

October 18, 1817

TO THE PEOPLE OF LOUDOUN

The closing paragraph of my answer to the first address of Mr. Mason, the application of which is now sanctioned by his own acknowledgement, leaves me nothing further to add in replying to his second address of last Wednesday than that I cannot forfeit my claim to the character of a gentleman other than to pronounce him a blackguard and a bully.

C.F. MERCER

The next week, an outraged Armistead Mason published his reply.

TO THE PUBLIC

If Mr. Mercer intends, in the last Washingtonian, to apply the terms “blackguard and bully” to me, I cannot hesitate to pronounce him to be an INFAMOUS LIAR AND SCOUNDREL!

ARMISTEAD T. MASON

TO THE PEOPLE OF LOUDOUN

You well know, fellow citizens, that notwithstanding the assaults which were attempted on my person and the falsehood and malignity with which my character was assailed during the late Congressional election for this district, I abstained from retorting on my aggressors any part of those outrages. That so far from appealing for support to the party feelings which divide you, I sought in all my private conversations and in my public addresses, as I had steadily done in the last years of my life, to allay those angry passions which political discussion is so well calculated to inflame.

I thought my position to not respond to such aggression was sustained by the public feeling throughout America and in my own heart. I found no sentiment against my position or my party at the time. It was not so long ago when I was the only federalist in my own family and yet I recognized in the ranks of my political opponents, many men to whom I am connected by the ties of consanguinity and yet the stronger bonds of friendship.

All persons who have prepared lists of the names of individuals found upon the poll of General Armistead T. Mason at the last Congressional election, who, at the time of the election, appear to have had no title to vote, are requested to forward such lists without delay to the Offices of the Washingtonian. Further, they are requested to include the names of all persons whose names are misspelt.