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From the United States Gazette.

It is with peculiar pleasure that we copy the following well written article from the American Citizen, printed by James Caltham in New York. The conduct of that paper and of its editor we have had frequent occasion to censure in the severest terms; we embrace, therefore, the more cheerfully this opportunity of doing him justice by exhibiting in an honourable light his candour, and his ingenuous independence in an affair respecting which there can be but one voice among all honest men. The directly opposite course pursued by an infamous democratic print in this city is in perfect consistency with its former character, and displays a cold malignity, a savage and unrelenting rancour which nothing can soften, noting but blood and murder can satiate.

General Hamilton's Death.—The editor, in all humility, asks the reader to accompany him through a brief review of the correspondence, recently published, in relation to the unhappy affair which terminated the existence of the illustrious deceased.—He enters upon this unpleasant task the more readily and with the more zeal, since he views, and cannot but view, the death of General Hamilton as a national loss, and as the inevitable and deplorable effect of a long meditated, a predetermined system of hostility on the part of Mr. Burr and his confidential advisers.

Lest, however, he may be misunderstood by some, and knowingly & injuriously misrepresented by others, he deems it fit to cause himself to be clearly and distinctly understood. This, perhaps, is an homage due to the honest errors of the less liberal part of the community.

To a few of those with whom I think and act in whatever relates to the administration of the state and general governments, it may seem extraordinary that I, who while the General lived to give comfort to his family and splendour to his nation, was opposed to him on some political points, should, when laid in the cold and silent tomb, become a guardian of his fame, a vindicator of his wrongs. If in the Republican party there is one man of this description, (and I trust there is not) I would with diffidence beg him to reflect, and to exercise, with becoming dignity and moderation, those intellectual powers which it hath pleased God to impart even to the humblest of his image. I ask only for the privilege of thinking and of expressing my thoughts with exemption from cruel and overbearing intolerance. A fixed determination, however, to enjoy the one will prompt me to a due resistance of the other. I must unthink what I have thought and unlearn what I know, before I can act the part of a savage; and he deceives himself who concludes that, in my editorial pursuits, I will be guided by any opinions but my own. With conscious, and, as I think, becoming pride, I utterly disclaim and renounce that illiberality which will not award to illustrious merit its just due. I have, and always had, an exalted opinion of the merits of the deceased, and with unaffected sincerity and deep regret lament his loss.

This opinion and this sentiment, however, will not be construed by the liberal and the enlightened, into an approbation of the political maxims of this great statesman, nor into a dereliction of principles formerly maintained and still tenaciously adhered to. It is the high prerogative, the distinguishing power of the human mind, and most honourable to man, justly to discriminate in whatever relates to the fame of those pre-eminent citizens who give character and lustre to a nation. HAMILTON, I believe, entertained political opinions at variance with mine, and on which, manifested, in many instances by the administration of Mr. Adams, and, in one, by that of Gen. Washington, I cannot, without unpleasant sensations, reflect. From these, which while living I opposed, I still dissent; but, alas! he is dead and I cannot pursue him to the grave for opinions honestly entertained, calmly and dignifiedly asserted, luminously and instructively enforced, and conveyed to the public in all the elegance of a scholar, and enriched with all the erudition of a distinguished jurist. I leave it to presumptuous arrogance, to a species of party rancour which I disclaim, to take another course.

So far I differed from General Hamilton in political opinion; but all difference is now at an end. Death has swallowed up in victory, cruel and fatal victory, the narrow isthmus that separated from this great luminary those with whom I act. I know that ancient writers urge with force & propriety, and that modern politicians acknowledge, as with one accord, the necessity of

frequently laying before the people, by way of admonition, and to put them on their guard, the vices of great men even after death has destroyed the power of repetition. But were I asked whether General Hamilton had vices; in the face of the world, in the presence of my God I would answer, no. Like all men he sometimes erred; but I cannot admit that even his errors were those of the heart. He was human, and therefore not perfect. But if we correctly judge of human perfection by purity of heart, by rectitude of intention, I hesitate not to say that, in my opinion, General Hamilton was most perfect.

His private virtues, his public services, his great abilities, involuntarily excite in me the warmest esteem for his memory.

