FOR THE FEDERAL GAZETTE.

Messrs. Yundt & Brown,

Colonel MERCER has thought proper to reply (under the signature of a Subscriber) to a vindication of my character, which was made to the public, through the channel of your paper, on the 7th inst. and has stated that the appeal there made was given in a manner calculated rather to raise an imputation injurious to him, than to apologize for my own misconduct. I shall, in reply to this, only refer the impartial reader to that *address* and leave it to him to determine whether I was not under the necessity of introducing Mr. Mercer's name to enable me to extricate my reputation from the charge which had been brought against it. In reply to what he has now stated to have passed between myself and others whilst in and on my return from Annapolis, I shall, in the first place, observe, that it has changed the nature of the charge against me from that of being actually guilty of offering a reward to Mary Pritchard to swear her child to him, to that of saying I intended to do so. The first charge, therefore, is given up, and the last he has attempted to prove, by the certificates of Jonathan Selman, Ferdinand Battee and Joseph Harwood. In reply to Mr. Selman's certificate I must refer the reader to what I said of that gentleman. I did not attempt to give a detail of all that passed between us, well knowing how uninteresting and disagreeable private disputes always are to the public. I did not wish to make it more so by being more prolix than was absolutely necessary. But as he has attempted a detail of our conversation and has only given a part, and that not correctly stated, I hope the public will excuse my relating all that did pass. After sitting for some time in the lobby of the general assembly room, last December, whilst the legislature were in session, I observed Mr. Selman coming into the same lobby and beckoned to him to come where I was. As very little business was then doing in the house and I had promised to wait there for my brother (who was executing some business in the chancery office) I was willing to pass the leisure in conversation. He took his seat near to me, and it was not until after we had conversed for some time that I asked him if he had heard the report that was circulating at West-River, respecting Mary Pritchard (the governor's house-keeper) and her child? He replied, "I did hear it before I left home, and it was from the women that I heard it;" and then said (as I suppose in a jesting manner) that it (meaning the child) must be either John Watkins's, the governor's, or his overseer's: That he would swear for Watkins: That he did not believe the overseer (her own brother) would be guilty of it; so it must be Mercer's. And then, after a laugh that intervened, he continued: "But she might as well say it is mine, as I have frequently met her on the road going to and from Annapolis." I took this as it was intended, to convince me that (to lay jesting aside) he did not believe it was Mercer's child. Mr. Davis, an honorable member from Montgomery county, then came up and gave me one of J. T. Callender's papers to peruse, which prevented my having any further use for Mr. Selman's company. This is all that passed, and the manner in which it passed, between Mr. Selman and myself. As there was no witness to this conversation, it must rest with the public to decide whose veracity ought to be most relied on, and with them I shall rest it, after observing that from the very artful manner in which Mr. Selman's certificate has been drawn up, intended to place a construction on what passed entirely different from what was really understood at the time, I am convinced that he did not write it, but barely added his signature. As to Mr. Harwood's certificate, it very correctly states a part of what I before admitted. In answer to Mr. Watkins's, or rather Mr. Battee's certificate I readily admit that I called at Mr. Battee's house on my return from Annapolis: his nephew, Mr. Jacob Franklin, was with me and had a message to deliver to his aunt (a sister of Mr. Battee's). We were there not more than ten minutes, at most, and I believe I did repeat what I had before said at Caton's tavern in Annapolis (and that was mentioned in consequence of an apology that was given for having staid so late in town (for it was then dusk). If I said more, I do not recollect it; I cannot positively assert that I did not use the expressions attributed to me by Mr. Battee; but I have no recollection of them, and I am firmly persuaded that Mr. Battee mistook what I said—This will not appear extraordinary when it is recollected how easily and how frequently conversations are mistaken; how inaccurate even the most correct men sometimes are in relating them, and how much their import is often varied by an apparently inconsiderable variation in the manner or the terms. If I did utter such expressions, it was undoubtedly an act of great levity, for which the circumstances may offer some excuse—At any rate, it is manifest, that they were merely idle words; for no person can imagine that if I had intended to offer this girl a bribe to swear her child to colonel Mercer, that I should have proclaimed my intention thus publicly—so as not only to load myself with the infamy of subornation, but also to defeat the very object for which the crime was to be committed. As to colonel Mercer's assertion, that I had never received any thing but civility from him, I must beg leave to remark that on my first outset in life, Mr. Mercer used every exertion in his power to bring me into contempt; for his not accomplishing his wishes, I have no thanks to render him; on this head I refer the reader as well as Mr. Mercer, to the year 1800, the year of the contested elections throughout the state—I was at that period selected by the most respectable part of Anne Arundel county, as a candidate for the general assembly, and ran as one of the federal ticket, and although not being elected, it was an honor I valued far beyond that of being elected with Mr. Mercer—since that period I have always looked on him as an unworthy man, and have never spoken to him; and although he has since been raised by his party to the highest office in the state, this has made no change in his character nor in my opinion or conduct on this subject.

