

which has in truth characterized the present administration; he has dismissed from office but forty five Post Masters, out of one thousand and ninety five. That he has not yet restored to the republicans an equality of office, but trusts, principally to the natural progress of the departments to effect an end to just and desirable, is to be attributed to a spirit of conciliation, and to a wish to avoid those evils, which might result from the introduction of too many new officers.

Of the forty-five, one was dismissed for infamy.

One, who had been appointed in the fever of 1798, in the room of one of the most promising characters in the Union, who was displaced for a decent, though noble maintenance of his opinions, at a time when nineteen-twentieths of the officers were friends to the administration, was dismissed to do justice to the person whom he had succeeded.

One, because he could not be answerable on his bonds, being a minor under the age of eighteen years.

One, for flagrant abuse of the government, and charging the executive with treason, and every other crime.

Two, for having aided the enemies of the country during the revolution, and maintaining to this day the same regard for British supremacy and royal government: Persons who ought to be permitted the free exercise of opinion, to have the enjoyment of their property and the just protection of the laws; but who, it is believed, ought not to be employed as officers of a government, which they condemn and calumniate.

Two, for such negligence and inattention, that the mails were retarded, and the public incommoded.

Three, for farming out their offices to the halves, and wholly neglecting to bestow their personal attendance upon them.

Five, for wilful misconduct of various kinds.

Five, because their local situations were not convenient, either for the public service, or for the people of the vicinity.

Eight printers, or editors of newspapers: And,

Sixteen, to give place to some of the friends of the administration, to participate in the offices of the government.

The reasons for not permitting the printers or editors of newspapers to be Post-Masters, are, that they have strong inducements to suppress the papers of rival printers, and to extend the circulation of their own; and an uncommon interest in abusing the privileges of franking. They enjoy superior advantages over their fellow-craftsmen. This produces jealousies, bickerings, and constant irritation; and however fairly the duties of the office may be discharged, these evils can never be avoided. Indeed the propriety of the exclusion was so manifest, that the late Post-Master-General had for years made it a rule not to appoint printers of newspapers. The wisdom of this measure has not been doubted, but by Callender, who, having been refused an office in the Department, feels all the vexation of disappointment. How can it be said, that preferring characters who are least liable to suspicion, who have the least private interest to oppose the regular discharge of their public duties, is functioning a suspicion, and blighting the characters of printers? They are undoubtedly valuable and important members of the community. But, does it follow that it is not the duty of an officer to select such persons as are the least liable to distrust, and who unite in their characters the most general confidence? Or will it be forgotten that the rule applies indiscriminately to all printers? And can it be believed that the Post-Master-General wishes to cast a stigma upon the republican printers? In the mad rage of opposition to destroy the fair fame of this officer, they have published that this rule was applied to remove federal printers, but forgotten, when opportunity presented of appointing a republican editor. As an evidence of this pre-empted duplicity of conduct, they point out the instances of Mr. Blake, the editor of the *Aegis*, and of Thomas Perrin Smith, Esq. of Maryland, who, they say, is also an editor. But here, as in every other instance, their charges are malicious and unfounded. Mr. Blake never was appointed. Mr. Smith was appointed by the late, not by the present Post-Master-General. Whether he be the editor of a paper or not, is unknown. In truth, the removal of printers or editors has been limited to cases where there were rival presses in the same town, or where the jealousies before mentioned had produced serious dissatisfaction. There are a number of federal printers, and one republican printer still in office.

(To be Continued.)

The *Sedition Act* was considered by Republicans to be an unconstitutional party measure; yet they neither threatened or attempted to oppose its execution by force; but appealed to the good sense of the people, and waited the issue. In the mean time, they treated those, who were prosecuted on the act, with charitable kindness. The donations made to them, under those circumstances, were not a reward for their publications, many of which were disapproved by Republicans, but a supply of their wants, as objects of charity, and a relief from their sufferings, as victims of party persecution. Such, among others, was the case of the famous, or if you please, infamous *Callender*. Sun.

It has been said by the Republicans, that no virtuous Administration could be battered down by Paper-Boat.—The Feds are determined to make the experiment, and have accordingly commenced and kept up a constant fire upon the present Administration, from their *whole park of Artillery*, directed by *Major-General Hamilton*. No breach, however, is yet discoverable; and we venture to predict that their ammunition will be expended, their ranks thinned by desertion, and they finally obliged to relinquish the attack. ib.

NEWPORT, Saturday, Sept. 18, 1802.

