

Mr. FENNO,

THE following truly singular advertisement having appeared in the Easton paper of Northampton county, (the den of Jacobins) I wish, for the satisfaction of the public, it was made more generally known, you will therefore oblige a subscriber by giving it a place in your useful paper:

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE public already know that I have offered myself as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of this county. Some of those who are my enemies have circulated a report very indifferently, that I have become a Federalist. I should have hoped, that twenty-five years exertions in the cause of republicanism would have prevented any person from giving credit to so improbable a falsehood—As, however, some people may possibly be induced to believe it, although evidently circulated for electioneering purposes, I am induced to publish the following certificate.

JOHN MULHALLON.

We certify, that at a conversation which took place at the office of James Ralston, Esq. on Monday the 29th of July last, it was mentioned to Judge Mulhallon, by a gentleman in company, who was a Federalist, that if the Judge were to be more moderate in his opposition to James Rofs, the federal candidate for governor, he (Judge Mulhallon) would get a great many federal votes: to which the Judge warmly replied, "that he wanted no favors of that kind, that he would support M'Kean at all risks, and that he would dispute the ground for him, inch by inch, even if it should injure his own election;" or words to that purpose.

JACOB ABEL, J. RALSTON, GEO. IHRIE, ABSALOM REEDER.

The subscriber informs his friends and fellow Citizens, in addition to the above certificate, that I can make it appear, that in a large and general meeting held at the house of Christopher Mixsell's, which has already appeared, with the ticket annexed, that a gentleman made the same observation, that it would be more prudent for me to be moderate in respect to the election of Governor. I then got up and told them. I would dispute the ground inch by inch for the election of M'Kean, if I should lose my own election. Therefore, I hope, the citizens of this county will credit no report of any kind which may be circulated with the view to injure my election, unless they publish it in the newspapers of this county, sign their names to it, and that so long before the election that I may have time to vindicate my character as I now have.

JOHN MULHALLON.

August 8th

HOW pleasing is the task to snatch from the jaws of persecution the eagle of federalism, and place it beyond the reach of the low the groveling wretch, who attempts to sap its foundations. To expose in their true colors, those who attempt to defame it, is the duty of every American, and real friend to his country. Monsieur Mulhallon having come forward openly in the face of day, he therefore becomes fair game for every one. He complains that his enemies have circulated a report, that he has become a federalist. Gracious Heaven! is the government of the United States so lenient as to foster and protect a wretch who has the effrontery to declare that he is its enemy! This hero of Long Island also informs the public, that he, should he even lose his election, will dispute the ground inch by inch, for M'Kean. Bold indeed, and with the weapons of his party, I make no doubt, falsehood, chicanery and intrigue. But his egotistical vanity exceeds all: He says, it is false, I am become a federalist. This I believe, for even in a multiplicity of lies there is some truth. The federal party would despise a character so mean and contemptible; he is fit only to be the tool of party, and jackal of faction. Every thinking man will see his drift; and that his declarations give the lie to his principles, for in attempting to impose upon others he has overreached himself: and I trust, there yet remains patriotism sufficient, in the county of Northampton, not to give their suffrages to a man of sentiments so abandoned. M. Mulhallon, deliberating in his garret, (for geniusses like his love to soar) on the surest means of gaining his election, and confiding, that perhaps the majority of the county were anti-federalists, exclaim, I will go and make some warm expressions before characters, whose respectability will not be called in question, respecting M'Kean's election; this will make his friends mine—the office of Ralston afforded a fit opportunity, where four gentlemen were convened. He there thundered out his exclamation, and after considerable trouble, got them to certify the words of John Mulhallon, the candidate for the sheriff's office, I say trouble, for they were the friends of government, and wished not to meddle in dirty business; but his scheme was too shallow, and his plans will undoubtedly be defeated. It may not be improper to enquire who and what Monsieur Mulhallon is, where he came from, and what he now follows: Mulhallon is by birth an Irishman, and by principles, as far as I can understand from his publication, a united one, that he has spent twenty-five years in the cause of republicanism, I think false, for in 1776, Mulhallon acted as a Lieutenant in a company of militia, was taken at Long Island—received a parole—did that which no man of honor would do, broke it, and never was exchanged. If this military act deserves credit, he is entitled to

it wholly, for my simple self, I will never court popularity at the expense of honor and integrity. This, I must acknowledge, is the only military achievement of his I have ever heard of, and would stamp with infamy, any character but one so defaced as his.