I have now to solicit the public pardon for calling their attention to an affair so uninteresting to them. I trust that colonel Mercer's publication will be deemed a sufficient apology for me. How far that publication was rendered necessary by my former address, it is for the candid and well-judging to decide. Whatever may have been his intention, the tendency of his statement and certificates certainly is (after abandoning the first charge alledged against me) to fix on me the imputation of having been particularly industrious in circulating this report to his disadvantage; of having entertained, at least, an intention to suborn the woman to fix the charge on him, by her oath; and of violating the obligations of gratitude, in forgetting civilities and kindness, which according to him, I formerly received at his hands. These imputations are of a serious nature, and I thought it incumbent on me to remove them. Having done so, I leave the matter to the judgment of those, who may think it worth their attention,

And remain, sirs, yours, &c.

JOHN C. WEEMS.

N. B. It may not be improper for me to mention here, what was omitted thro' neglect in my former publication—that as it was in Annapolis those malicious fabrications were first circulated against me, I wished there to have answered them, but was prevented by Mr. Green's refusing to give my vindication a place in his paper.

To the Editor of the New-York Morning Chronicle.

SIR,

I was calmly enjoying my toast and coffee some mornings ago, with my sister Dorothy and Jack Stylish, when we were surprized by the abrupt entrance of my friend, Mr. Andrew Quoz. By the particular expression of his *knowing phiz*, as cousin Jack calls it, I immediately perceived he was laboring with some important intelligence.

In one hand he held the Morning Chronicle, and with the fore-finger of the other pointed to a particular paragraph. I hastily put on my spectacles, and seized the paper with eager curiosity. Judge my surprize, Mr. Editor, on reading an act of our legislature, pronouncing any citizen of this state who shall send, bear or accept a challenge, either verbal or written, disqualified from holding any office of honor or confidence, or of voting at any election within this state, &c. &c.

The paper fell from my hands—I turned my eyes to friend Andrew in mute astonishment. Quoz put his finger to his nose, and winking significantly, cried "What do you think of this, my friend Jonathan?"

"Here is a catastrophe," exclaimed I, in a melancholy tone. "Here is a damper for the mettlesome youths of the age. Spirit of chivalry whither hast thou flown! Shade of Don Quixotte, dost thou not look down with contempt on the degeneracy of the times!

My sister Dorothy caught a sympathetic spark of enthusiasm—deep read in all the volumes of ancient romance, and delighted with their glowing descriptions of the heroic age, she had learned to admire the gallantry of former days, and mourned to see the last spark of chivalric fire thus rudely extinguished.

Alas! my brother, said she, to what a deplorable state are our young men reduced! how piteous must be their situation—with sensibilities so *easily injured*, and bosoms so *tremblingly alive* to the calls of honor and etiquette!

