

January 21, 1818

TO THE PUBLIC

The publication of General Mason of the 23rd of December imposes upon me the unpleasant task of speaking of myself in a newspaper; therefore I pray the indulgence of the public. Let me also assure the public that as much as I hate talking about myself in the newspaper, I equally despise the bully or the boaster and detest a public "war of words". I had thought that my answer to General Mason left no doubt of my meaning. But I feel it is my duty to clarify that I, as well as others, expected General Mason to request an honorable reparation for my conduct at the Loudoun election. Let me assure the public that on that occasion and in this instance, I have never sought a quarrel with any man. And let me also be clear that I refuse to acknowledge the foul and contemptible trash which his internal strife now has cast before the public.

John M. McCarty, Brown's Hotel, Alexandria, District of Columbia January 21, 1818.

January 31, 1818

TO THE PUBLIC

It can no longer be doubted that the infamous defamation that has been published against me under the sanction of John M. McCarty's name have been connived and encouraged by him. Mr. McCarty says that he had nothing to do with the defamations against me, yet his declaration is detestable as it would be from any man so unprincipled and base as to make such statements. Mr. McCarty appears to be a little dull on the subject of principle, as the proverb instructs "there is none so blind as those who will not see".

In his last publication, motivated by the most dishonorable and dastardly conduct and is false from beginning to end, Mr. McCarty says that he expected me to challenge him at the Loudoun election. He indeed behaved like an accomplished blackguard and bully on that occasion. But he seems to have forgotten the chastisement I gave him on that occasion. In front of a crowded courthouse, as I pronounced him *an impertinent scoundrel!* Further, for his abusive and indecent language as well as for his taking a dishonorable oath, I publicly pronounced him *an infamous scoundrel and perjurous villain.* And now, after all of that, he says that he expected me to call on him for honorable reparation for his conduct. If he really believes that I should have challenged him (which I do not believe one word) he must have strange ideas of what Honor requires if he thinks that this is the best apology that can be offered to redress his recent most dishonorable conduct.