

interfered, as President of the United States, to influence the decisions of a court of justice—a stretch of authority which the monarch of Great Britain would have shrunk from—an interference without precedent, against law and against mercy. This melancholy case of Jonathan Robbins (See 7 Am. St. Tr., 811), a native citizen of America, forcibly impressed by the British, and delivered up, with the advice of Mr. Adams, to the mock trial of a British court-martial, had not yet astonished the republican citizens of this free country; a case too little known, but of which the people ought to be fully apprised, before the election, and they shall be.”⁴

⁴ These passages were taken from the following publication:

TO THE PUBLIC.

To the Printer.

Sir,—I should not condescend to answer anonymous slander, but the information on which the falsehoods contained in the following paragraph are grounded, must have been originally derived from the President himself. I cannot believe him capable of such misrepresentation, for I still think well of his intentions, however I may disapprove of his conduct: but the following narrative will show that some of his underlings are capable of anything.

From the Reading Weekly Advertiser of October 26, 1799.

COMMUNICATION.

“Thomas Cooper’s address to the readers of the Sunbury and Northumberland Gazette of which he was editor, having been republished in this State, with an introduction approbatory of the piece, a correspondent wishes to know if it be the same Thomas Cooper, an Englishman, of whom the following anecdote is related? If it is, every paper devoted to truth, honor and decency, ought to give it a thorough circulation.

Not many months ago, it is said, a Mr. Cooper, an Englishman, applied to the President of the United States, to be appointed ‘agent for settling the respective claims of the citizens and subjects of this country and Great Britain.’ In his letter, he informs the President, that although he (Thomas Cooper) had been called a Democrat, yet his real political sentiments are such as would be agreeable to the President and Government of the United States or expressions to that effect. This letter was accompanied with another from Dr. Joseph Priestley, who did not fail to assure the President of the pliability of his friend Cooper’s democratic principles. The President, it is said, rejected Cooper’s application with disdain, and Priestley’s with still stronger marks of surprise, saying, it is said, as he threw the letter on the table, does he think that I would appoint any Englishman to that important office in preference to an American? What was the consequence? When Thomas Cooper found his application for a lucrative office under our President rejected, he writes in revenge the address which appeared in print,