



AND

North-Carolina State Gazette.

Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace,
Unwar'd by party rage, to live like brothers.

Vol. VII.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1805.

No. 316.

From the Enquirer.

Vindication
OF MR. JEFFERSON.
No. VI.

TO THOMAS TURNER.

I have pursued you through all the various charges, which you have brought forward against Mr. Jefferson's conduct during the revolution, with all that indignation and pity which ignorance and prejudice so eminently deserve. At each step of my investigation, I find the character of the criminal rising upon my view, whilst the character of his persecutor is rapidly descending below the horizon. You have undertaken a task, sir, which is above the strength of mortal man to accomplish; the task of opposing the most irresistible truths; but you have discharged that office with an imprudence and imbecility, which would disgrace the meanest logician. In the face of the American people you have pronounced the most refutable charges against the most elevated character in our country, without a single document to give them colouring; without having a single witness whom you could dare to name.

I know not what effect will be made upon your mind by the authenticated records and the respectable witnesses which I have produced. I have no doubt that the same bitterness of passion which led you into error, will prompt you to deny the relation; but upon my mind the conclusion is indelibly fixed that this body of evidence is too great to be resisted, and that there is not a single trait of truth in the accusations which you have suggested. Your political friends, sir, may admire the extraordinary zeal which prompted you to the encounter, but even they must ridicule the feebleness of the champion, who aimed the blow.

You accused Mr. Jefferson of basely deserting his post in the hour of danger. When Arnold made his attack upon Manchester, you represented the governor of Virginia flying before his troops with an unwarrantable timidity. He have proved that so far from flying, he remained in the very face of the danger; that so far from deserting his post, he displayed an uncommon activity in preserving the military stores and the public records. You repeat the same fabulous tale when you come to speak of Tarlton's incursions: you place the resignation of Mr. Jefferson upon the public records, when these records expressly contradict it; and in the fulness of your poetical licence, you unhorse him in the very path of the enemy and in the neighbourhood of Monticello, when he has peaceably retired to his estate in Bedford. You represent him as a dastardly coward who wants both the spirit of a man and the energy of an officer, when there is scarcely an act of his private life, scarce a measure of his public administration, which does not make it a matter of doubt, whether he has been most wise in the selection of his ends, or most resolute in the prosecution of his experiments.

You would have erred, sir, in expecting from Mr. Jefferson those brilliant feats of chivalry, those extravagant effusions of passion, those pompous boasts of courage, which distinguish some men in the active scenes of life. Mr. Jefferson is neither a Thraso nor a Bonaparte; his literary pursuits have raised him above the military achievements of the one, and rendered unnecessary the pompous pretensions of the other. He was not educated in the Ecole militaire, but amid the shades of academic bowers. His pursuits have led him into the retirement of his closet and not into the bustle of life. Cut off from all those little interests which agitate the mind and force men into collision with each other, he has been fortunate enough to avoid the disgusting scenes of contention, and when those occasions have rarely occurred, this cool and philosophic temper has enabled him to subdue his own feelings, or direct the passions of others. Had you taken the trouble to have attended your enquiries into Mr. Jefferson's early life, you would have found the companions of his youth assuring the inseparability of his character; you would have found that in suppress-

ing a riot in Gloucester occasioned by the crew of a vessel, he shewed a presence of mind which would have been worthy of a more dignified cause. Had you viewed his public measures with impartiality, instead of listening to a "thousand" nameless "wittesses," you would have found him employing every exertion which his situation admitted, for the good of his country, and in the high office which he at present fills, surpassing even your most favorite statesman in the importance of his services. If, sir, you have found any better proof of the energy of an officer than the success of his measures, you would perhaps render a substantial service to your friends by divulging the discovery.