Indeed, my dear Dorothy, said I, I feel most deeply for their melancholy situation. Deprived in these dull, monotonous, peaceable times, of all opportunities of evincing, in the hardy contest of the tented field, that heroic flame that burns within their breasts, they were happy to vent the lofty fumings of their souls in the more domestic and *less dangerous* encounters of the duel—like the warrior in the fable, who, deprived of the pleasure of slaughtering armies, contented himself with cutting down cabbages.

Here a solemn pause ensued. I called to mind all the tales I had heard or read of ancient knights: their armors, their quarrels, and their combats; how, on a fair summer's morning, the knight of the golden goose met the knight of the fiery fiddle; how the knight of the fiery fiddle exclaimed in lofty tones, "whoever denies that Dona Fiddleosa is the most peerless beauty in the universe, must brave the strength of this arm!" how they both engaged with dreadful fury; and after fighting till sunset the knight of the fiery fiddle fell a martyr to his constancy; murmuring in melodious accents, wtih his latest breath, the beloved name of Fiddleosa.

From these ancient engagements, I descended to others more modern in their dates, but equally important in their origins. I recalled the genuine politeness and polished ceremony with which duels were conducted in my youthful days, when that gentlemanly weapon, the *small sword*, was in highest vogue. A challenge was worded with the most particular complaisance; and one that I have still in my possession, ends with the words, "*your friend and affectionate servant, Nicholas Stubbs.*" When the parties met on the field, the same decorum was observed; they pulled off their hats, wished one another a good day, and helped to draw off each other's coats and boots, with the most respectful civility. Their fighting too was so handsomely conducted: no aukward movements; no eager and angry pushes; all cool, elegant and graceful. Every thrust had its *sa sa*—and a *ha hah* lunged you gentlemen through the body. Then nothing could equal the tenderness and attention with which a wounded antagonist was treated: his adversary, after wiping his sword deliberately, kindly supported him in his arms, examined his pulse, and enquired with the most affectionate solicitude, "how he felt himself now?" Thus every thing was conducted in a well-bred gentlemanly manner.

Our present customs I can't say I much admire. A *twelve inch barrel pistol* and *ounce ball*, are blunt, uncerimonious affairs, and prevent that display of grace and elegance allowed by the small sword. Beside, there is something so aukward in having the muzzle of a pistol staring one full in the face, that I should think it might be apt to make some of our youthful heroes feel rather disagreeable; unless, as I am told has been sometimes the case, the duel was fought by twilight.

The ceremony of loading, priming, cocking, &c. has not the most soothing effects on a person's feelings; and I am told that some of our warriors have been known to tremble and make wry-faces during these preparations—though this has been attributed, and doubtless with much justice, to the violence of their wrath and fierceness of their courage.

I had thus been musing for some time, when I broke silence at last by hinting to friend Quoz some of my objections to the mode of fighting with pistols.

Truly, my friend Oldstyle, said Quoz, I am surprized at your ignorance of modern customs: trust me I know no amusement that is, generally speaking, more harmless. To be sure, there may now and then a couple of determined fellows take the field who resolve to do the thing in good earnest; but in general our fashionable duelists are content with only one discharge: and then, either they are poor shots, or their triggers pull hard, or they shut the wrong eye, or some other cause intervenes, so that it is ten, aye, twenty chances to one in their favor.

Here I begged leave to differ from friend Andrew. I am well convinced, said I, of the valor of our young men, and that they determine, when they march forth to the field, either to conquer or die; but it generally happens that their seconds are of a more peaceable mind, and interpose after the first shot; but I am informed that they come often very near being killed, having bullet holes through their hats and coats, which like Fallstaff's hack'd sword, are strong proofs of the serious nature of their encounters.

My Sister Dorothy, who is of a humane and benevolent disposition, would no doubt detest the idea of duels, did she not regard them as the last gleams of those days of chivalry, to which she looks back with a degree of romantic enthusiasm. She now considers them as having received their death-blow; for how can even the challenges be conveyed, said she, when the very messengers are considered as principals in the offence.