[It was our intention to have given in this day's paper the statement of the Attorney-General, Mr. LINCOLN, in refutation of the report which has been propagated by most of the federal editors, that *One Thousand Dollars had been paid by the Government, for advice in the Treasury Department, in consequence of the absence of the Attorney-General*. The statement is accompanied with official Documents.—But we feel ourselves under an imperious necessity of omitting them at present, on account of the following development, which claims exclusive attention.]

MR. FARNSWORTH,

YOU are requested to publish, in the Rhode-Island Republican, the high encomium on the Honorable John Rutledge, presented to the public in the last Newport Mercury; and to print in italics the words which are underlined. You are also desired to publish the enclosed original Letters to the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES; with the notes subjoined. And be pleased to grant a perusal of the letters to any gentleman, Republican or Federalist, desirous of comparing them with the hand-writing of Mr. Rutledge.

From the NEWPORT MERCURY.

"It certainly ought to be the wish of every good man to exclude, as much as possible, from all political discussion, personal slander, or the indulgence of private malice. No cause however good, ever can justify these means of support. No good cause ever can require them. We agree that as to the characters of men in office, or those who are candidates for office, a considerable latitude must be allowed, or the public would remain uninformed, and the liberty of the press, to a certain degree, be shackled. But when a press is so degraded, as that abandoning all decent and temperate discussion of public men and measures, it attacks with insolent abuse and shameful ribaldry, individuals of the best private character, unconcerned with public life, and ambitious of office, it is time it should be marked by the scorn and indignation of every honest man in the community.

"How much worse is it, when in defiance of every maxim of civility, and in violation of every duty of hospitality, it attacks a stranger, innocent of any offence towards any party among us, unconnected with our politics, not only unwilling by any officious interference to incur censure, but even solicitous by a total forbearance to avoid observation.

"The offence is certainly magnified, when this stranger happens to be a character highly respected by all parties, of conspicuous situation, of acknowledged talents, of manners unusually elegant, and who thro' frank in the avowal, and resolute in the maintenance of his political sentiments, is of a deportment towards all men, confessedly polite, and uniformly courteous and conciliatory. It is obvious, that these remarks apply to several paragraphs in the last Republican, and particularly to those in which an attempt has been made to abuse and calumniate JOHN RUTLEDGE, Esq. of South-Carolina.—These remarks, at once frivolous and malignant, appear to have been instigated by the idea, that Mr. Rutledge is the author of certain compositions that have appeared in this paper. Mr. Rutledge, is not the author. Averse to any interference in the concerns of a state, of which he is not a citizen, he has not lent the aid of his talents to this paper. As a subscriber we so far acknowledge him. In his person, and as a Republican-Federalist, we hope for his approbation of its sentiments. But as a writer, he has no concern with this paper, no concert or intimacy with those who do write for it. Yet the scribblers of the Republican, to whom suspicions are proofs, indulge in any supposition that affords opportunity for the diffusion of slander, and imagine Mr. Rutledge to be the writer, merely for the sake of treating him with violence and indecency. It is not our intention in suggesting these remarks, to commit the fault ourselves, we reprobate in others. We deal not in indiscriminate censure. We know that the reflections on Mr. Rutledge, are considered by many of the democrats, as unmanly and unjust. There are some among them, who have not lost in party rancour, all sense of propriety and good manners; we have heard them lament this unnecessary and indefensible breach of hospitality.—There are others, who in the fury of their politics are still cunningly and obtrusive of the craft and policy of their sect; and regret the publication, only because they find it has injured instead of benefiting them; because instead of procuring favors of their minds, and at once exhibited their rage and their impotence."

RUTLEDGE'S LETTERS

To the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

New-Port August 18 1802.

"Encouraged, great & good Sir, by the character you sustain of being accessible to all of your fellow Citizens, I take the liberty of obtruding myself upon your precious time, to offer you my homage, & to assure you of the sentiments of veneration & respect with which I have been inspired by your wise, virtuous, & popular administration. The People of America would have grieved but little by placing you in the presidential chair if the abuses of the past administrations had been continued, & you having commenced the correction of them (with the hope of your making a complete reform) have filled with contentment & delight all good men in this State. Under the administration of John Adams very extensive fortifications were com-

