

from the American Aurora, 3/5/1798:

Mr. Adams, before taking his oath of office, made a long exordium ... that, although the constitution makes no distinction in favour of the Christian religion, yet that he (Mr. Adams) in nominating to public offices would always have a special eye to that point. This truth was thereafter sent to the press. In July or August last ... in plain terms, when [former Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Alexander] Hamilton came to Philadelphia to vindicate his character by a confession of adultery, this identical and most Christian president invited him to a family dinner with Mrs. Adams. Such is his selection of company for the entertainment of his wife!

Lawyer Alexander Hamilton, who was George Washington's first Treasury Secretary, founded the Federalist party and still leads it from the relative anonymity of his private New York life. To the chagrin of his party, however, Mr. Hamilton publicly confessed last August to some adultery he had committed several summers earlier with one Maria Reynolds, wife of a convicted securities swindler. The liaison included several libidinous encounters in Hamilton's own home while his wife, Betsy, and the Hamilton children were in upstate New York visiting Betsy's father.

Adams to Congress, May 16, 1798:

[France] evinces a disposition to separate the people of the United States from the [American] Government, to persuade them that they have different affections, principles, and interests from those of their fellow-citizens whom they themselves have chosen to manage their common concerns, and thus to produce divisions fatal to our peace. Such attempts ought to be repelled with a decision which shall convince France and the world that we are not a degraded people, humiliated under a colonial spirit of fear and sense of inferiority, fitted to be the miserable instruments of foreign influence, and regardless of national honor, character, and interest.

Thomas Jefferson to Philip Mazzei, 1797:

The aspect of our politics has wonderfully changed since you left us. In place of that noble love of liberty & republican government which carried us triumphantly thro' the war, an Anglican monarchical & aristocratical party has sprung up whose avowed object is to draw over us the substance, as they have already done the forms, of the British government ... Against us [Republicans] are the [Federalist-controlled] Executive, the Judiciary, two out of three ... of the legislature, all the officers of the government, all who want to be of officers, all timid men who prefer the calm of despotism to the boisterous sea of liberty, British merchants & Americans trading on British capitals, speculators, & holders in the banks & public funds, a contrivance invented for the purposes of corruption & for assimilating us in all things to the rotten as well as the sound parts of the British model. It would give you a fever were I to name to you the apostates who have gone over to these heresies, men who were Samsons in the field & Solomons in the council, but who have had their heads shorn by the harlot England. In short, we are likely to preserve the liberty we have obtained only by unremitting labors & perils.

William Cobbett, *Porcupine's Gazette*, 1798, to the publisher of the Aurora:

I assert that you are a liar and an infamous scoundrel ... Do you dread the effects of my paper? ... We are, to be sure, both of us news-mongers by profession, but then the articles you have for sale are very different from mine ... I tell you what, Mr. Bache, you will get nothing by me in a war of words, and so you may as well abandon the contest while you can do it with good grace ... I am getting up in the world, and you are going down. [F]or this reason it is that you hate me and that I despise you; and that you will preserve your hatred and I my contempt till fortune gives her wheel another turn or till death snatches one or the other of us from the scene. It is therefore useless, my dear Bache, to say any more about the matter...

also on Bache:

In this morning's Aurora, Young Lightning-Rod has justified the conduct of his [French] friends even in their last nefarious measures against the commerce of this country ... I look upon the fellow as a sort of bed-lamite, or I must insist that he looks upon himself as talking to nobody but fools and idiots ...

Jefferson on Washington's crushing the Whiskey Rebellion:

GW was "an overaged captain in his cabin" asleep while "a rogue of a pilot has run them into an enemy's port."

TJ on French revol., 1794: "I am convinced they will triumph completely, & the consequent disgrace of the invading tyrants is destined, in the order of events, to kindle the wrath of the people of Europe in those who have dared to embroil them in such wickedness, and to bring at length, kings, nobles & priests to the scaffolds which they have been so long deluging with blood...Rather than it [the French rev.] should have failed I would rather have seen half the earth desolated. Were there but an Adam and Eve left in every country, and left free, it would be better than it is now."