Nothing more easy, said friend Quoz: a man gives me the lie—very well: I tread on his toes in token of challenge—he pulls my nose by way of acceptance: thus you see the challenge is safely conveyed without a third party. We then settle the mode in which satisfaction is to be given; as for instance, we draw lots which of us must be slain to satisfy the demands of honor.—Mr. A. or Mr. B. my antagonist is to fall: well, madame, he stands below in the street: I run up to the garret window, and drop a brick upon his head: If he survives well and good; if he falls, why nobody is to blame, it was purely accidental. Thus the affair is settled, according to the common saying, to our mutual satisfaction.

Jack Stylish observed, that as to Mr. Quoz's project of dropping bricks on people's heads, he considered it a vulgar substitute: for his part, he thought it would be well for the legislature to amend their law respecting duels, and licence them under proper restrictions—That no person should be allowed to fight without taking out a regular license from what might be called the *Blood and Thunder office*—That they should be obliged to give two or three weeks notice of the intended combat in the newspapers: That the contending parties should fight till one of them fell, and that the public should be addmitted to *the shew*.

This, he observed, would in some degree be reviving the *spectacles* of antiquity, when the populace were regaled with the combats of gladiators. We have at present no games resembling those of the ancients; except now and then, a bull or bear bait, and this would be a valuable addition to the list of our refined amusements.

I listened to their discourse in silence: yet I cannot but think, Mr. Editor, that this plan is entitled to some attention.—Our young men fight ninety nine times out of a hundred, through *fear* of being branded with the epithet of *coward*; and since they fight to please the world, the world being thus interested in their encounter, should be permitted to attend and judge in person of their conduct.

As I think the subject of importance, I take the liberty of requesting a corner in the Morning Chronicle, to submit it to the consideration of the public.

JONATHAN OLDSTYLE.

BY THIS DAY's MAILS.

PROVIDENCE, (R. I.) April 23.

Cleared, Somerset, Sanders, Norfolk; schr. Rebecca, Potter, ditto; brig Concord, Farnum, Charleston.

The brig Industry, capt. Dunn, of Providence, R. I. on her passage from Savannah to Martinique, February 20, lat. 31, N. long. 79, W. fell in with the brig Peggy, of New-York, Samuel Terry, master, dismasted and full of water, which happened on the 15th February. A schooner from North Yarmouth, with the brig Industry, saved the crew. Spoke, on the 6th of March, a schooner from New-London, name unknown, George Potter, master, who had fallen in with a brig full of water on the 18th of February, in lat. 38, N. long. 67, W. no person on board; she had one jury mast up, but no name to be seen on her stern.

NEW-YORK, April 28.

The ships Ocean, Smith, and Ontario, Weeks, both from Liverpool (the former in 34 days, and the latter in 35) arrived yesterday within the Hook, where they were obliged to anchor on account of head winds. They will, in all probability, furnish us with important intelligence. We learn, verbally, that the impressment of seamen, the augmentation of the land forces, and other warlike preparations were going on with great activity throughout the United Kingdom.

Two other ships are below, (one of them with a figure head and yellow sides) besides the two brigs mentioned in our last, and one schooner.

We yesterday made an attempt to go to the ships at the Hook from Liverpool; but the gale was so severe, that it was dangerous to proceed.

Captain M'Mullin, of the brig Eliza and Mary, informs us, that a report of the probability of a speedy rupture between Great Britain and France was prevalent in Cadiz at the time of his departure.

A letter from Cadiz mentions, that the brig Juno, O'Connor, of this port, was condemned as unfit for sea—and that the ship Mary, of New-York, was still dry on shore, and would not be got off—Flour was dull at nine dollars.

Our election closes to-day—Thus far every thing promises favorably to federalism—and, if exertions are made this day, success, if we are not deceived, is decidedly ours.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock last evening a fire broke out in a wooden building in Broad-street, nearly in the rear of No. 49, and communicated to the house in front, occupied by Mr. Brown, which was with difficulty preserved by the activity of the firemen and citizens. The flames were got under before any other material damage had been sustained, excepting the loss of the building in which they originated.

