

And the reckless conduct of Judge Chase in the court room can only be explained by his knowledge that it was to be a struggle to the death between himself and the distinguished lawyers which Virginia had sent against him: Edmund Randolph, George Hay, William Wirt, and Philip Nicholas.

No mention was made in the indictment of the book "The Prospect Before Us." A few sentences, by no means the bitterest that could be found, were chosen, and upon them the case was based. The reign of Mr. Adams, Callender wrote, had been one continued tempest of malignant passion. Never since taking his seat in the Presidential chair, had he opened his lips or lifted his pen, but scolding or threatening followed. He had exasperated the rage of contending parties, he had caluminated and destroyed every man who had differed from him in his opinions, he had driven from office everybody who would not vote as he wished, and he was besides, a professed aristocrat.

The case opened with the usual plea for time, which was granted. The lawyers then prepared a trap for the judge. They presented an affidavit from Callender that he must have still more time, in fact until the next term. The witnesses on whose testimony he relied to prove the truth of his statements could not be assembled in a few weeks. The paper then gave a list of witnesses scattered over the face of the country. He must have William Gardner who lived at Portsmouth, and Judge Bee, who lived in South Carolina, and Tench Coxe and Timothy Pickering, who were at Philadelphia, and General Blackburn, from Bath county, Virginia, and William B. Giles, of Amelia county, in the same state. Great stress was laid on the testimony of Giles, and the Court put off the trial for a few days; and when the case was again called the lawyers for the defense declared they did not think Giles would come, and had the boldness to claim that, as the Court had consented to a delay in the hope that Giles would come, the judge had by so doing admitted the extreme importance of that witness and ought, therefore, to put off the trial till Giles did come.