

with the active co-operation of the Anti-British party, to make that country a base for the prosecution of war against the commerce of Great Britain. Washington, who was then President, issued a proclamation of neutrality, warning citizens of the United States not to take part in the contest, but, so strong was the feeling in favor of France, that the proclamation and its author were assailed in such terms as a citizen of the United States of the present day must blush to read. It was styled a "royal edict," "a daring and unwarrantable assumption of executive power," and Washington was denounced as a "Monarchist" and a friend of England. Many of these attacks on the President appeared in the "National Gazette," but it was not until Freneau, its editor, was nearing the dark valley of Death, that it was disclosed that these violent articles against Washington were written or dictated by Thomas Jefferson, who figures as the author of the Declaration of Independence, and who, at the very time these attacks were made, was Secretary of State in Washington's Cabinet. In this transaction Jefferson illustrated his true nature, and showed himself as destitute of honor as he was of religion.

The French Minister Genet, in defiance of Washington's proclamation proceeded to fit out privateers in Philadelphia to prey upon British commerce, these privateers being manned by citizens of the United States. When the President released some British prizes, which had been taken by them and carried into Philadelphia to be condemned, Genet stormed and raved and announced his intention of appealing from the President to the people. This was virtually a threat to excite an insurrection for the purpose of overthrowing the authority