Of his private virtues, there is no difference of opinion. All men, of all parties, speak of them with rapture, and acknowledge them with admiration. To these, vice pays involuntary homage. The plotting mischievous citizen, whose bloody hand, guided by cool malignancy, terminated his existence, will acknowledge them. In all the private relations of life he was honest, faithful, generous, and humane.—His heart was the seat of every manly virtue. No man ever impeached his integrity with any colour of justice. In vain have party collisions and rancour ransacked public records and exhausted private inquisition for a blemish. The fatal catastrophe proves, that, like Aristides, he chose to yield his life rather than his integrity.—**SUCH A MAN whatever were his political opinions, irresistibly commands our esteem.**

His public services were many, splendid, and great. From these, nothing but deplorable infatuation; nothing but fiery zeal, unmixt with a ray of reflection, can withhold a lasting glow of admiration and gratitude. The friend of liberty, he who for a moment reflects that out of the revolutionary contest, that chaos of clashing elements, arose a world of freedom, cannot but venerate the memory of those who, as it were, created it. In this most glorious, most useful, most splendid of earthly scenes, HAMILTON performed a conspicuous—shall I not say a disinterested, a patriotic part. Scarcely arrived at the gristle of manhood; glowing with patriotic fire, with military ardour; he joined the creative phalanx and signalled himself by constancy, by perseverance, by valour; and irradiated, with the rays of his superior genius, all within the sphere of its presence. His Revolutionary services entitle him to our affection, and will endear his memory to all who are sincerely attached to our independence.

His civil was more brilliant than his military career. His early efforts as a statesman excel in utility and lustre his exertions in the field. Perhaps to him, more than to any other man, we are indebted for the excellent constitution under which we live. Whatever aberrations from republican maxims rigorous inquisition may have discovered in his efforts in the convention, I know not; but this I may predict, from what we do know, that his numerous essays, under the title of "FEDERALIST," advocating the principles and enforcing the adoption of the constitution, will immortalize his name and render him illustrious when every memento of the caviling widdings of the day shall be swept from the records of time and buried in everlasting forgetfulness. I think I am not incorrect when I say that these essays are the ablest political papers in the world. They are replete with lessons of wisdom, clothed in unusual elegance. They are the production of a mind naturally capacious and enriched with all the lore of learning. I read them with renewed pleasure and instruction. Amidst the afflictions of the relatives of the deceased it cannot but be pleasing to witness statesmen and jurists* resorting to this elementary work as an unerring standard by which to test and determine matters in controversy.

From the New-York Evening Post.

The statement containing the facts that led to the interview between General Hamilton & Col. Burr, published in the Evening Post on Monday last, studiously avoided mentioning any particulars of what past at the place of meeting. This was dictated by suitable considerations at the time, and with the intention, that whatever it might be deemed proper to lay before the public, should be made the subject of a future communication. The following is therefore now submitted.

—In the interviews that have since taken

* See Tucker's Backstone and Debates in Congress.

place between the gentlemen that were present, they have not been able to agree in two important facts that passed there—for which reason nothing was said on those subjects in the paper lately published as to other particulars in which they were agreed.

Mr. P. expressed a confident opinion that General Hamilton did not fire first—and that he did not fire at all at Col. Burr. Mr. V. N. seemed equally confident in the opinion that Gen. H. did fire first—and of course that it must have been at his antagonist.

General Hamilton's friend thinks it to be a sacred duty he owes to the memory of that exalted man, to his country, and his friends, to publish to the world such facts and circumstances as have produced a decisive conviction in his own mind, that he cannot have been mistaken in the belief he has formed on these points.—

1st. Besides the testimonies of Bishop Moore, and the paper containing an express declaration, under General Hamilton's own hand, enclosed to his friend in a packet, not to be delivered but in the event of his death, and which have already been published, General Hamilton informed Mr. P. at least ten days previous to the affair, that he had doubts whether he would not receive and not return Mr. Burr's first fire. Mr. P. remonstrated against this determination, and urged many considerations against it, as dangerous to himself and not necessary in the particular case, when every ground of accommodation, not humiliating, had been proposed and rejected. He said he would not decide lightly, but take time to deliberate fully. It was incidentally mentioned again at their occasional subsequent conversations, and on the evening preceding the time of the appointed interview, he informed Mr. P. he had made up his mind not to fire at Col. Burr the first time, but to receive his fire, and fire in the air. Mr. P. again urged him upon this subject, and repeated his former arguments. His final answer was in terms that made an impression on Mr. P.'s mind which can never be effaced. "My friend, it is the effect of a religious scruple, and does not admit of reasoning, it is useless to say more on the subject."

2d. His last words before he was wounded afford a proof that this purpose had not changed. When he received his pistol, after having taken his position, he was asked if he would have his hair spring set?—His answer was, "Not this time."

3d. After he was wounded, and laid in the boat, the first words he uttered, after recovering the power of speech, were, (addressing himself to a gentleman present, who perfectly well remembers it) "Pendleton knows I did not mean to fire at Col. Burr the first time."

4th. This determination had been communicated by Mr. P. to that gentleman that morning, before they left the city.

