

drifted to metaphysics, from metaphysics he passed to politics, and in politics made himself so unpopular in England that he emigrated to the United States. Here he began the practice of law, but, though an earnest Republican, a scholar and a man of unquestionable ability, his clients were few, and he found himself under the necessity of seeking a government place. In 1797 the office of agent for American claims under the English treaty was vacant. His friend Dr.

previously oath, and then committing the constables who refused to serve them; with insisting in one case in examining under oath, a prisoner charged with crime, as to his own guilt; with sending private notes to juries in criminal cases, tending to extract a verdict of guilty; with carting a Luzerne convict to the Philadelphia prison, a thing not then provided for, which ended in the convict being kept in abeyance by the Philadelphia jailer, who refused to receive him, and the court who refused to take him back, thereby, under this new ambulatory commitment, withdrawing the sheriff from his public duties; and with brow-beating counsel, witnesses and parties, in cases so numerous as to make their recapitulation cover three pages. The Presbyterian and Quaker professions, he was charged with declaring in open court, to be 'all damned hypocrisy and nonsense;' and divers specifications were given of illegal interference on his part in the profits of cases before him, and of private speculations in interests which were to pass under his adjudication. On Feb. 21, 1811, these charges having been formally laid before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, were referred to a committee, who two days afterwards reported, that the evidence produced before them sufficiently substantiated the specifications of passionate and oppressive judicial bearing, leaving, however, the accusation of speculation without any further basis than that afforded by an imprudent purchase of certain property, sold at sheriff's sale under process from the court, a transaction which, though clear from any moral stain, the committee thought to be of doubtful propriety and dangerous precedent. They submitted, in conclusion, a resolution, 'that a committee be appointed to draft an address to the Governor for the removal of Thomas Cooper, Esq., from the office of President Judge of the eighth judicial district of Pennsylvania.' . . . The Governor removed him.

"Mr. Cooper's fine chemical acquirements, which, during all the storms of his eventful life, had never been submerged, now gave him a safe retreat. He was first placed in a philosophical professorship in Dickinson's College, and afterwards in a highly honorable post in the University of Pennsylvania, which he finally abandoned for the chemical chair in Columbia College, South Carolina, of which he soon became president. In the nullification struggle he took a bold part, issuing documents of the most ultra States' rights