

from patriotic duty, in any measure wherein they had acted, or which had passed with their approbation. They were not only contented, but grateful, in the prospect of the duration of civil liberty, according to the forms which the people had deliberately sanctioned. These objects being secured, they cheerfully acquiesced in the administration of government, by whomsoever the people might call to places of trust, and of honor.

With such sentiments and feelings, the public cannot but participate in the astonishment of the undersigned, at the time, the manner, and the nature, of Mr Adams' publication. We make no attempt to assign motives to him, nor to comment on such as may be imagined.

The causes of past controversies, passing, as they were, to oblivion among existing generations, and arranging themselves, as they must do, for the impartial scrutiny of future historians, the revival of them can be no less distasteful to the public, than painful to us. Yet, it could not be expected, that while Mr Adams, from his high station, sends forth the unfounded suggestions of his imagination, or his jealousy, as materials for present opinion, and future history, we should, *by silence*, give countenance to his charges; nor that we should neglect to vindicate the reputation of ourselves, our associates, and our Fathers.

H. G. OTIS,  
ISRAEL THORNDIKE,  
T. H. PERKINS,  
WM. PRESCOTT,  
DANIEL SARGENT,  
JOHN LOWELL,

WM. SULLIVAN,  
CHARLES JACKSON,  
WARREN DUTTON,  
BENJ. PICKMAN,  
HENRY CABOT,  
C. C. PARSONS,  
Son of the late George Cabot.  
Son of Theophilus Parsons, Esq. deceased.

Boston, January 28, 1829.

I subscribed the foregoing letter, and not the Reply, for the following reasons: Mr Adams in his statement published in the National Intelligencer, spoke of the leaders of the Federal party, in the year 1803 and for several years previous, as engaged in a systematic opposition to the general government, having for its object the dissolution of the Union, and the establishment of a separate confederacy by the aid of a foreign power. As a proof of that disposition, particular allusion is made to the opposition to the embargo in the Courts of Justice in Massachusetts. This pointed the charge directly at my late father, whose efforts in that cause are probably remembered; and was the reason of my joining in the application to Mr Adams to know on what such a charge was founded. If this construction of the statement needs confirmation, it is to be found in one of the letters lately published in Salem as Mr Adams's.

Mr Adams in his answer has extended his accusation to a subsequent period. In the events of that time I have not the same interest as in those preceding it; and as the Reply was necessarily co-extensive with the answer, that reason prevented me from joining in it. I take this opportunity, however, to say for myself, that I find in Mr Adams's answer no justification of his charges; and, in reply to that portion of his letter particularly addressed to me, that I have seen no proof, and shall not readily believe, that any portion of my father's political course is to be attributed to the influence there suggested.

FRANKLIN DEXTER.

Boston, January 28, 1829.