. — Fenn's System of the Rudiments of Taste. — Physical and Moral. — Hume's Essays. — World. — The Prompter. — Locke's Essay of the Human Understanding. — Washington and a collection of Papers relative to the death and character of Gen. Washington. — Darwin's Zoonomia. — Studies of Nature. — Picture of Human Life. — Goldsmith's Animated Nature. — Jan. Books. — Nature, 4 v. — Natural History and Geography. — Gen. Washington. — Natural History. — Voyages and Travels. — tory of Animals. — Hays's Collection of Cuthrie's Geography, 2 v. with an Atlas. — Beauties of Creation. — World's Geography of the United States. — Vainey's Ruins of Metaphysics and Mine. — Empires.