By fortunate events, which too often await the unworthy, Monsieur Mulhallon now graces the bench of Northampton, as an Associate Judge, every Judge prior to his taking his seat is obliged to swear he will support the constitution of this state, and the constitution of the United States, or in plain words (for fear Mulhallon should not understand) the federal constitution. The man who swears this, were he not a federalist before, must become one. How far Monsieur Mulhallon's declarations agree with this, I leave the world to judge, for my part I think it smells confounded throng of perjury; not that I would accuse his honour for one moment with a crime of this magnitude, but attribute it to forgetfulness. The citizens of Northampton county will consider well what confidence can be placed in the man who, although twenty years have elapsed, falsified the honour of a soldier, and must have been a disgrace to the corps to which he belonged—and by this act exposing his brother officers, the companions of his danger, to the hardships of a solitary confinement, was it not of his effrontery, humility would draw a veil over the deed and bury it in eternal oblivion. But you, my fellow citizens, will shew by your suffrages, whether you respect most, integrity and the friends of your country, or give them to a man devoid of all.

A FARMER of '76.

To the Electors of Pennsylvania.

WHEN a candidate for the highest office in the State is presented for the public opinion, his character, so far as relates to fitness for the station, becomes an object of importance, on which every citizen, capable of throwing light, would be deficient in his duty to his fellow citizens, if he neglected the opportunity before the choice was made. The ensuing election for a governor of the State of Pennsylvania, is one of the most important crises that this State has ever experienced: It is to determine whether we are to govern ourselves or be governed by foreigners? There are but two candidates, one of whom has given sufficient evidence of his adherence to the principles of liberty, substantiated in the constitutions of the U. States and of this State; the other has given as pregnant proof that he adheres to nothing but what accords with his own interests, nor longer than those interests are subserved by his consistency. So much has been already written on the characters of these candidates, that it would be unnecessary to add to the labors of the press, if the writers had brought their facts closer together, and given a concise picture of Mr. M'Kean's character as it results from them.

I propose to shew from what has appeared, that Mr. M'Kean has been for above thirty years, a man inconsistent with himself, varying from opinions openly avowed, to the contrary, in repeated instances; and that he never has maintained any opinion, which he has not in some period of his public life and conduct, directly contradicted—that he has been a whig and tory, a constitutionalist and a republican, a federalist and an anti-federalist, as often as his interest and ambition have rendered either of these characters most subservient to them.

Attend to the following facts, known to every body, and the result will be evident: The stamp act passed by the British parliament, wherein we were not represented, and whereby a large revenue was expected to be collected, was to take effect in 1765. Mr. M'Kean was among the number of those, who after some temporizing entered into an opposition to it; he was a member of that congress of delegates from most of the then British colonies which met at New York, to take measures to procure repeal of the act, and his boasts of weight of influence, and services in that body, are well known to all who have heard him for the last twenty years, spout out his own praise. He was also an opponent to the declaratory act of 1766, wherein after the repeal of the stamp act, the British parliament asserted their right to make laws binding to the American colonies in all cases whatsoever; and to the act passed the next year (1767), to enforce this assertion by imposing duties on tea, paper, glass and painters colors imported into America; and to all the acts passed for raising revenue in these (then) colonies by the authority of the British parliament; these ideas were popular, and he joined with the people in the opposition, whereby he raised himself to consequence, and established a character as a whig, a friend to the people, to liberty, and the rights of man. Thus he continued until his interest led him to another view of things; in 1772 the collector of the customs of the port of New Castle died, and Mr. M'Kean saw an office vacant worth from 1000. to 1500. sterl. a-year, which he conceived only waited his asking for it. It was in the gift of the governor of the Delaware counties in the first instance, of the board of commissioners of the customs at Boston in the second, and lastly, of the King, or rather of the minister of Great Britain. Mr. M'Kean was lawyer enough to know that if he accepted this office, he must take an oath to carry the revenue laws of Great Britain into execution in their fullest extent, according to their form and effect. This however, did not prevent him from studying his own emolument; immediately on the death of the collector, he sent a messenger to Philadelphia, requesting from Mr. James Hamilton, (then governing as president of the council ad interim between the departure of governor John Penn, and the arrival of governor Richard Penn,) a commission, as col-

