

efforts on his part, to serve him or save him from the consequences of his madness and folly, with my concurrent advice and opinion, furnished to the officers of the Customs copies of all the letters above recited in this statement.

The last link in the chain of this narrative, is afforded by General COFFIN's conduct, since his return to this place from England in the month of May last; which in his 'appeal' he attempts to justify, by a reference to the circumstances of which the foregoing is a faithful history. How far his justification is made out, let any man of candour and intelligence decide! Not contented with having, while in England, set in motion every means that the ingenuity of malice could suggest, to destroy the characters and ruin the fortunes of those, whom, in his frenzy and delusion, he had conjured up to his wandering fancy as engaged in a conspiracy against him; since his return to this country, slanders the most foul and violence the most vindictive, have marked every step of his progress.—Even the sacred rights of innocent females, have not escaped his profanation; but, because they were connected by the most tender ties with the objects of his vengeance, infamous and Bills to disturb their peace and blast their reputation, brought ready in print from England, must be put into the hands of the common Bellman, and be by him hawked about the streets. Is this "the character," is this "the Shield of Honor" of "a Soldier" in which the General prides himself in his "appeal?" Let the real Soldier determine!

The more recent occurrences between Gen. COFFIN and myself, which have so sensibly roused the public attention, being placed in a course of judicial investigation, it would be highly improper and indecorous in me to make any statement of them on the present occasion. In due time they will meet the public eye.

I come now to General COFFIN's own statement of the transactions respecting the schooner Martin, in his "Appeal to the Public," the softened and plaintive style of which, affords an amusing contrast to his other productions. He commences his narrative by asserting in bold and unqualified terms, that his letter to me, offering to deliver up the offending articles, was written "the day after the schooner Martin was seized" and "that the rescue took place on the following evening;" and he thereupon calls in question my conduct, for not having "upon this candid display of circumstances, given my opinion to the Collector upon the case, that the vessel could not be made liable under the circumstances laid before me: first, not having the articles on board at the time of seizure, and the articles themselves not of consequence to pursue the vessel, and there being no intention of fraud whatever." And in a subsequent statement in the Courier of Saturday last, in which the General professes, "as truth is announced to be the order of the day," to "recover himself, and state something that may carry the appearance of truth;" he repeats the same assertion, that the letter was written "the day following" the seizure. Now I am willing to admit, that if such a letter, intemperate and insulting as it was, had been written at the time stated by General COFFIN, or at any time before the rescue, I should, notwithstanding the offensive terms in which it was couched, have been inclined to recommend a relinquishment of the seizure of the vessel; not upon the ground of her not having the articles on board at the time of seizure; because, if it could be established in evidence that the articles had been brought up in the schooner, this would have been equally sufficient to work a condemnation, without the articles having been actually found on board—not upon the ground of there having been no intention of fraud, because the circumstance given in information at the Custom House, that the articles were landed in the night, was of itself, unless satisfactorily explained, a sufficient evidence of such intention; but such recommendation would have been founded on the single ground, that the articles themselves were not of sufficient consequence or value to render it expedient to prosecute the vessel. But the fact is, as it appears on the face of the letter itself, which is the first one published in the foregoing statement, and a most material fact it is, so far as my conduct is concerned, that this letter was not written until after the rescue. This violent outrage had placed an insurmountable barrier in the way of any accommodation, with regard to a prosecution of the vessel on the alleged ground of seizure. The only object with all concerned then, was to avoid the necessity of a prosecution for the outrage itself, against the perpetrator of it. And let it be here remarked, once for all, that it is to this circumstance of the jawless rescue alone, that General COFFIN is to attribute all his difficulties. But, is General COFFIN's statement, that his letter was written to me the day before the rescue, true? The letter itself furnishes the answer.

The General, indeed, "regrets not having a copy of the letter to lay before the public," but "he recollects that it was rather a stiff letter, complaining of the oppression and tyranny of Mr. Wright, and offering to send the remnant of stores to my office;" and that "no answer or notice was taken of it." Recollecting thus much, it is strange indeed, that he should have so mistated a most material circumstance, as to say, that it was written before the rescue.

It is a wise and salutary maxim in the law, "Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus," or, in other words, "a man detected in one deliberate falsehood, is no longer entitled to credit for any thing he says;" and to give the maxim the most favorable construction, "if a man's memory is so decidedly erroneous in points so material, no dependence can be placed on any thing he relates." It is for the public to determine, whether this rule ought not to guide their opinions and decision on the present occasion. With regard to the cyder, General COFFIN states in his "appeal" that "the two barrels of cyder the Collector had passed the day we arrived." In his statement of Saturday last, after being on the recovery, he says, "on the arrival of the schooner at St. John on the 14th (the schooner arrived during the night of the 15th,) the two barrels of cyder was reported at the Custom House early in the morning, and permitted to be landed the same day by Mr. Wright, about 12 o'clock. I will now state the facts with regard to this part of the transaction.