5th. The pistol that had been used by Gen. Hamilton, lying loose over the other apparatus in the case which was open; after having been some time in the boat, one of the boatmen took hold of it to put it into the case.—General Hamilton observing this, said "Take care of that pistol—it is cocked.—It may go off and do mischief."—This is also remembered by the gentleman attached to.

This shews that he was not sensible of having fired at all. If he had fired previous to receiving the wound, he would have remembered it, and therefore have known that the pistol could not go off; but if afterwards it must have been the effect of an involuntary exertion of the muscles produced by a mortal wound, in which case, he could not have been conscious of having fired.

6. Mr. P. having so strong a conviction that if General Hamilton had fired first, it could not have escaped his attention (all his anxiety being alive for the effect of the first fire, and having no reason to believe the friend of Col. Burr was not sincere in the contrary opinion) he determined to go to the spot where the affair took place, to see if he could not discover some traces of the course of the ball from General Hamilton's pistol. He took a friend with him the day after Gen. Hamilton died, and after some examination they fortunately found what they were in search of. They ascertained that the ball passed through the limb of a cedar tree, at an elevation of about twelve feet and a half, perpendicularly from the ground, between thirteen and fourteen feet from the mark on which Gen. Hamilton stood, and about four feet wide of the direct line between him and Col. Burr, on

the right side; he having fallen on the left. The part of the limb through which the ball passed was cut off and brought to this city and is now in Mr. Church's possession.

No inferences are pointed out as resulting from these facts, nor will any comments be made. They are left to the candid judgment and feelings of the public.

From the New-York Evening Post.

The following is the correspondence that passed between General Hamilton and Colonel Burr:

No. 1.

New-York, June 18, 1804.

SIR, I send for your perusal a letter signed Charles D. Cooper, which, though apparently published some time ago, has but very recently come to my knowledge. Mr. Van Ness, who does me the favor to deliver this, will point out to you that clause of the letter to which I particularly request your attention.

You must perceive, Sir, the necessity of a prompt and unqualified acknowledgment or denial of the use of any expression which would warrant the assertions of Dr. Cooper. I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,
Gen. Hamilton. A. BURR.

No. 2.

New-York, June 20th, 1804.

SIR, I have maturely reflected on the subject of your letter of the 18th inst. and the more I have reflected, the more I have become convinced that I could not without manifest impropriety make the avowal or disavowal which you seem to think necessary. The clause pointed out by Mr. Van Ness is in these terms. "I could detail to you a still more despicable opinion which Hamilton has expressed of Mr. Burr." To endeavor to discover the meaning of this declaration, I was obliged to seek in the antecedent part of this letter for the opinion to which it referred, as having been already disclosed: I found it in these words, "General Hamilton and Judge Kent have declared in substance, that they looked upon Mr. Burr to be a dangerous man, and one who ought not to be trusted with the reins of government."

The language of Dr. Cooper plainly imputes to me, as a despicable one; but he affirms that I have expressed some other, still more despicable; without, however, mentioning to whom, when, or where. 'Tis evident that the phrase "still more despicable" admits of infinite shades from very light to very dark. How am I to judge of the degree intended? or how shall I annex any precise idea to language so indefinite?

Between Gentlemen, despicable and more despicable are not worth the pains of a distinction: when therefore you do not interrogate me, as to the opinion which is specifically ascribed to me, I must conclude, that you view it as within the limits to which the animadversion of political opponents upon each other may justifiably extend, & consequently as not warranting the idea of it which Doctor Cooper appears to entertain. If so, what precise inference could you draw, as a guide for your conduct, were I to acknowledge that I had expressed an opinion of you still more despicable than the one which is particularized? How could you be sure that even this opinion had exceeded the bounds which you would yourself deem admissible between political opponents?

But I forbear further comment on the embarrassment, to which the requisition you have made naturally leads. The occasion forbids a more ample illustration, tho' nothing could be more easy than to pursue it.

Repeating that I cannot reconcile it with propriety to make the acknowledgment or denial you desire, I will add that I deem it inadmissible on principle, to consent to be interrogated as to the justness of the inference which may be drawn by others from whatever I may have said of a political opponent in the course of a fifteen years competition.—If there were no other objection to it, this is sufficient; that it would tend to expose my sincerity and delicacy to injurious imputation from every person who may at any time have conceived the import of my expressions, differently from what I may then have intended or may afterwards recollect. I stand ready to avow or disavow promptly and explicitly any precise or definite opinion which I may be charged with having declared of any Gentleman. More than this cannot fitly be expected from me; and especially it cannot be reasonably expected that I shall enter into an explanation

(Concluded in last page.)