It is time then, sir, that you should exchange situations with the illustrious patriot whom you have abused. With your eyes open to all the consequences of your proceeding, you have placed him at the bar of persecution and infamy, and it is time that your own experience should teach you the consequences of your passionate impeachment. It therefore charge you in the name of the violated majesty of truth, with gross ignorance or wilful misrepresentation. charge you not with one error alone, for that might have been pardonable to the inevitable frailty of the understanding, but with a long series of assertions, which are neither supported by the majesty of truth nor sanctioned by the dignity of virtue. It is then time, since not even your own name nor the consistency of your opinions can relieve you from your embarrassment, that you should summon "the oldest and most respectable inhabitants of Richmond" to come forth in your behalf. In issuing these subpoenas you would do well to take the advice of an opponent. Call no man to vouch for your assertions, whose evidence may be brought into contempt, or the obvious impurity of his motives. Above all avoid the aid of such witnesses, as have not forgotten their resentment to Mr. Jefferson for the loss of a place, and such foreigners as have not yet forgotten their attachment to the king of Great Britain.

Until you shall exonerate yourself from these charges, I shall pause in my researches. Until these are completely wiped away, you can scarcely hope that the other parts of your attack will be entitled to respect, or that the world will demand a vindication. It would be injustice to the author to suppose that his work was unequal in its parts:

Spiritus intus alet, totamque infusa per artus
Mens agit atq; molem, et magno se corpore miscet.

One mind inhabits, one diffusive soul
Wields the large limbs, and mingles with the whole.

The same spirit pervades even the minutest ramifications: the same boldness of assertion without proof, the same petulance of temper without discretion. To his unfortunate predicament, are you therefore reduced; either you must take the unavailing task of answering charges against yourself which are recorded in the indelible lines of truth, or you must suffer the charges which you have brought against others to fall through the default of evidence: "It will acquire even greater ingenuity than you possess, to convince the people that he who has brought forward charges unsupported by a single fact, should be able to substantiate the rest. Could I indeed have got over this obvious scruple and have gone into an equally elaborate vindication on the other charges, I think I could have been equally successful in demonstrating their insufficiency.

You assert that on Callender's sending the proof sheets of the "Prospect Before Us" to Mr. Jefferson, he remitted the sum of 50 dollars, thus representing Mr. Jefferson, to have examined all the proof sheets: You assert that "when the first part of the second volume appeared" he remitted him a second douceur to the same amount, thus making the second remittance a compensation for the second volume. Had you examined into the whole history of that business with the same zeal with which you seem to have brought forward these allegations, you would have found them without the least founda-

tion. I have at this moment before me an extract from a letter published by Callender himself in the Register of July 1802, in which he explicitly states, that the first sum was remitted by Mr. Jefferson, upon his receiving some specimen sheets only, not of the prospect itself, but of Lyon's Monthly Magazine: sheets which are without that scurrility that disgraces certain parts of his composition; and that he had received the second sum when the first part of the second volume was put to press; the time at which Callender was doomed to imprisonment by the penalties of a sedition act; when it was necessary for every friend of his country to mark his abhorrence of an unconstitutional law by his sympathy for a victim, who had been selected for no other reason, but because he seemed to be without friends and without protection. It was to this motive and not to any wish of rewarding him for his first volume, that we may reasonably attribute the remittance of the second sum.

You assert that the remission of Callender's fine is a sufficient proof of Mr. Jefferson's regard for his politics and his person. Have you then forgotten that Mr. J. had taken a most solemn oath to obey the constitution? Have you forgotten that it was his deliberate opinion, that the sedition law and every thing which was done under it was a direct violation of that instrument? As to the charge of his usurping beyond his constitutional powers, when he took the money from the hands of the marshal before it was paid into the treasury, you seem to have forgotten that the President had previously consulted the opinion of the attorney general of the United States, and that that opinion is supported by such reasoning as has not yet been shaken by the most ingenious logicians of your party.

