

# THE MINERVA.

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY WILLIAM BOYLAN.

RALEIGH, (N. C.) THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 22, 1807.

[No. 603.]

Vol. 12.]

FROM THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

MR. DAVIS,

"There came a viper out of the heat, and  
stung on our hand....And he shook off the beast  
with fire, and felt no harm."

I have said I would not engage in a pa-  
tronic controversy with Luther Martin, a  
well known Investigator. Yet as I am challenged  
by his *Philo* (a surname he has prefixed  
to his assumed signature) to show cause  
why I have accused him of once having  
been guilty of speaking truth, by ac-  
knowledging his conviction of the par-  
allel innocence of himself and his honor-  
able friend, Burr, I ask you to give place  
to the following

AFFIDAVITS.

Baltimore, 17th August, 1807.

Personally appeared before me Samuel  
Chase, Esq. one of the associate Judges  
of the Supreme Court of the United  
States, John Campbell White, M. D. of  
the City of Baltimore, and made oath  
on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty  
God, that on or about the tenth of No-  
vember last, or sometime between the  
eighth and twelfth of said month, in a  
conversation with Luther Martin, Esq.  
of the city of Baltimore, Mr. Martin  
observed, that he had not the least hesi-  
tation in saying, that before twelve  
months the Western States would be  
separated from the Atlantic States, that  
he Mr. Martin had it from the best au-  
thority.

Signed JOHN CAMPBELL WHITE  
Sworn before

SAMUEL CHASE.

State of Maryland, Ann Arundell County,  
ss. &c.

July 24th, 1807.

Personally appeared before the sub-  
scriber, a Justice of the Peace for the  
county aforesaid, Edward Hall and made  
oath on the Holy Evangelists of Al-  
mighty God, that sometime in the  
month of September last, in a conversa-  
tion which he had with Luther Martin  
(late Attorney General of Maryland  
respecting Col. Aaron Burr, Mr. Martin  
remarked that Col. Burr would be Em-  
peror of Louisiana in six months. To  
which this deponent replied, from the cha-  
racter of Colonel Burr he had too high an  
opinion of his talents and judgment to  
believe he would attempt so mad a pro-  
ject as a separation of the Western from  
the Atlantic States. To which Mr. Mar-  
tin remarked, You are mistaken. I  
have no doubt but Burr will be declar-  
ed Emperor of Louisiana in less than six  
months, and as soon as he shall pay  
him a visit. To which this deponent  
replied—You have been in the habit  
Mr. Martin of prosecuting a number of  
persons for different offences, take care  
that you are not in turn prosecuted for  
treason.

Sworn before JOSEPH SANDS.

District of Maryland, viz.:

Philip Graybell of lawful age, resid-  
ing in the city of Baltimore, maketh  
oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty  
God, that sometime during the sum-  
mer of 1806, he, this deponent, was  
standing at his door in Market  
Street in the said city, and Luther Mar-  
tin came up and addressed himself to  
this deponent to the following effect.—  
That Aaron Burr was to divide this  
country, and that the Alleghany Moun-  
tain would be the divisional line.

Signed PHILIP GRAYBELL.

Sworn before SAMUEL CHASE.

The foregoing are copies of affidavits  
filed in the Circuit Court of the United  
States for the Virginia District.

Teste, WM. MARSHALL, clk.

Add to this, I did myself, three years  
ago last winter, at the city of Washing-  
ton, hear Martin predict the dismember-  
ment of the Union, on the same bound-  
ary line which he asserted to Mr. Gray-  
bell by the emperor contemplated, & in  
a manner which convinced me he would  
willingly facilitate the project, if it would  
go to embarrass the executive; against  
whom, it appeared he indulged some  
little, mean, personal hatreds and resent-  
ments, rather than manly sentiments of  
political opposition; and to gratify  
which he would make any national sa-  
crifice.

This is the man who tremblingly alive to  
every touch which tends to level the im-

perial crest of treason, delights to scatter  
firebrands, pestilence and death among  
all characters who chose rather to sup-  
port a republican form of Government  
even in the dull pursuits of civil life, than a-  
mong choice spirits to wage war against  
their countrymen in quest of principalities.

There are strong grounds of reason to  
believe that a publication in the New-  
York Gazette and General Advertiser  
of 24th ult. said to be an "extract of a letter  
from a gentleman of veracity and honor, dated  
at Richmond, 17th Sept. barely calculated  
to vilify the character of an officer of  
high rank who is also in the public in-  
quisition, will be traced to the same pu-  
trid source as the publications of Investi-  
gator and his *Philo*. If there were no  
other reasons to induce this belief, it  
would be sufficient that no gentleman in  
Richmond or elsewhere the gentle Martin  
excepted, whatever part he may have  
taken in the present investigation, is  
thought capable of so improbable, bald  
faced and infamous a tissue of false-  
hoods. Without being any man's ad-  
vocate, such I know and pronounce that  
publication to be.