[*Received yesterday by the brig Eliza and Mary.*]

PRICES CURRENT AT CADIZ, MARCH 18, 1803.

Imports. Newfoundland fish, per quintal of 100 lb. 7 dollars 50 cents; American do. per do. 5 30; Rice do. do. 8 dolls; Kidney Beans, per sack of 200 lb 8; yellow Bees-wax, per quintal, 40; Wax Candles, per lb. 40 cents; Spermaceti do do. 40; Flour per barrel 9 dollars; Wheat per faneg, 3; Indian Corn, per do. heaped measure, 2 70; Beef per barrel, 15 dolls; Pork, do. 20; Pipe Staves, per M. or 1200, 130; Hhd. do per do. 75 80; Bbl. do per do. 50 dollars; Pitch, per bbl. 6 a 7; Hogs-lard, per lb. 10 cents.

Exports. Sherry Wine, per quarter cask, 25 dollars; Malaga do. per do. 16 25; Brandy, oil proof, per pipe, 108 dollars; Do. Holland do. per pipe, 81; Castile Soap, per quintal, 10; Salt, per last of 2 tons, 6. Exchange on London, 4 1-2 per mill'd dollar.

TURNTIKE ROAD.

A company has been incorporated by the state of Pennsylvania, for making an artificial road, from the intersection of Front-street and the German-town road, in the Northern Liberties of the city of Philadelphia, through Frankfort and Bristol, to the ferry in Morrisville, opposite Trenton, to be called the Frankfort and Bristol Turnpike Company. The road is to be laid *sixty* feet wide, and at least *twenty* feet thereof, is to be made an artificial road, bedded with wood, stones, gravel or any other hard substance, well compacted together, and of sufficient depth to secure a solid foundation, and is to be faced with gravel, or stone pounded, or other small hard substance, in such a manner as to form a firm, and as near as the materials will admit of, an even surface, and so nearly level in its progress, as that it shall in no instance rise or fall more than will form an angle of *four degrees* with a horizontal line. A drawbridge is to be erected over Neshaminy creek. The company is to proceed within two years after the date of the act and the road is to be completed within ten years, or the privilege of the incorporation to revert to the state. As soon as five miles are finished and inspected, toll gates are to be erected and tolls collected.

Arrived yesterday, the brig Eliza and Mary, M'Mullen, in 38 days from Cadiz. Left ships ——, Lasher, of New-York; Heart-of-Oak, Jackson; and Polly, Barker, of Boston; brig Quantibaycook, Webb; Delight, Rook; Eliza, Haff; Juliann, Higby; Georgia Packet, Wood; Juno, O'Connor; and Brandywine Miller, Collins, all of New-York; Alexandria, Dye, of Alexandria: Jack, Haskell, Manchester; schooners Fanny Bridget, Rankin, of New-York; Betsy, Williams, Boston. Spoke April 7, the brig Admittance, Sampson, of Duxbury, 17 days from Alexandria for Madeira, all well.

Arrived, schooner Mechanic, Bidwell, of Middletown, (Conn.) from Martinique, last from Turk's-Island, in 36 days. Left at Martinique, March 9, ships Margaret, Sanford, of Baltimore; Halcyon, Manley, Charleston; William, Obear, Salem; snow Susan, Taylor, Providence; brigs Freeman, Benton, Hartford; Regulator, Williams, Norfolk; George Washington, Keefe, Boston; Bee, Woodman, Newbury; Augustus, Davis, Cape-Ann; Success, ——, Philadelphia; schooners Josiah Parker, Davis, Norfolk; Rebecca, Bradbury, Lynn; St. Patrick, Sylver, Salem; sloop Lyon, Rice, New-York. Left at Turk's-Island, brig Reuben, Goodrich, of Hartford, from Martinique. April 1, in lat. 26, long. 75, spoke ship Safe Dispatch, from Philadelphia for New-Orleans, out 7 days.