lector of the customs of the port of New Castle on Delaware: Mr. president Hamilton, exercising authority under the crown, no doubt, thought he could recommend himself to his superiors by purchasing off a flaming patriot with an office, whose salary paid by the King, was but 1000. a-year, and therefore immediately granted the commission, and under it Mr. M'Kean took the oath of office: By this he became a complete tory, that is, a person sworn to carry into effect the odious duty of enforcing revenue from the colonies by acts of parliament, in which they were not represented. This is not all, Mr. M'Kean received a second commission from the commissioners of the customs at Boston, who had the general superintendance of the collection of the British revenue in the colonies, and whom Mr. M'Kean had often, while he was a whig, branded as an unconstitutional board; under this second commission, he again took the oath, and was installed collector of the hated duties; and in all probability, he would have been obliged to have packed up his all and gone off, with the other revenue officers of the crown, on or before the declaration of independence, if the king's pleasure notified through Lord North, had not superseded him by the appointment of another collector of the customs for the port of New Castle, and taken away his salary of 1000. a-year and the contingent perquisites of 500. or 600. more. This converted him; and he became again a whig, and was appointed a member of the congress of 1774. During that year and 1775, he carefully observed the political weathercock which was then against the declaration of independence, until the reception of the pamphlet under the title of Common Sense, assured him that the moon had changed under a favorable aspect, and that the wind was settled in that direction, he then also became a settled whig. It is needless to relate his conduct in Delaware, Jersey, and Pennsylvania during the period of British invasion; it will form some curious paragraphs in a future history of the revolutionary war, when party spirit and party connections, shall have so subsided and dissolved as that historical truth may be told; whereas, having established the first assertion, that he has been a whig and a tory, alternately as it suited his views of ambition and emolument, I proceed to the establishment of the second.

The first constitution of Pennsylvania was formed by a convention, composed as that of France afterwards was, of a few designing men, imitators of Cromwell, and each desirous of obtaining the protectorship of the State; and the many, the ignorant deluded tools of the faction, who were ready to give all power to their leaders; a letter now exists in print, from one Cannon, a schoolmaster in Philadelphia, a man then governing the mob, as Marat afterwards did the suburbs St. Antoine of Paris, which was circularly addressed to the electors of the several counties, recommending to them to chuse for their delegates to the convention, men of little learning, for that men of general or legal knowledge only confounded one another, and were unfit for the office of framing a constitution; his recommendation was so well attended to in many of the counties, that when the Convention met, and a committee appointed to draft the form of a constitution, reported, it was moved to have several copies of it transcribed; that the members might have an opportunity of reading it over at their lodgings, to which an amendment was offered, to substitute the word printed, instead of transcribed; because a majority of them could not read written hand. This motion was carried, and the report was printed, and hence the origin of printing all things depending before our public bodies. This learned convention established the first constitution of Pennsylvania, and there was not to be found a lawyer whose reputation had been established in Pennsylvania, who would accept the office of Chief Justice under it: Mr. M'Kean, then little known here, accepted it against his own decided judgment often expressed, and became a constitutionalist, a term of distinction assumed by the friends of that form of government, exercised by a single legislative branch, and he served the party who thus took him by the hand, faithfully, as long as it suited the purposes of his ambition and emolument, but no longer. In the course of a few years it was discovered that a government of a single branch was equally tyrannical, if not more so, than a despotic monarchy; that the passions of the many became concentrated and operated with as much consistency and more violence than those of an individual, and were more intolerant than the limited monarchy from which we had emancipated our country; the supporters of these opinions were filed republicans, in contradistinction from the constitutionalists; they had waged wordy war in the newspapers against each other from 1779 to 1786, and in the course of ten years, the public opinion became decided in favour of republicanism, which in the public mind bore the idea of a representative government, divided into three branches, elected by and accountable at certain fixed periods to the people, by periodical elections. In 1786 a project originating in Virginia, was hearkened to by many of the other states, who sent representatives to Annapolis, in Maryland, to consider of some plan to render the federal government, then weak, from its composition of all power in one branch, more efficient in its administration of the affairs of Thirteen States; this meeting could effect nothing; their defective powers were however enlarged and the states more fully represented, at a meeting the next year (1787) at Philadelphia; when the present constitution of the United States was framed and recommended to the people of the several States for consideration, a convention of each to be called in the manner recommended. Mr. M'Kean clearly perceiving

that the tide of popular opinion was coming with a full swell in favour of this constitution, suffered himself to be carried like a feather along with it, and when, in the year following its adoption, the constitution of the state was proposed to be rendered more conformable to that of the United States, he deserted his old friends the constitutionalists, who had raised him to the Chief Justiceship, who had dubb'd him with (to use his own expression from the Bench) the title of Doctor of Laws, the highest dignity attainable in the profession, and became a republican.

