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FROM THE AMERICAN DAILY ADVERTISER.

VINDICATION OF MR. JEFFERSON.

No. V.

HAVING concluded in my last, a reply to the several allegations brought forward against Mr. Jefferson, by a writer under the signature of an *American* and *Catullus*, and placed each upon the ground on which it merited to stand, submitting it respectfully to his countrymen to determine, as well upon the propriety of his conduct in the particulars suggested, as on that of the author in troubling him and them with the subject, I had likewise hoped that this disagreeable business was at an end. I am happy, however, to observe, that the revival has been upon so limited a scale, as to preclude the apprehension of its being protracted to any great extent. I shall certainly contribute all in my power to bring it to a close.

The charge of any impropriety on the part of Mr. Jefferson, in the letter referred to, relative to the proposed transfer of the French debt, seems to be abandoned or but weakly insisted on, admitting the statement given by that writer to have been correct. And indeed it would have been difficult longer to have sustained with a judicious and well-informed public, any plausible argument upon that ground, after it was established, that the French court and Dutch company were equally anxious for the contract, and had solicited our approbation of it. For surely, in such an event, we had a right, and without the smallest breach of morality or delicacy, to weigh and determine which of those parties it would best suit us to have for creditors; and how could we exercise such right without taking into view the comparative merit of the parties, with every possible contingency that might, in the most remote degree, tend to affect the payment of the debt?

The sole object of this last publication, under the signature of *Catullus*, seems to be, to vindicate the author from the charge of having misrepresented the contents of Mr. Jefferson's letter, and the abuse of the duties of an official station, in publishing any thing relative to it. How far he has succeeded in this attempt, I shall now proceed to examine.

I shall not trouble the reader with any comment upon the ingenious criticism on my last statement. The variance will be more easily understood by reciting again the contents of the paragraph in question, and comparing these with the statement repeatedly given by that writer. The nearer we approach the source, the nearer we shall be to the truth; sophistry may envelope with darkness, but will never illustrate the subject.—The following, then, I affirm, to be the contents of that paragraph.

It states, that in 1786, it being known the French court were distressed for money, a Company of Dutch merchants had offered to purchase of them the American debt, of twenty-four millions of livres, for the sum of twenty, and that their embarrassments inclined them to accept of the proposal: That however a delay was occasioned, on the part of the French court, by the apprehension it might lessen our credit in Europe, and be disagreeable to Congress; whereupon he had been consulted by the agent of the company, and to whom he had replied, that he was neither authorized to approve or disapprove of the transaction. Having stated the proposition as above, he observes further upon it, in its relation to his country, that if there be a danger our public payments may not be punctual, it might be better that the discontents which would then arise, should be transferred from a court, of whose good will we have so much need, to the breasts of a private company. But that it had occurred to him, we might find occasion to do what would be grateful to that court, and establish with them a confidence in our honor: That our credit was good in Holland;—might it not be possible then to borrow there, the four and twenty millions due to France, and pay them the whole debt at once? This would save them from any loss on our account; with some further observations urging the propriety of this latter measure.

That the subject may be explicitly before the public, I repeat again, that the above are the genuine contents of Mr. Jefferson's letter on that head, and are contained in one entire paragraph only. That the arrangement of the idea is the same, and that in substance nothing has been added to or taken from it.

The import of the above appears to me to be so clear and explicit, that every person must unite in the same construction. That the transaction, for instance, had taken place between the parties, before any mention was made of it to Mr. Jefferson: and that in communicating it to Congress, he only made known to that body, the desire, both of the Company and the French Court;—and was, of course, only the vehicle of communication.

That the opinion which he gave, arose out of the proposition, was in furtherance of their views, and that, in fact, no decision could be formed on it, either by the Congress, or himself, without a comparison of the parties, as creditors to the United States. But that the proposition which he made (for this was that of the company) was to borrow the money in Holland, and pay off the whole debt at once; and that he disliked that of the Company, or at least preferred this or he would not have proposed it. I shall now now subjoin the statement given by *Catullus*.

