

At the time of the quarrel between Mr. McCarty and myself, I was an unmarried man. Before I left the Loudoun hustings, I announced to the Rev. John Mines, among others, that I did not myself feel aggrieved by his conduct as I had fully balanced the account with my own verbal response back to him. I stated that I would not prosecute the quarrel further but that if Mr. John McCarty thought to acquire a reputation at my expense by challenging me, I would disappoint him. Because if he were to challenge me while I remained single, I most certainly would fight him. This determination on my part was publicly known and I have no doubt that Mr. McCarty was well apprised of it.

On the day of the Loudoun election, I believe that Mr. McCarty came from Alexandria predetermined to provoke a quarrel with me so that he would receive the notice and favor of the Federalist party. But after having traveled all the way to Leesburg he discovered that he could not provoke me to challenge him, he then realized that he "had got the wrong sow by the ear". Finding that he could not acquire the reputation he had sought at my expense, he then decides to lend his name to the basest misrepresentation to create the impression that I had shrunk from him in that quarrel.

If this is not true, then I ask then how should he have behaved? What would the conduct of a truly honorable man have been? What would the honorable man have done when he saw his good name being employed by unprincipled scoundrels who were intent on spreading falsehood and defamation? He would at once promptly and voluntarily have forbidden his name to be used in such a manner! What was the conduct of Mr. John McCarty? He silently acquiesced. And why? Because he thought that would be a way to gain the reputation which he had been denied at the hustings. A man who feels like he cannot achieve a reputation in an honest and manly way, must indeed want one badly if he must behave like a thief to steal one. When I wrote him to know whether he sanctioned the defamation, he replied most distinctly and "unequivocally" that "he never did sanction the

calumny of any printer against me"; and he authorized me to publish his letter. I did so. And what is his conduct? Regardless of the solemn obligations of private confidence, which are held sacred and inviolable by all honorable men, he, without my consent or knowledge, publishes my letter and involves me in a vexatious lawsuit with a dirty fellow for whom I suppose he will be a witness. Further, he accompanied the publication of my letter with some remarks of his own where he restates the obvious and then creates ambiguity to create the impression that I did indeed cower from him. It then became my duty again to denounce those impressions. Mr. McCarty's actions prove his guilt. And stung by the language which his own vanity and folly has brought upon himself, he sets to seek revenge for what he most certainly deserves.

But it so happened at just about the time that I received and published his answer, Mr. Mercer, who had until then was considered the champion of his party, gave way. And the men who had been pricking him on, mortified and chagrined at Mercer's disgrace to their party, eagerly saw the opportunity to widen the breach between Mr. John McCarty and myself, in the hope that he would offset the dishonor of Mr. Mercer's conduct. Flushed with this hope, they did not fail. For Mr. John McCarty, lacking principle and possessing excessive vanity and folly, surrendered himself to their hands and has become their dupe – the shake-bag of the Federal party. It cannot be denied that they have made a very judicious selection, for Mr. McCarty is of no importance to society. He certainly will not be missed by anyone should he perish in a fight with me. If his nerves do not fail him, Mr. McCarty is as likely to accomplish their objective as any other desperado that they could engage. For Mr. McCarty can rest assured that honorable men will never regard him as anything better than a hired assassin. I cannot help feeling greatly humiliated that, at one time, I was compelled to treat him as an equal – a man who has since permitted himself to be used as the vile instrument of the basest and meanest men. It must be acknowledged that there is not a single point of comparison between myself and Mr. John McCarty. And although I was ignorant of his true character when I