The two barrels of cyder were not reported at the Custom House, and no knowledge was had of them there until they were discovered by the Tide Waiter on board the schooner. Upon the Collector's making inquiry about them in consequence of this discovery, General COFFIN pledged his honor that they had been purchased at Moose Island, at that time in His Majesty's possession, and the Collector thereupon permitted them to be landed. In the information afterwards lodged at the Custom House, it was stated, that the cyder with the other articles had been purchased at Lubec. These facts were related to me at the time, and can be substantiated by proof.

The burthen of General COFFIN's charge against me is, that I disgracefully, and by stratagem, possessed myself of the articles in his absence, which caused the condemnation of the vessel, which could not otherwise have been procured. To this I might in the first place answer, that proof of the articles having been brought up in the vessel, would have been sufficient without actual production of the articles, and that this proof was furnished by General COFFIN himself (if any other were wanting,) in his letter written three days before the articles were sent for. In the next place, that the Collector under the authority of a writ of assistance, might have gone to General COFFIN's house and taken the articles away by force. But my justification is to be found in the agreement, made with General COFFIN, on the morning of the 21st of April, before detailed, which it might at that time have been fairly insisted upon, should be complied with in this respect, before the Little Belt was stopped on that morning, but which, from indulgence to General COFFIN, was not done.

Should General COFFIN undertake to deny this agreement as stated by me, because there is no written memorandum of it; I can only say that I have stated it according to my present recollections of the transaction, which are corroborated by all the concomitant circumstances of the case and leave no doubt upon the subject in my own mind; that it was in the first instance offered by General COFFIN himself, as appears by his letter of the 19th of April, to deliver up the articles in question; and that this was made throughout these negotiations, as it is obvious it must have been made, an indispensable condition. And in confirmation of another part of this agreement, General COFFIN on the day after the vessel was condemned, sent the amount of expenses as they had been adjusted on the morning of the 21st April, with a very civil note to the Collector.

General COFFIN as I have before stated continued on friendly terms with me until he sailed for England, and I never heard from any quarter that he had any ground of complaint against me; individually in this transaction, until my return from the United States early in the last month. If he had felt that such ground of complaint really existed, it is a little extraordinary that he did not include the circumstance in his memorial to the Lords of the Treasury. It would have made a striking feature in the history of oppression there set forth. But if this idea had at that time suggested itself or been suggested to him, he must have felt, as he must now feel, if his frenzy will afford him a single cool moment for reflection, that such an accusation against me was impossible to be

trued. It is equally groundless and ungrateful, at it was necessary at last to fix upon one incident of these transactions, when upon to found his machinations of vengeance against me. And this appeared the only one that he could wrest to his purpose. As the charge against my father with regard to a "secret confidential paper," the statement before given affords a sufficient answer without further comment.

But the report made by the Collector and Controller to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs, of the circumstances attending the seizure and condemnation of the schooner Martin, appears to be the inexplicable one which has called forth General COFFIN's vengeance; and in the Courier of Saturday last, he expresses his expectation that the statement, I am now making, will "show to the full satisfaction of the Public, on what occasion this vessel was devoted to smuggling, and how far the owner was concerned therein, that authorized the Collector and Controller to make a report to that effect." I have it not in my power, nor if I had would it be proper for me on the present occasion to make known the contents of this report; but thus much I feel myself, under existing circumstances, justified in declaring, that I do know that this report merely contained a cursory intimation that the schooner Martin had been before under suspicion, but did not contain any charge of her having been before devoted to smuggling or engaged in any smuggling transaction, nor was there therein any intimation that the owner of the Martin had been previously concerned in any such transaction; the report being in this regard confined to the facts as they have before stated, would never have been transmitted had it not been rendered necessary to the defence of the Collector, upon his being called upon to justify himself against the complaint most imprudently exhibited against him by General COFFIN, to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury. If General COFFIN has been disappointed in his expectation of obtaining an order for the restitution of his schooner; his failure must be imputed to the representation made of his own rashness and folly in causing the rescue; the same circumstance that finally rendered the prosecution indispensable in this Country. And even in this prosecution, if there had been a good and legal ground of defence, he might have made his claim in the Court of Vice Admiralty here, where notwithstanding the Slur which he has attempted to cast upon the Judge of that Court in his memorial, he would have had every benefit the law would allow him. This not having been done, the judgment of the Court must in this regard be conclusive against him.

The false, scandalous and malicious libels that have been heaped upon the public, by General COFFIN upon the present occasion, to keep out of sight the only circumstances that have any bearing upon the proceedings with regard to the schooner Martin, can only be properly noticed, by an appeal to the law of the country. It would be an insult to the public, as well as disgraceful and degrading to the parties concerned, to discuss these topics in a public newspaper.