The following single sentence has been published by him, not only as a literal transcript, but as containing whatever was necessary to explain Mr. Jefferson's sentiments on that head—"If there is a danger of the public payments not being punctual, I submit whether it may not be better that the discontents which would then arise, should be transferred from a court, of whose good offices we have so much need, to the breasts of a private Company.—Some concessions have, it is true, been latterly made, though reluctantly; but it is still insisted on, that they do not alter the essential condition contended for, nor vary the import of this single extract; and for its liberal conformity to the original, he has pledged his veracity.

The variance, then, between us, consists in his suppression of the other parts of the paragraph, relating to the same subject, and which should be seen, to enable the reader to comprehend its true import. It consists, likewise, in the alteration of a part of the sentence itself, by the interpolation of words, which do not belong to it. The passage in the letter referred to, reads precisely as I have stated it above. *Catullus* has altered it by the insertion of the following words, "I submit whether,"—by which the import of that sentence, and especially when standing alone, has been varied. If therefore the statement which I have given, is correct, it follows that *Catullus* has been guilty of misrepresentation, and that the extract furnished by him, is false, deceptive and mutilated.

Whether the author of these pieces has been guilty of the breach of official duties, in the publication of any thing relative to Mr. Jefferson's letter, I know not. A variety of reasons, of but little importance to the public, and which 'tis not necessary for me to recount, have created a belief, that they proceed from Mr. Hamilton. If so, it will be difficult for him to remove the imputation. The perusal of the extract in 1787, when out of office, and the safe preservation of it since, will not justify its publication by the present acting Secretary of the Treasury; nor does it authorize a belief, if he is the author, that the official document in his possession, has not been referred to since. Will it be contended that the conduct of the officer at the head of that department, should be scanned in this instance, by the duties of the station he held five or ten years past? Or, in other words, that the office, imposes on him no particular obligations, and which he is bound to regard?

Considering this attack upon Mr. Jefferson in the commencement, as an attack upon principles; knowing that the conflicting interests of parties were at work, and that the one which was suspected, with too much reason, to be attached to monarchy, would endeavor, as an obstacle in its way, to undermine not only him, but every other republican character in the confidence of their countrymen; and believing, as well from the duties of his official station as his known delicacy in observing them, he would disregard it, I thought it in some measure a duty I owed to those principles of equality which I venerate, to take up the subject, and place it on its proper ground. So far, then, as any imputation has been raised, against a distinguished and patriotic citizen, I have furnished the reply, and I presume, shewn not only his innocence of any impropriety in the allegations suggested, but likewise the impurity of the motives which dictated the attack.

It now remains only, in justice to the author of the papers under the signature of *An American* and *Catullus*, to settle the fact, whether he has been guilty of misrepresentation, and the breach of an official duty, in the instance alleged; and I have every possible disposition to concur, on my part, in those arrangements which may be necessary to dispel every doubt on that subject. The truth may be ascertained, by a recurrence to the deposits in either of the departments, of State, or the Treasury. If Mr. Hamilton is not the author, and will announce it, I shall consider the subject as unworthy of further notice: if it is neither denied nor owned, but the altercation continued without any proof being produced—for none has yet been—I shall likewise consider it beneath my attention; but if he is the author, and will avow it, my name shall likewise be submitted, and joint measures may then be taken, whereby, the truth may be placed in a clear, and authentic point of view, before the public.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

I HAVE not seen a greater truth published lately than one contained in your Gazette of the 5th instant, that it is not possible for parties to take greater liberties with truth than they have done lately; but in my opinion your correspondent has no, from the many instances which have occurred selected the most striking to prove the truth of his position, viz. the declaration of a certain writer, "that as a real federalist he was compelled to prefer Governor Clinton to Mr. Adams;" i. e. an acknowledged republican, to an avowed and acknowledged advocate for an hereditary monarchy, and House of Lords.—Does the writer think that the latter kind of government is more congenial with or bears a greater affinity to the constitution of the United States, than a republican or representative government? If he does not, he has been very unlucky in his selection; if he does—then an affection for monarchical government, must by the public be hereafter looked upon as the distinguishing criterion of a federalist; if this is the case, I doubt not the uniform federalist, will willingly give up all right and title to the name; and I think it is really happy for the public that the contest at the present election for Vice President, is likely to afford the public so just and true a criterion. If the writer would wish for some striking examples to illustrate the truth of the position he sets out with, I would point him to the paragraph which immediately follows his own, in the Gazette, as a very handy one, and to a piece under the signature of *Ossego*, in the *General Advertiser*, where he will find as great liberties taken with truth, as in any publication which has lately appeared.

