

# *Notice in the Genius of Liberty November 1817*

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## TO THE PEOPLE OF LOUDOUN

I publish this letter jointly with Mr. John McCarty and with this brief remark: Every man who directly or indirectly insinuated or implied, which some scoundrels have publicized, that I cowered from the contest with Mr. John McCarty at the last Loudoun election, is a liar and vile calumniator!

ARMISTEAD T. MASON

## *An Excerpt from a Notice Published by Armistead in November 1817*

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...The truth is Mr. Mercer hesitated because he was doubtful of himself. In the irritation of the moment he hoped to be able to work himself up to the sticking point but as soon as his passion subsided and he was left calmly to “commute with himself, he found his nerves to find his coward heart to sink within him. It is then that he assumes the cloak of religion to save himself from disgrace; for he knows as was as any other man that an affection for religion (even the most hypocritical) like “charity, covereth a multitude of sins”. And after laboring for years to cheat the world into the belief that he is a hero in spirit, he abandons at once a character which all his arts can no longer enable him to maintain, and he pleads religion (which with sorrow he said is prostituted by being made the cant of every hypocrite and mantle of every vice) an apology for the cowardly and disgraceful abandonment. I now proclaim to the world that he is a consummate hypocrite and a most contemptible coward!

*December 1817*

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## TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing that General Mason has published my letter unaccompanied by his own, “I publish the joint letters” being all the communications that ever transpired between General Mason and myself, “with this brief remark that every man” may distinctly understand why I wrote to General Mason to what part of his letter I replied and to what part I did not reply.

JOHN M. McCARTY