It is no part of my intention here to  
enter into a vindication of any part of  
my own conduct. If the contradictions  
and inconsistencies, with which Martin  
marches into the press and hails his fel-  
low citizens, can be made to appear a  
gainst me, no doubt they will be used  
for the benefit of the defence. It is suf-  
ficient for my repose that, at length,  
sufficient truths will be laid before the  
public, to enable my fellow-citizens to  
judge correctly of the propriety or im-  
propriety of my conduct and intentions.  
In perfect confidence in the justice of  
this tribunal I bid eternal adieu to In-  
vestigator.

WILLIAM EATON.

October, 6.

FROM THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

To the Editor.

Gen. Eaton has anticipated me, for  
which I thank him....I was about to have  
published those depositions, and had  
procured copies with that intent, but  
being informed that the General had  
determined to give them to the public,  
I preferred that through him, in the  
first instance, should be obtained the  
knowledge of the kind intentions towards  
me of that administration, of which, it  
seems, he has lately become such a fa-  
vorite, and I only regret, that while  
he had the pen in his hand, he did not  
also inform the public, that witnesses  
were summoned to attend the grand ju-  
ry, in order to have me indicted for  
Treason, but, that as presidential syc-  
ophancy had not given information in  
time, such witnesses as came to Rich-  
mond, did not arrive until the day after  
the fare—most unfortunately, the grand  
jury were discharged before they got to  
Richmond.

The truth is, that as I had dared to  
interpose between government and a  
friend of mine, who was destined to be  
a victim; either government, enraged  
by this interference, sought for testimo-  
ny for the pious purpose of adding me  
to the number of its victims, or syc-  
ophants, who thought it the most certain  
means of recommending themselves to  
Presidential favor, volunteered in giving  
information against me.—In consequence  
of which, witnesses were summoned to  
attend the grand jury, one of which on-  
ly, as I believe, arrived here, that one  
was John Campbell White M. D. now  
of Baltimore, but not long since, a uni-  
ted Irishman, engaged in Treason against  
that government to which he owed alle-  
giance. I hope it may not be supposed  
that for this reason I consider him less  
fit to be an American citizen; but un-  
fortunately as I have observed, M. D.  
came too late; however, the adminis-  
tration finding, that this manœuvre had  
not intimidated me from returning to  
Richmond, where I arrived the last day  
of July or first day of August, for the  
purpose of attending the trial; govern-  
ment sent on, the seventeenth day of  
August or some short time after, the de-  
positions of the aforesaid M. D. White  
and Philip Graybell, to the hon. George  
Hay, with the view, that he might act,

according to the legal phrase, *prout lex  
postulat*. Mr. Hay was polite enough  
to inform me, that such depositions had  
been transmitted to him, in consequence  
of which, I sent Mr. Hay a card the next  
day, informing him that it was my wish  
he should act in such a manner as his  
duty required—that he would find my  
feelings much less irritable, in my own  
case, than where a friend was interest-  
ed—and assuring him of my readiness,  
at any time most convenient to him, if  
he wished it, to wait upon the Chief  
Justice at his chambers, and submit my-  
self to whatever in the Chief Justice's  
opinion the laws of my country should  
require.—I have not, although Hall's  
deposition has since arrived, been re-  
quested to attend at the Chief Justice's  
chamber's. Indeed there are a few un-  
fortunate circumstances attending those  
depositions; however well meant they  
may have been, they do not go quite far  
enough.

There is nothing in them, which  
proves that I suggested this separation of  
the union was to be effected by military  
force.—And the times, when these de-  
clarations were made, unfortunately up-  
on examination were found to be before  
any overt act of seceding war is pretend-  
ed by government to have been com-  
mitted.

Upon the subject of these depositions,  
miserable as they are, I feel myself bound  
from my respect for my fellow-citizens,  
to give them some explanation.

I have been one of those, who totally  
disapproved of the conduct of our gov-  
ernment in the purchase of Louisiana.  
We had before a country equal to all  
Europe, with a population not equal to  
that insular speck, Great-Britain. It  
would require fifty or a hundred years,  
by the natural increase of population,  
let republican energies be exerted for  
that purpose, with the utmost zeal, and  
even taking into consideration the out-  
spewings of European galls, to render  
the population of the U. S. as their ex-  
tension was before the purchase of Lou-  
isiana, in a reasonable proportion to  
the extent. When government pur-  
chased a wilderness, equal also in extent  
to all Europe, with very little popula-  
tion, except savages or horn'd frogs,  
ground squirrels, prairie dogs, or more  
dangerous animals, I considered the ac-  
quisition as foolish, as it would have  
been if a merchant who had a commodi-  
ty on hand, much more than he could  
dispose of in fifty years, had purchased  
as much more of the same commodity, at  
an high price—thereby depreciating the  
value of the stock he before had on  
hand—and paying interest on the addi-  
tional stock purchased. I considered  
that every man, who in consequence  
of this purchase, emigrated from the U. S.  
to Louisiana, thereby lessened the value  
of lands and increased the price of labor  
in the U. S. and particularly in the At-  
lantic part.—That, the more extensively  
our citizens were spread over an im-  
mense Territory, by so much were we  
rendered more vulnerable to the attack  
of a foreign enemy, and less capable of  
giving protection.—And also, the more  
liable to have an opposition to our laws,  
and difficulties in enforcing them. I al-  
so considered that, when we purchased  
Louisiana, we purchased a certain dis-  
memberment of the union—for I ever  
have, and do yet believe, that it is as  
certain as that the sun will continue to  
rise in the east, that, when the popula-  
tion of that country becomes in any de-  
gree equal to its extent, it will separate  
itself from the union and carry with it  
all the trans-alleganian territory.—And  
I have ever considered it ridiculous to  
suppose, that any of the powers of Eu-  
rope would pay greater respect to rights,  
which we had acquired by purchase,  
than to those which had been secured to  
us by treaty.—Sentiments, in which, I  
believe, every candid man, who has as  
much brains as a Boneta Turtle, which  
as naturalists tell us, doth not exceed  
the size of a windrow bean, will agree  
with me.