mented & nearly completed in this harbour, merely I believe for the purpose of benefiting Genl Knox. How, you will ask, was Genl Knox to be advantaged by the building of forts at New-Port? The fact is, Sir, the engineer had it in charge the President to obtain all the materials from Genl Knox—Colo Touffard went, at the public expence, to St Georges river to make contracts which were paid for in advance, & the forts here were built of timber Bricks &c &c sent here in vessels by Knox all the way from the province of maine & at an enormous expence—the very lime was brought here in barrels from Knox's estate, & when the engineer was once asked at our Coffee-House why he did not refuse it on account of its badness, he answer'd "because my orders are to take all my materials from Knox's estate." This as you can easily imagine greatly scandalized the honest part of our community. After fort Adams was built eight acres of land were bought in that neighbourhood for the accommodation of the Garrison, as 'twas said, at the price of two hundred dollars the acre—this was an unheard of price for land here, and the purchase was made of an old lady of Massachusetts who is Sister to Mrs Adams. All the offices here have been filled by persons who were recommended only by their violence of character—the rule of appointing violent & hot headed men has governed from the office of Collector downwards. The system of which these things were parts have greatly disgusted a great majority of the People of this State—particularly the Quakers who make a large portion of 'em—Your beginning to correct the abuses of your Predecessor gives us infinite joy. Stopping the building of forts her is highly satisfactory. The appointing Mr Howell attorney receives general approbation, tho' the appointment of Mr Barnes does not—Barnes is every thing & nothing, & in politics is any thing every thing & nothing—with Tories a tory & with Wigs he is a wig. This State is at present decidedly in the wig interest (in the Genl Assembly we have a majority of more than one third) & there is a prospect of its being permanently so. In Connecticut New-Hampshire & Massachusetts political heresies are fo rooted, & prickcraft is so fully in operation, that you cannot conciliate those States—but some attentions from you may do much here; & in Vermont may be useful tho' in a less degree.—Gov Fenner, Mr Christoph Ellery (a Senator in Congress) Gen Joseph Staunton, Mr Paul Mumford & Wm Vernon sen are vastly influential characters in Rhode Island. The union of their interests in the parts of the State they respectively reside makes a majority of our People. I don't know if there be any reason for it but 'tis confidently said here that either Christopher Ellery or Paul Mumford will be the successor of the present Collector old Mr Ellery—they are both of them excellent men & the promotion of either would give equal pleasure. The answer you condensed to give to the remonstrance of the Satellites of old Hillhouse at new Haven, has afforded us much pleasure; & even some of our most high toned Tories acknowledge the correctness of the principle which requires that the subordinates should be of the same politics with the chief. Some young englishmen who scribble for the Papers at Providence will censure this as they will every measure of yours, but the great bulk of the People in this State think 'tis your duty to take care of yourself—that you should give fair play to your own administration—that wig principles ought to go freely into operation—that the measures of administration ought not to be fettered by being entrusted to those who disapprove 'em. These sentiments are universal among the wigs of New England. They are anathematized by Tories, but depend upon it Sir they cannot by them. Every thing from you they will censure (I mean the leaders of the party) Some time past they said you did not dare to turn men out of office, for that your nerves were too weak, now they begin to shake in their shoes & suppose you will turn 'em all out. Unless Sir the Tories are dismissed from Office (& all offices in New England are occupied by Tories) you will be betrayed. Your meeting the wishes of the People (as expressed at the late election) and putting the government into the hands of Wigs is deemed essential here to our well doing. A purification is necessary, & we cannot be purified unless you cleanse the Augean Stable completely. The People of new-Haven (set on by old-Hillhouse) bluster about the appointment of Mr Bishop, because (as they say) he is old, & yet these very People abuse you, in advance, for the dismissal of old Ellery here & Genl Lincoln in Boston (taking it for granted they will be dismissed) & both of these gentlemen are as old, and much more infirm than Bishop. I had the honor of being preferred to you Sir, when you accompanied Genl Washington in his visit to this town, & I wish you may think that circumstance & my wish to give you some local information an excuse for troubling you with this letter & of assuring you of my respect & veneration. Should your Excellency visit this country it will give me unspeakable delight to tender my respect & services in person. Your time is so fully & usefully employed that I can hardly expect the honor of an answer from you, but should you deign in some moment of leisure to favor me with a line 'twill gladden the heart of an old man now sixty nine years of age, whose heart is found with affection for you, & who seeing the affairs of this Country deposited in your Hands, says, sincerely, now good Lord let thy Servant depart in Peace for the first object of his wishes is complete. With unfeigned respect & esteem, great & good Sir, I am your humble Servant

"Nicholas Geffroy—"

Newport August 7th 1802.