Foreign Affairs.

FRANCE.
NATIONAL CONVENTION,
SEPTEMBER 24.
NATIONAL TREASURY.

THE Receipt of the National Treasury from the first of Jan. 1792, to the 22d of Sept. inclusively, is 915,725,675 livres.

The Expenditure during the same period, 865,526,764 livres.
There remains in the Treasury 50,198,895 livres.

The Commissioners stated that the sum really exists in cash of different sorts. The amount in gold and silver specie, is 11,892,668 livres.

CAISSE DE L'EXTRAORDINAIRE.
The Caisse del'extraordinaire was instituted for the reception of Assignats, immediately on their fabrication, for the payment of the redeemable debt; and to receive the Assignats which were given in payment by the purchasers of the National effects.

The Receipt to this time has been 2,632,583,166 livres.

The Expenditure 2,604,752,125 livres.

There remains in bank 28,732,125 livres.

The Receipt of the Revenues and Capitals of the National effects is 623,290,808 livres.

The total of Assignats which have been received and burnt is 617,000,000 livres.

There remains, therefore, in a separate bank, 6,290,800 livres in assignats annulled and ready to be burnt.

M. Cambon then called the attention of the Assembly—to the emission of new assignats; to the delay which results from the necessity of

doing away from the money of the state, the impression of a KING which no longer exists; and to the attention which must be paid to retail commerce, that would be ruined by the sudden suppression of bills of private banks.

After a short discussion the Assembly decreed, that twelve Commissioners, chosen from among themselves, should superintend and hasten the fabrication of Assignats.

The Assembly heard, with much satisfaction, the account given by M. Roland, of his administration. He pointed out the wisest measures to be pursued in the renovation of the Administrative Bodies, in recalling the people to the empire of the laws; without which there could be no liberty; and he invited the National Convention to surround themselves with that imposing force, which could alone terminate anarchy, and intimidate audacious criminals.

The Assembly ordered this Memorial to be printed.

SEPTEMBER 28.

M. Lafource reminded the Convention that the order of the day was the election of a Minister of War. The suffrages of several Members having fallen on some of the deputies of the National Convention, a debate took place on this very important question, Whether Members of the Convention were eligible not only to places in the Ministry, but also to other important offices in the Republic?

Some were of opinion that the Ministers ought to be chosen from among all the Citizens without distinction, while others thought on the contrary, that this would be endangering the Republic; because, said they, intriguers would then infallibly find the means of procuring votes for themselves or their friends in such a manner, that they might afterwards influence the Convention, and consequently the operations of the Ministry. This last idea was explained in a very clear and satisfactory manner by Lecointre Puyraveaux; and after a long debate the Convention decreed, that Ministers could not be chosen from among the Deputies.

This decree brought on a discussion respecting the two Ministers, Roland and Servan, who both persisted in giving in their resignation. The former, because he had been chosen a Deputy to the National Convention; and the latter because the state of his health did not permit him to support the fatigues of office.

A member here bestowed the highest praises on the two Ministers, and reminded the Convention of the important services they had rendered to their country, to which they had sacrificed the greater part of their property. "On these considerations I think every good citizen must wish that Roland and Servan would retain that post in which they have been placed by the confidence of the nation. I move, therefore, that these citizens may be invited in the name of their country to continue to serve it."

Jean de Brie said, this would be offering an insult to other citizens, as it would amount to a declaration that none of them were capable of filling up places in the Ministry.

Buzot was of opinion that the Convention was the dispenser of the gratitude of the nation, and that it would not disgrace itself, as had been pretended, by inviting Servan and Roland not to quit their functions.

The discussion was about to be terminated, but a member having moved, that Danton should also be