With Mr. Hall, in whose company I  
have frequently been, at Annapolis, I  
have often conversed on this subject—  
and, after the conduct of Col. Burr be-  
gan to be a subject of public discussion,  
have often amused myself by telling him,

that I expected to see Col. Burr enjoy  
the benefit of this purchase, and that he  
would become Emperor of Louisiana.

This Mr. Hall has all the merit of be-  
ing a violent Democrat, and, as a re-  
ward, was a few years past appointed by  
Jefferson Commissioner of the Loan Of-  
fice, at Annapolis; notwithstanding  
which, as he and myself have been on  
intimate terms, it is very probable that  
he may have given me the caution men-  
tioned in the concluding paragraph of  
his deposition, more particularly so, as  
it not only proves his friendly regard for  
myself, but also, his correct and discrim-  
inating knowledge of the law of Treason!

As to Mr. Graybell, he is a worthy  
respectable citizen, of a German de-  
scent, an intimate friend of mine, who,  
many a market morning, when I have  
no change, or when, as it sometimes  
happens, I have no money of any kind,  
he is my banker.—I pass the door of his  
flour store in market street, when I am  
in the city, perhaps half a dozen times  
a week—on almost every of which occa-  
sions my good old friend has been in  
the habit of taking me by the hand,  
with an affectionate smile, and asking  
me "what news?" And from the time  
that the name of Col. Burr was intro-  
duced by democratic papers, I have of-  
ten answered him, "nothing, except  
that Col. Burr was about to separate the  
western country from the Atlantic States"  
—or, "that he was about becoming  
Emperor of Louisiana," or something of  
that nature; and then passed on to what-  
soever place I might be going.—If I had  
been present, when he was examined, I  
think I could have so far retreached his  
memory, that instead of a little, *from line*  
deposition, he might have furnished gov-  
ernment at least with a whole sheet, if  
not a small volume.

I have reserved, for the last, my unit-  
ed Irishman, and as to him I most so-  
lemnly declare, I have ever detested his  
principles too much to have had any o-  
ther communication with him, than the  
mere common civilities, which every  
gentleman ought to shew not merely to  
a stranger, but to a stranger whose ac-  
quaintance they ardently wish to shun.  
I am confident, that I never had any po-  
litical conversation with him upon any  
subject, much less any, in which the name  
of Col. Burr was mentioned—I will not  
say he may not have been in the Coffe-  
House, or some other public place,  
where I may have been conversing with  
others, and may have listened to my  
conversation—but I solemnly aver that  
if I ever in any place said that before  
twelve months the western states would  
be separated from the Atlantic States, I  
never did add, "that I had it from the best  
authority," and that whoever has or shall  
say or swear such a declaration to have  
been made by me, has or will say or  
swear to what is absolutely false.

I shall here add that from the time  
Col. Burr first went to the westward,  
until he was wantonly and unconstitu-  
tionally deprived of his liberty, by the  
military, not a single letter ever passed  
between us—and that from the period  
he went first to the westward, or at any  
time before, until the time of his being  
thus deprived of his liberty, he never  
directly or indirectly communicated to  
me his plans, whatever they might have  
been. In confirmation of this, I could  
give the public Col. Burr's attestation  
on oath, but I scorn to do it. My own  
declaration will be believed by all who  
know me, whether within or without  
the United States and its territories, e-  
ven the tools and sycophants of the ad-  
ministration, if any such there be, not  
excepted.

One remark more and I am done.—  
From the information the public have  
now obtained, through General Eaton  
and myself, it must be pretty evident  
that my friend the President, would  
hang me if he could—but if he found  
that not in his power, he would deprive  
me of my liberty. Now to that pu-  
bly I solemnly declare, that if the Presi-  
dent was entirely, and absolutely at my  
mercy, I would neither hang, nor imprison  
him, nor would I hurt one precious hair  
of his head; I would do nothing worse  
with him, than to send him to Mond-  
cello, there to employ himself, in peace