given, that Mr Barlow was not qualified for the mission.

5. That he had no mercantile knowledge; which would be very important in making & enforcing claims for the restitution of American property in France.

To the first objection, Mr Clay produced a letter from the Comptroller of the Treasury to Mr Barlow, dated this day, stating that his accounts of monies expended in negotiating treaties with the Barbary powers, had been finally closed at the Treasury.— And with respect to his being a French citizen, Mr Clay stated, that this citizenship was merely honorary; and that the title of French citizen was by the same act conferred on General Washington and General Hamilton.

To the other objections, and on the nomination itself, Mr Pickering made the following answers and observations.

That he knew Mr Barlow when a chaplain in the army in the war of our revolution. That he then sustained a good character; and appeared to have maintained it, until (about the year 1788 or 1789) he went to France — that Whore of Babylon which had polluted the World. That it was understood that in France Mr Barlow had renounced his belief in the Christian Religion: but not that he had become an Atheist; tho' at one period of the French Revolution it had been formally proclaimed, in their National Assembly, that there was no God: and that afterwards, Robespierre claimed much merit for causing a counter declaration to be made, that there was a God. That Mr Barlow professed an understanding superior to the opinion that there was no God; an opinion which fools only could permanently entertain. That his being a deist could not be a serious objection with the party now in power, nor with a majority of the people of the United States, who had raised to higher offices — the highest in the nation — men whose faith was doubtless the same with Mr Barlow's.

That Mr Barlow was poor when he went to France was unquestionable: How he had become rich — Mr Pickering did not know.

That it was true that Mr Barlow had resided many years in France: but it did not follow that his predilections and attachments were there. On the contrary, he had lived there long enough to become perfectly acquainted with its system of government; and to be disgusted with it: and hence it might be

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