Great & good Sir,

Since I took the liberty of addressing you a letter, the Secretary at War has visited this

Port, & our good Citizens have been much disturbed by the reported conversations of Mr Dearborne with the Officers of the different garrisons here. Two of the forts planned by Colo Touffard are completed; but two more which he traced out remain skeletons—We are assured by Gentlemen who conversed with Mr Dearborne that he wd have these fortifications completed. Doing so, sir, will give much uneasiness to our Citizens. Prior to our connection with France labourers got here three quarters of a dollar per day—Colo Touffard, without enquiring about our prices, immediately on coming here, gave a dollar a day, & afterwards a dollar & a half—this proved a vast injury to our Farmers, who to make their Harvest were compelled to give one dollar & a half for Labourers, when prior to the building of forts they never paid more than 75(100). The price of labourers is again down—but should fortifications be recommenced we shall again be coerced to pay thro' the nose for all kind of help. As you might not have known these things I take the liberty, illustrious sir, of communicating them. Forts are not wanted here—we already have two, & each being garrisoned with an entire company exposes us to the inconvenience of having our Town often disturbed by Bands of licentious Soldiers parading our Streets when drunk. This is most obnoxious to the habits of our People. I returned yesterday from Boston where I passed a Week, & I have the pleasure to inform you, sir, that your answer to the Memorial of old Hillhouse (the New-Haven memorial as 'tis called) has given infinite delight there. The Essex Juno writes against it, but people in genl speak of it with the rapture of enthusiasm. You will doubtless have heard from Gov Fenner of the great triumph of principles in this State. 'Tis to complete that at the election which will come on in this month for assembly men the Tories in this Town will not make a nomination—our present Members will not even be opposed. In this state of things sir with so prodigiously great a Majority as we have, 'tis mortifying to us to see all Offices occupied by our Opponents whose influence still continues. When at Providence tother day, the Collector, Mr Olney, said at the Coffee House "Jefferson will not turn me out, because he cannot find an honest man among our Jacobins." This Sir is not easily borne with—The Collector Naval Officer & Supervisor here all conduct with the same kind of insolence. Should Mr Olney the Collector at Providence be dismissed I believe it wd be very gratifying to our Citizens throughout the State to have Governor Fenner appointed Collector for Providence. The Governor is incapable of soliciting Office, but I know he wd like that, & our People throughout the State wd be delighted with having him instead of Mr Olney. Christopher Ellery is a popular Man here & wd make a most excellent Collector. Paul Mumford & Wm Vernon are also good able men. When Mr Dearborn was here he laid the duties of your high station did not entirely prevent your indulging yourself in agricultural Pursuits, & in sowing yourself in the Gardens of Mountchellou. My great delight sir is in the charms of Botany, & I have lately received from Portugal some bushes of the *Daily Rose*—this Rose blossoms every month in the Year, & flourishes very much in my Garden—If two or three of these Trees wd be acceptable at Mountchellou, it wd give me great pleasure if you wd receive them. Our Trade here is inconsiderable, & we have none with Virginia Ports; but if you will favor me with the name of any Merchant at New York who wd receive & forward their Trees, I will have them conveyed thither very safely, & in accepting 'em you will confer great Honor on me. The federal disty Court was held here some days past, & at a pretty public dinner Judge Barnes spake unhandomely of you—said he was indebted for his Office to his friend Judge Lincoln, & showed his letter of Appointment. I pray you, Sir, to accept my unfeigned assurances of sincere respect & veneration.

"Nics Jeffroy—"

"The President—"

NOTES.

Mr. NICOLAS GEFFROY, is about forty years of age—was born in France—is a jeweller and watch-maker—and supports the character of an industrious and peaceable man. He married the daughter of a respectable citizen of Newport. They have children. He does not concern himself in politics. Though it is possible, for an attentive person, to understand him, when attempting to speak English, yet it will not be pretended, that he can write, with any degree of correctness, a single sentence of the language.

Mr. GEFFROY has declared that he never avails to the President. His sensibility must be deeply wounded, by the shameful assumption of his name for purposes—unquestionably vile. It is to be regretted, that he must resort to parity of hands, to establish the FORGERY.

MR. FARNSWORTH,

Rest assured, that your correspondent is influenced by the most pure motives in bringing these letters before his fellow-citizens. He is sensible of the effect which must be produced on the public mind by their appearance. He realizes the effect on the character of the person implicated—but, persuaded, after a close examination and careful comparison of hands, that guilt attaches to a "character of conspicuous situation" in society, he is induced to sacrifice personal considerations to general good.

A Citizen of Rhode-Island.

The Editor consents to a perusal of the above Letters, by any Gentleman, agreeable to the request of his Correspondent, on condition, that the Sheriff of the County be present; not for his own personal safety, but in order that the examination be conducted with fairness, moderation, and candor, and that the public peace be preserved.