In making the foregoing statement, I have endeavoured to confine myself to a relation of the facts, as they arose in the course of the transactions alluded to, without any other comment or observation, than what appeared to me to be necessary for their elucidation. But the stubborn things, and men of understanding can draw their own inferences. I am aware of the extent to which, in doing this, I have trespassed upon the attention of the public. My apology must be found in the urgency of the occasion, which has induced me to break that silence in which my father and myself had determined until now to persevere, and in my resolution that this shall be the last and only notice, I shall, in this way, take of these transactions; unless, a new occasion of equal urgency shall render it indispensable.

General COFFIN, in the close of his "appeal," states to the public, that "they all know the character he has ever supported among them; and hopes that they will do him the justice, to bear it in recollection." He is welcome to every benefit that can be derived from this part of his appeal; a ground of defence usually resorted to, though not on their own solitary testimony, by persons who, without it, have no hope to escape.

After all, what is General COFFIN's aim and object in all his wild proceedings? Does he expect to force from any one, the payment of the value of his vessel, by any violence, any calumnies, or any other means that he can resort to? In such an expectation he will assuredly fail. Is he actuated solely by a principle of revenge, groundless, desperate revenge, and that too directed against persons who uniformly befriended him until his own conduct rendered it impossible, & who never said or did aught against him, until, in self defence they were obliged to? In this case also, his machinations will as certainly be frus-

trated. Let the public take a dispassionate review of the conduct of this man, a Lieutenant General in His Majesty's Service, and a Member of His Majesty's Council of the Province, in the transactions upon which he has appealed to their judgment; and then let them decide, whether his proceedings ought not to cover him with disgrace, & how far, consistently with a due regard to the public peace and the decencies of social life, a man, while governed by such a spirit, can be upheld in any community. And let Gen. COFFIN himself bear in mind, what all experience proves to be true, that men, who will persist in such a course, will be given over to their own strong delusions, until they involve themselves in a labyrinth of difficulties, from which they will in vain, attempt to escape.

WARD CHIPMAN, JUN.

St. John, N. Brunswick,  
8th September, 1818.

## LONDON.

July 26.—There is one circumstance in the present situation of our public affairs, the effect of which, as we are public journalists, places us in an unpleasant dilemma; our duty requiring one thing, and our feelings another. We allude to the present situation of the Queen, which is more serious than has been publicly made known. It is an unpleasant duty to add, that the state of her Majesty's health is now become so hopeless, and her bodily and mental strength so totally exhausted, that it is almost a false delicacy to observe our former silence. So long as it affected the feelings of her friends, or by coming to the knowledge of the individual herself, might, by any probability, have produced mischief or pain, so long we deemed it an imperious duty to abstain from dwelling upon any of the circumstances of her disease; but as it has now attained to a degree which precludes all hope of recovery by her immediate friends and family,—and as the sufferer herself is beyond any concern or intercourse with the world around her, we consider that such delicacy would now become fastidiousness.

The illness of her Majesty is a total decay of nature, and a daily increasing morbidity in all those parts, the energy, or at least the regular motion of which, is necessary to the functions of life. What usually occurs in this disease, and which is always the last stage of it, has some time since commenced in her Majesty. A quantity of water has already accumulated in the chest and stomach, and as the system (as the physicians denominate it) has not energy enough either to discharge it by the force of nature, or to admit of any impression even by the most powerful medicines, her case is pronounced thoroughly hopeless. We really find it difficult to express the whole extent of this opinion when we are speaking of a person yet living; we must leave it, therefore, to our readers to supply what we feel ourselves restrained from saying.

The substance of the above opinion was, we believe, authoritatively given, upon the occasion of the Duke of Gloucester being about to take leave for the Continent. Her Royal Highness the Duchess had long proposed to accompany her husband upon a tour through France, Switzerland, and Italy; and they were about to depart, when the above state of her Majesty's malady was reported to them by the physicians in attendance. The result was, that as the melancholy event could not long remain suspended, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester has found it her duty to remain in England.

Such, therefore, is the actual state of her Majesty's illness: it is impossible for us, consistently with suitable feelings, to enter into further detail, and we almost doubt whether we have not already said too much. It is the laudable usage of the people of England (the effect of our free constitution,) to regard our Royal Family with something of our family-attachment: and as it is the nature of the human mind to connect actions with words, it would be a breach of public duty to weaken or violate the salutary sentiment. In reflecting upon the Queen, we cannot forget, and we ought not, that she is the wife of the King, and the mother of those destined to the succession. Neither can we forget, nor ought we, how well and amply she has discharged all family duties, and as far as respects the domestic relations of a wife and a mother, how very few in her exalted station have exhibited such a long course of most exemplary conduct. These are considerations, we say, which not only justify, but require, a great degree of public feeling and sympathy in her present situation. No one, we are persuaded, will accuse us of flattering Princes, and we are perfectly sincere when we add, that we are not indifferent

[See Supplement.]