You have charged Mr. Jefferson with a persevering and deeply-laid scheme of seduction. Regardless of the female character; regardless of those particularities which should have prompted you to have shrunk from such a delicate investigation; you have flouted the name of a lady in the face of the universe? You have held it up as a mark at which suspicion and malice may shoot their envenomed arrows: indifferent to the injury which you may inflict upon your friend, provided you can ruin the reputation of your foe. Indifferent even to the fidelity of an historian, you have attempted to introduce every fiction which may heighten the apparent guilt of your criminal; whilst you have excluded every fact which may tend to his justification. You would have us to believe, that you alone have been initiated in the sacred temple of Truth; and you would wish the world to pay as much reverence to your decrees, as they formerly did to the oracles of Apollo. Under the pretext of having seen the celebrated correspondence between Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Walker, you deal out your anathemas with no niggardly hand, and you have the vanity to suppose that the world will at once bow down before your tutored judgment. Like the "pert, conceited spark of Merrick" you exclaim "I've seen, and sure I ought to know." I should conceive myself, Sir, worthy of contempt, were I to enter into any examination of that ex-parte evidence which you have thought proper to dole out, I call upon you therefore to produce the whole of this correspondence; until then, I must be permitted to doubt the correctness of your statements. I am strongly impressed with a belief, that you have omitted some of the most material points of that correspondence. You have said that Mr. J. was indebted to the father of Mr. W. for pecuniary aid; when it is well known, that the hereditary estate of Mr. J. was amply sufficient to cover all his expenses. You have asserted, that he continued to prosecute the scheme of seduction, even after his own matrimonial connection, when not even the slightest whisper of that kind was ever circulated in his neighbourhood.— But let us drop this subject.

I shall say nothing, Sir, of your charging Mr. Jefferson with having broken his faith in the payment of a

sum of money, or of maintaining an improper intercourse with a sable domestic. The first of these charges has been long since replied to: and the last is below the dignity of a man of understanding. If they deserve any comment at all, it is, that they serve to mark your inextinguishable animosity against the man you attack. The tale of domestic intercourse, you have not hesitated to introduce and blazon forth in the very body of your letter; whilst even the scurrilous editor of the Repository was modest enough to throw it into a small type at the foot of your letter by way of concealing it in the form of a note. The history of Mr. C. Jones's debt, was too opposite to be concealed; and in the height of your zeal, you therefore thought it necessary to step beyond the mere office of a witness, and bring it into the notice of your respectable correspondent in Boston, though it was the only subject on which he had not solicited information from your pen.

One parting observation more and I hope these strictures will terminate for ever! The friends of Mr. J. sir, may readily excuse you for the opprobrious epithets which you have heaped upon his head. When such a patriot as he is, is hailed as a "dastardly traitor," as a "deliberate villain" whose "diabolical turpitude defies the strongest language of the pen," they may pity the turpitude of the attack on account of its imbecility. They know it is beyond the power of Lilliputian to harm a giant. But, sir, I can scarcely conceive how you will be able to forgive yourself. From the humble and peaceful labours of retirement, you have raised yourself into distinguished, unenviable notice. You have condescended to occupy the same honours with Porcupine and Callender. You have exposed yourself to the keenest invectives, and even to the most unfounded accusations. These contemptuous insinuations, sir, may have recommended you to the sympathy of your party, but they can scarcely reconcile you to the vehemence of your own zeal. Take then the advice of an opponent. Suppress the animosity of your party zeal. Be generous enough to admit, that others may be as free from vices as yourself, and have the candour to admit that while you accuse such men as Mr. Jefferson of treason or villainy, the strength of your own prejudices or the misrepresentations of others, may have led you into mistake. At all events, beware of the dangers of celebrity. Since you cannot aspire to the reputation of a legislator or an author, content yourself with the substantial and humble honours of a Virginia farmer.

Cass's Tavern, Raleigh.

THE Subscriber acknowledges with Gratitude the patronage heretofore received in the line of his business, and earnestly solicits a continuance of the Public Favor; at the same time respectfully informs the Members of the ensuing General Assembly, that he has provided convenient and comfortable Rooms for the accommodation of such as may be pleased to favor him with their company; and that he has come to the Resolution of boarding Members during the Session, for eight Shillings per day, and their Servants at half price. And having a four Acre Lot, in the precincts of the city, well watered and fenced, he will undertake to keep the Horses of such Members as may wish to have them under their own Eyes, on moderate terms. If plentiful Provisions of all kinds, and every exertion to accommodate his Friends, be calculated to obtain their countenance and give satisfaction, he trusts his efforts to please will be crowned with success.

Peter Cass.

Raleigh, October 24, 1805.

NOTICE.

