

PINBOEUF, in France, July 2, 1778

NEW BERN, October

To the PUBLIC

It gives me much pain to offer any thing to
concerns myself, but when I find my character
attacked, hope they will indulge me with a vindication.

ON or about the 18th of August last, a certain
James, of this county, received a violent stab in his back
cutlas from a Frenchman. Two or three days after, on
that the man was dead, search was made for the Frenchman
town, where he had been walking at large without the le-
tice taken of him. On their not finding him, Col. John
sheriff of this county, was told by several gentlemen, he had
ter advertise the Frenchman as the likeliest way to apprehend
him, and offered among them to make up a reward of twenty
pounds, of which sum William Tisdale, Esq; offered to pay
ten pounds. Col. Bryan left them and said he would go to Mr.
Davis and have it done immediately. In less than an hour Mr.
John Kennedy, gaoler and deputy sheriff came to the printing
office, told me he was sent by Col. Bryan to order me to adver-
tise the murderer, as James was dead. I told him I could not
without a form, the man's name, and description. He immedi-
ately went away and returned in less than half an hour with the
man's name, and a description of his person, and told me that it
was Col. Bryan's orders I should publish an advertisement immedi-
ately, put his name to it, and offer a reward of twenty pounds;
the orders were obeyed, and an advertisement published.

At the last county court here, notwithstanding the above pro-
ceedings, a prosecution against me was most violently urged, the
printed advertisement was found on the table of the foreman of
the grand jury, and its supporters were soon discovered to be
Col. Joseph Leech, Dr. Gaston, and Col. Bryan himself, who
had ordered the publication, as his deputy told me. It was urg-
ed by them gentlemen that no such murder had been committed,

God,
August last
forelaid, "
" day, barbarous
" longed to Colonel
" Jeremiah James died of
" had absconded." In consequ
nant with a number of other persons
Frenchman, who, it was said, was conce
bushes behind the school house, and after search
ble time for the supposed murderer, and not being able
him, Mr. Tisdale and some other persons proposed to have him
advertised, and promised to give any person twenty pounds re-
ward, who would apprehend the aforesaid Frenchman. This
deponant further saith, that he desired Colonel John Bryan,
sheriff of Craven county, to go home with him and he would