The contest about the new constitutions of the United States and of this state, at this time, gave new names to the contending parties without any alteration in their views. The Constitutionalists were men who, despising all order in government, and contending for an exact equality among men, whether rich or poor, learned or unlearned, whether wife or idiots, insisted that their representatives should meet in one chamber, and by a majority of persons decide on all acts of legislation; while the Republicans insisted that the wiser and better part should be selected from the people at large, and be placed in two chambers with powers of negative over the acts of each other, in order to prevent that simultaneous effusion of passion which a single branch was commonly affected with by the impulse of some aspiring demagogue who would always by popular flattery be able to insinuate himself into their good opinion, and become their leader, their Cromwell. This difference of opinion gave new names to the parties, and Federalists was substituted for Republicans, Antifederalists for Constitutionalists: while the contest was doubtful, the latter submitted to the appellation and even assumed the title, but when by the loud acclaim of the people the constitutions were ratified, they wished to change it, and many arts have been tried to bring about a reform—Newspapers have been set up and fallen down in the attempt, and yet it has not succeeded but in the jargon of the party. The Antifederalists have assumed the name of Republicans, but none beside themselves understand them as meant by it, and it is left to the Aurora and a few of its followers to designate them by it; while the true character of Republicans is maintained by the Federalists, who first assumed and always deserved the honored name: during this change of the Shibboleth of Party it was not difficult for Mr. M'Kean to turn with the tide; he thought his interest to be, to swim with the current, and he suffered himself to be enrolled in the list of Federalists: he advocated the cause of the new constitution of this state with energy; nay, he exceeded the excesses of those of his contemporaries who are now called Monarchists, and advocated principles of inequality among the people which would be too tedious to enumerate—here he was a Federalist in the extreme, but his services soon passed into oblivion—he was left to be merely Chief Justice of a single state—he was not promoted to the bench of the Union—he conceived himself neglected—he waited the next change of the moon, the next turn of tide, in hope that he might meet a favorite weed or straw to attach himself to, and flow into the port of an higher office. The clamours excited by Genet and the French party, and by his Reporter, Dallas, seemed to him a fit opportunity to serve his purpose; he embraced the occasion, and from a firm supporter of Federalism, he became an Antifederalist; and ever since he presided at the meeting in the State-house Yard, when M'Clenahan proposed to kick the British treaty to Hell, he has been the most inveterate enemy to the people and the government of the United States, wholly attached to a foreign nation which has nothing to recommend it but the assumed names which he has discarded of liberty and republicanism.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

This is the man recommended to your suffrages as Governor of the state, and I call upon all who shall vote for him to reflect within their own minds in which of his characters they mean to patronize him; whether as a Whig before 1772, a Tory and Custom-house officer in 1772 and 1773, a timid member of Congress till 1776, a Constitutional from thence till 1787, a Federalist of the highest tone from thence till 1793, or an Antifederalist, a Jacobin, a Foreigner, a Frenchman from thence to the present time.

Philadelphia, 7th Sept. 1799.

Mr. FENNO,

I enclose I send you a letter from the committee of correspondence for Washington county, covering a certificate from a number of the most respectable gentlemen in that county, proving Mr. JAMES ROSS of Pittsburgh's attachment to the Christian Religion, in contradiction to a false and scandalous report propagated and industriously circulated by the friends to Mr. M'Kean's election, "that Mr. Rofs is an Atheist, a Deist," &c. I have known Mr. Rofs from his youth, and his father and friends of York county, where he was born, and a more religious and virtuous family is not to be produced. In my long acquaintance with him, I have never heard an irreligious or indelicate expression from him, and believe him to be a moral, wife and virtuous citizen, a good Christian, and well qualified to fill the important office of Governor. LEVI HOLLINGSWORTH.

Washington, August 28, 1799.

SIR,

The committee in this county for promoting the election of Mr. Rofs, have learnt where Mr. Rofs is less known than here, currency is given by the enemies to his election, (the same conscientious men who supported the election of Mr. Jefferson,) to a report, that Mr. Rofs is a Deist.