MR. JOHN C. WEDDEGEN of Washington is dead, and the Subscriber has, at the last County Court of Beaufort, obtained Letters of Administration on his Estate; all Persons having claims against him will present them within the time limited by Law, otherwise this notice will be plead in Bar. Those who are indebted to him are requested to make immediate payment to

JAS. REDMOND, Admr.

FOOLSCAP & LETTER PAPER

For sale at J. GALE'S Store

BOARDING.

NATHANIEL JONES (C. T.) informs his Friends and the Public, that he intends keeping a Boarding House in Raleigh, the ensuing Session of Assembly.

Indian Queen, Raleigh.

WM. SCOTT, FROM GRANVILLE COUNTY,

INforms the Public, that he has taken the above Inn, which he shall enter upon about the middle of October, when he shall be happy to accommodate such as may call upon him.

As he will spare no pains to render his House a comfortable Accommodation for Travellers and others, he hopes to experience Success in his Undertaking.

Particular Attention will be paid to the Accommodation of the Members of the ensuing General Assembly, of whom he hopes to entertain a considerable Number, his House being very commodious, and well fitted up for the purpose.

August 2

Tavern and Boarding-House FAYETTEVILLE.

JAMES BAKER

Begs leave to return Thanks to his Friends and the Public in general, for the very liberal Encouragement he has experienced since he opened a Tavern in this place, respectfully informs them that he has taken that large commodious Brick House, formerly occupied by Mr. Dick, near the Bridge, to which he will remove on the 1st of October next, where he will have it in his power to accommodate Travellers of every description in a much more comfortable manner than heretofore; his Stable can take fifty Horses, and has a Shed adjoining for Carriages. He will always be supplied with the greatest variety of choice Spirits, Wine, Porter, &c. &c. The Stables shall always be provided with Corn, Oats and all Kinds of Forage, and Servants whose Attention may be required on; Public Dinners and Balls furnished at a short Notice, with every variety that can be procured, and on moderate Terms.

An excellent Billiard Table in a large Room, with a Fire-place and good Maces, Cues and Balls, and proper attention paid.

N. B. A few more genteel Boarders may be accommodated.

Fayetteville, September 7, 1805.

NOTICE.

Will be sold to the highest Bidder, On Wednesday the 20th of November next, at the late Dwelling-house of Abraham Bass, deceased,

ALL the Estate of said Decedent, not before given away, consisting of the Plantation containing about 2000 Acres of Land, well improved with Houses, Gardens, &c. Ten likely Negroes, consisting of Men, Women and Children; all the stock of Cattle and Hogs, Household and Kitchen Furniture, with the Crop of Corn, Fodder, Brandy and Cotton. Twelve Months Credit will be given the Purchaser he giving Bond with approved Security, to the giving Bond with approved Security, to

The Executors.

Nash County, N. C. Sep. 15, 1805.

Ten Dollars Reward.

DEserted from the Recruiting Rendezvous on the 6th inst. a Soldier named Henry Henderson. He is twenty years of age, 5 feet 7 inches high, grey Eyes, dark Hair and dark Complexion, born in North-Carolina, by occupation a Shoe-maker. Who ever apprehends said Deserter, and bring him to Salisbury, or lays him in any Gaol for safe keeping, so that I may get him shall have the above Reward and all reasonable charges paid me.

Samuel Williamson,

Lieut. 2d U. States Reg. of Infantry;

Commanding Recruiting District.

Salisbury, N. C. Sept. 13, 1805.

LOST,

By the Subscriber, on Monday Morning last, an leaving Mr. Cass's Tavern in Raleigh, by the Northern Stage, or dropped on the Road,

A small Red Morocco

POCKET-BOOK,

Containing sundry Bank Notes of the U. States Charleston Branch Bank, Bills of North-Carolina Currency, and other Papers.

Whoever may have found the same and will return it to Peter Cass, in Raleigh, with its Contents, shall receive a Reward of Twenty Dollars.

Wolpord.

Raleigh, Oct. 2, 1805

CAUTION.

I Hereby caution all Persons what soever from trusting any animate Being on my account, as I am determined to pay no other Engagements than my own, unless it is perfectly agreeable

Wm. Parrill,

Oxford, N. C. Sept. 8, 1805.