Cleared, ship Alknomack, Cord, Jamaica; brigs Rockland, King, St. Domingo; Pallas, Ingersol, Cape-Francois; schooner Union, Shaler, St. Kitts.

PHILADELPHIA, April 29.

On Thursday, the 20th instant, John Southack was committed to the jail in Boston, on suspicion of having forged a draft of Thomas H. Perkins, esq. as president of the branch bank in that town, on Thomas Willing, esquire, president of the bank of the United States, for six thousand eight hundred dollars.

The vice-president of the United States arrived in Charleston on the 10th instant.

Capt. Veacock, of the schr. Edward & Edmund, arrived yesterday from Port-Republican, corroborates our former accounts of the revolt of a body of Polanders, who had been attached to the French army. These revolters had been cordially received by the brigands, and most of them honored with commissions in their army. In an engagement near Petit-Guave, the brigands under the command of their Polish officers repulsed the French national guards, with the loss of between 50 and 60 men.

Capt. V. informs that these Polanders were urged to a revolt by the treatment which they received from the French.—Neither cloathed, fed nor paid, they were thrown into the most perilous stations, and otherwise treated with a marked and humiliating distinction. The blacks, he adds, cloath, feed and pay their troops liberally, and with punctuality.

Capt. V. also informs, that the crops of the island are mostly destroyed, and colonial produce not to be had for any consideration.

Captain Paris, of the Maria, from Jamaica, says, that the English were actively engaged in placing that island on a war establishment, and that it was universally believed that hostilities were not very remote.

Letters from the Havanna, dated the latter end of last month, say that a short time before, a French ship of war brought a number of brigands from the Cape, which they privately landed and lodged in a number of French houses in different parts of the island; but the Spanish government getting intelligence of it, so ordered matters, that the whole were seized at one time, put on board a Spanish frigate and sent back to the Cape, with a complaint against the conduct of the ship, in consequence of which, it is said the French officers were broke.

It is further added that the Spanish governor had ordered all the Frenchmen to leave the Island of Cuba immediately, and that he was about to send a frigate with an officer of note, to Europe, to make a complaint and representation to the first consul of the conduct of the Frenchmen.

Extract of a letter dated Point Petre, Guadaloupe, 12th March, 1803.

"Last evening we experienced 5 shocks of an earthquake, the first of which was about nine o'clock, and the last, much the most severe, about ten o'clock. I was at that moment undressing with my face to the S. West, and the vibration was so violent as to make me stagger against the bedstead. In a few moments the street before my lodgings was crowded with men, women and children, making a dismal noise, some screaming and some praying on their knees to that providence which most of the people of this place have affected to deride; I say affected, because however atheistical the freethinkers of the day may appear to be, I believe it will be found that they have almost always in the time of danger thrown themselves upon the mercy of the Deity."

Arrived, brig Jane, Ridge, St. Croix, 12 days; schooners Messenger, Burroughs, Aux-Cayes 32; Edward and Edmund, Veacock, Port-Republican.

Cleared, brig Tace, Thomas, Lisbon.

Captain Ridge, from St Croix, left at West End the 8th instant, schooner Betsy, Jacobs, for Philadelphia, to sail in 10 days; brig Lovely Lass, Eldridge, for do. in 14 days. Spoke, April 22, lat. 33, long. 72, schr. Sally, Mackie, from Baltimore, out 2 days.

MARTINSBURG, April 22.

We have just been favored with a statement of the poll in Hampshire on Tuesday evening last. The progress federalism has made in that county, is highly gratifying, and has surpassed the calculations of the most sanguine federal republican. Desirous of satisfying the public anxiety we hasten to lay it before them.

Congress.	
Osborn Sprigg,	368 Dem.
Major James Stephenson,	326 Fed.
Senate.	
Lewis Wolfe, esq.	356 Fed.
George North, esq	326 Dem.
Assembly.	
Jenkens,	436 } Fed.
Snider,	337 } Fed.
Higgins,	326 Dem.

Now, citizens of Berkley, with you it rests to close the scene. With you it rests