To prevent the effect of this report, one of the committee in this town, where Mr. Rofs lived more than ten years, and until

about five years ago, applied to such elders and other persons, noted for their piety and regard for religion, as have known Mr. Rofs during the whole of this time, and as easily could be applied to, and they cheerfully signed the enclosed certificate. It was regretted that the absence of the Rev. John M'Millan, (who is the minister nearest to this place, is intimately and has been about twenty years well acquainted with Mr. Rofs, and is zealous for his election,) and of the other Presbyterian ministers in this neighbourhood, who are now sitting in Presbytery, more than sixty miles from this town, prevented the obtaining of their contradiction to this false and malicious report. But it was not thought prudent for the sake of this, to suffer the report to gain force, by the delay of another week's post: especially as those who have signed, are distinguished characters, for good sense, honesty and piety, and respectable for their stations in society. Mr. Allison is judge of this county, Mr. Swearer, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Ritchie are justices of the peace, and the last has been a member of assembly. Mr. Cotton and Mr. Brice, are county commissioners, and the last has been a member of assembly. Mr. Cunningham is a substantial merchant and Mr. Mercer a substantial farmer. These gentlemen being all in town at the time, were readily applied to, and you may be assured, that the certificate of any one of them, is sufficient to outweigh the report. Many more names could have been obtained, but to seek numbers was thought to be giving too much respect to the slander, and a selection of a few unquestionable characters was thought best.

The presence of the Rev. John Smith, of Cannonsburgh, a learned and respectable Seceder minister, who, about three years ago, removed to this county from Octorara, in Lancaster county, enabled us to procure his certificate also, and upon this we are content to rest the character of Mr. Rofs and of ourselves.

We could wish as much ease have obtained as positive a denial of all the other malicious reports lately propagated against Mr. Rofs, and we do pledge ourselves that they are false. But we thought it not of consequence to do so, as they are, we trust, generally known to be false; and as such reports from unprincipled and designing men are usually expected on such occasions. But there are so few means of ascertaining the credit due to a report of infidelity and a respect for religion is of such importance in public stations, that we thought it a duty to our fellow citizens to disprove the aspersions of *deism*.

Least, therefore, this aspersions should mislead good people, unacquainted with Mr. Rofs, the committee here request that you will publish, if you think proper, these documents in the newspapers or in hand bills, as you think best, and in such manner as you think most fit. The original of these certificates is in the hands of the committee of Franklin county. A. ADDISON, Chairman of the committee of Washington co.

Washington, (P.) Aug. 26th 1799.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

WE the subscribers, regular members of sundry Presbyterian congregations in the county of Washington, have heard with surprise and regret, that among the many slanderous reports propagated against the respectable character of James Rofs, Esq. of Pittsburgh, who has been proposed to be chosen governor of Pennsylvania, one is that he is a *Deist*.

We trust that we have a sincere regard for truth and religion, and we feel ourselves bound by the duties we owe to both, so far as our testimony can go to remove from our fellow citizens, this obfuscation to the free exercise of our votes in favour of Mr. Rofs. God forbid that we should assist in placing in such an important station, a man defective in respect for religion. And we but obey the dictates of our own consciences in making the following declaration of what we know of Mr. Rofs, from our own observation and indubitable information.

Mr. Rofs was born of respectable and pious parents, of the Presbyterian church in York county in this state, and received from them a religious education. He is well instructed in the scriptures and the doctrines of christianity as held by our church; and we are persuaded believes and respects them. He lived long in this town, and longer in this county, and we have had good opportunities of knowing him. Where he has lived, there has not been any stated minister, and only occasional supplies for public worship. But he has contributed to the support of public worship where he lived, and attended it regularly and there is nothing known to us to justify the imputation that he is an infidel or deist, and we think this imputation false and malicious.

In witness whereof we have hereto set our hands.

A Sweaterger } Elders of Washington  
Robert Stockton } Congregation.  
John Wherry }  
John Cotton } Elders of Buffalo Congregation.  
James Brice }  
James Mitchell, Elder of Peters Congregation.  
John Mercer } Elders of Chartiers  
James Allison } Congregation.  
Craig Ritchie }  
Alexander Cunningham.

Since I lived in Washington county, I have had opportunity of conversing and being well acquainted with James Rofs, Esq. of Pittsburgh, and of knowing his character from serious and respectable persons well acquainted with his opinions and conversation, and I am well persuaded that he is sincerely respectful of the Christian Protestant Religion, and do verily believe that the report of his being an infidel or deist is altogether without foundation.

JOHN SMITH, Minister of Affiliated Congregation Chartiers.