

tioned in this paper, and which, as you will have it before you when you retire, I shall not read at length. This application was from one friend to another; upon the face of it a confidential communication; although containing nothing but what might do credit to all the parties concerned. Mr. Adams, however, did not think it so confidential; and from some disclosure on his part, has been founded the base and cowardly slander which dragged me in the first instance before the public in vindication of my moral and political character, and has at length dragged me before this tribunal, to protect, if I can, my personal liberty and my private fortune, against the legal attack of an *ex-officio* information. Hence, it is evident, gentlemen of the jury, that this is not a voluntary, but an involuntary publication on my part. It has originated, not from motives of turbulence and malice, but from self-defense; not from a desire of attacking the character of the President, but of vindicating my own. And in what way have I done this? My motives, my private character, my public character, were the object of falsehood and calumny, apparently founded on information of high authority. In reply, I give credit to the intentions of the President. I say nothing of his private character; and I attack only the tendency of measures notorious to the world, which, having been known to disapprove publicly, I was charged with being ready, from motives of interest, to approve privately. I think, gentlemen, you cannot help feeling this contrast of behavior, and if the President is satisfied with his side of the picture, I am mine.

The first article selected for accusation is, that, at the time I allude to, he was but in the infancy of political mistake. Why this expression should have been fixed on as seditious, I know not, unless it be that *quem deus vult perdere prius dementat*; for have we advanced so far on the road to despotism in this republican country, that we dare not say our President may be mistaken? Is a plain citizen encircled at once by the mysterious attribute of political infallibility the instant he mounts the presidential chair? If so, then indeed